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STORIES of New Jersey

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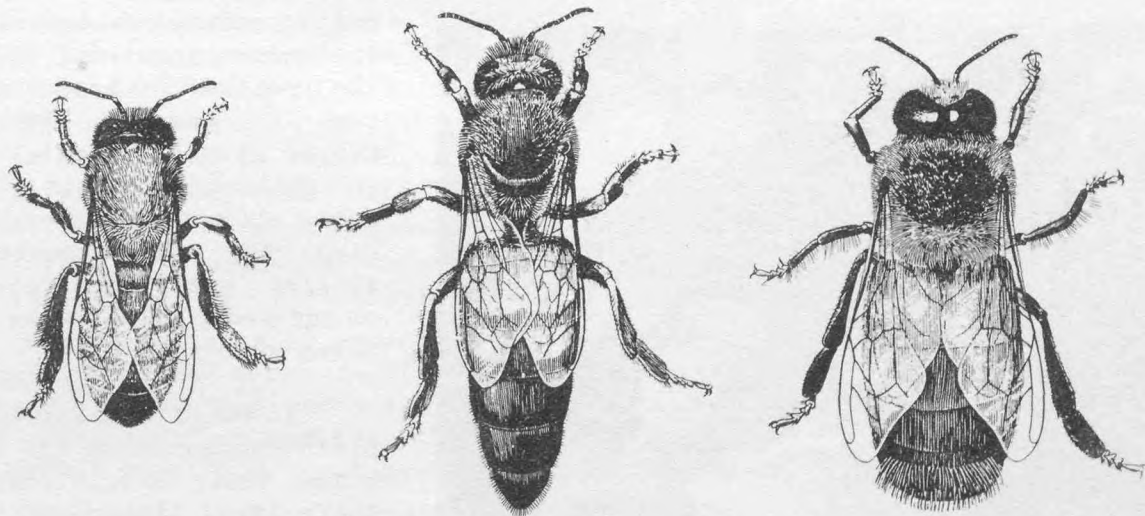
472 Orange Street, Newark, New Jersey

BEES AND THEIR WORK

Archeologists, not long ago, discovered drawings showing how bees built their homes in ancient Egypt. Modern textbooks could follow these drawings, for the bees make their waxen honeycomb just as they did thousands of years ago. The structure of the hive would differ, however, for in the past hundred years beekeepers have learned how to persuade bees to put their honey where it can be collected most easily.

In recent years bee culture has become more and more scientific. Since 1911 the New Jersey Department of Agriculture has cooperated with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station to increase the bees' usefulness. Private investigators have also made valuable contributions, and the New Jersey State Beekeepers Association, founded in 1882, has made available a wealth of useful information on bee culture.

Everyone associates stings and honey with bees. Few realize, however, that they produce a very useful wax and help the farmer improve the quality of his produce. The sticky grains of pollen, clinging to the hairy legs and body of the bee, are transferred from one flower to another as the insects collect nectar. This interchange of pollen, called cross-pollination, is essential for the production of many fruits, vegetables and seed crops and results in the development of full size fruits and fertile seeds. Where pollination does not oc-



Worker

Queen Bee

Drone

Courtesy N. J. Dept. Agr.