## Miscellaneous.

### MR. BARNES ON THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF THE PSALMS.

"It is not a little remarkable that the Psalms, in the estimation of religious persons, hold substantially the same place under the clearer light of the Christian dispensation which they did under the com-paratively obscure Hebrew economy, and that with all the additional light which has been imparted under the Christian revelation, the Psalms have not been superseded. The Christian looks to the Psalms with an interest as intense as did the ancient Jew; and as expressive of personal religious experience, as well as for the purpose of a manual for worship, the Psalms are selected by the Christian, from the whole Bible, as they were by the Jew from the books in his possession—the Old Testament. As such, they will retain their value in all times to come, nor will there ever be in our world such an advance in religious light, experience, and knowledge, that they will lose their relative place as connected with the exercises of practical piety. How far this fact is to be regarded as a proof that the authors of the Psalms were inspired; that there was communicated to them a knowledge of the principles and workings of true piety, so in advance of their own age as to be on a level with what will be possessed in the most advanced periods of religious culture; that there must have been an influence on their minds, in composing the Psalms, beyond anything derived from mere poetic genius, is a question which must occur to all reflecting minds. It is a fair question to propose to one who doubts the inspiration of the Psalms, how he will account for this fact, consistently with his idea that the authors of the Psalms were men endowed only as other men of genius are, and with the acknowledged fact that they lived in an age when the views of truth in the world were comparatively obscure. How did it happen that a Hebrew bard, in the matter of deep religious experience and knowledge, placed himself so high as to be a guide to mankind in all coming times, after a new revelation should have been introduced to the world, and after all the attainments which men would have made in the knowledge of religion and of the human heart?

The special value of the Psalms arises (a) from the fact that they are adapted to the worship of God; (b) from the fact that they are records of deep religious ex-

"(a) As adapted to the worship of God.
For this many of them were originally designed in their very composition; to this the entire book seems to have been intentionally adapted by those who made the collection. It is not necessary to suppose in defence these are the soldier ants, they that these sacred songs comprise the whole of the Hebrew lyrical poetry, for as we know that some of the books mentioned in the Old Testament, though inspired; accomplished their purpose and have been lost, so it may have been in regard to a portion of the lyrical poetry of the Hebrews. Many of the words of the Saviour, though, all that He spoke was pure truth—truth such as no other man ever spoke-truth such as and other features of female organization. the Spirit of God imparts, were lost from and in like manner it may have been that year containing a great mass of bees-truths which were written may have accom-workers and one larger than the rest, the plished their purpose, and have passed away. But, if there were such productions which have not come down to us, we have no reason to doubt that they were of the same general character as those which have survived, and which now constitute the Book of Psalms. Now, it is remarkable that the poetry of the Hebrews is so adapted to public worship above all other poetry and that the poetic genius of the nation took so exclusively a religious turn. In this respect the Hebrew lyric poetry stands by itself, and is unlike that of every other nation. Among the Greeks there are, indeed, hymns to the gods—hymns designed to be used in he worship of the gods; but this is by no heans the general character of their lyric poetry. Among the Persians, the Arabs, the Romans, the Babylonians, there were toubtless such hymns; but this is not the prevailing character of their lyric poetry. In the early Scotch, French, Spanish, Italian, and English poetry, there are, such hymns; but this is by no means the exclusive or the predominant character of the early lyric cetry of these nations. Few of all their ric compositions can be used in the worpip of the true God; nor is that which can e thus used always of the most exalted aracter as poetry. The composition of alms and hymns is a separate poetionart, and though there are specimens, in the ymns in these languages, of the highest kind of lyric excellence, yet it is to be admitted that a large portion of that species of literature would scarcely be negarded as von respectable, if it related to other subsects than religion. Of the Hebrews, howver, this is their all. They have no other petry whatever. They have none merely matory or pastoral which will compare with the Bucolies of Virgil, or with much of the poetry of Burns. Their poetry of he religious kind, also, is all of a high or ler. There is none that can be placed on he same low level with much that is found a same low level with much that is found as the bound of most denomination. the hymn books of most denominations f Christians—very good; very pious; very entimental; very much adapted, as is supposed, to excite the feelings of devotion ut withal so flat, so weak, so unpoetic, that would not, in a volume of mere poetry, be mitted to a third or fourth "rank," if indeed,

(b) The Book of Pszlms is a record of

would find a place at all. It is for him to rejects the idea of inspiration, as applied

the Book of Psalms, to account for this

guide of young believers; and it becomes ber of workers who form an escort for her. in persecution, in old age, on the bed of death, the Book of Psalms become so invariable and so valuable a companion; and hence, not as a matter of convenience, but as supplying a want in the minds of men, and as significant of their value, the Psalms and the New Testament are so often bound soon found out how the difference between together in a single volume. Hence, also, for the aged, for the sick, for those whose powers of vision fail by disease or by years, its queen sometimes, and then, if not six the Psalms and the New Testament are printed in large type, and bound in conven-ient forms, that the truths contained in these volumes may be still accessible to the saint ripening for heaven, as the light fails, and as life closs away. To the end of the world the Psalms in religious experience will occupy the same place which they now occupy; to the end of the world they will impart comfort to the troubled, and peace to the dying, as they have done in the ages that are past.

### ASIATION SEASON Scientiste.

### THE BEE HIVE THE ST -: [Selected for the American Presenterian.]

Prof. Huxley of London, has delivered at the College or Surgeons, during the past Winter and Spring, a series of very instructive and interesting lectures on the "Invertebrata"—In one of the last lectures, (re-ported in The London Medical Times and Gazette of May 30th), devoted to the description of the class "Insecta," he furnishes some interesting information in regard to the life and habits of that familiar insect,

the bee.

Speaking of the so-called social insects, bees, wasps and ants, he says "These in-sects are distinguished, not only by their combining together in great numbers, but also by the species presenting itself under three or four distinct forms. Thus, in the bee we have (1) the working bee or imper-fect female, (2) the drone or true mateand (3) the fertile female or queen. Sometimes in the ant, there are four distinct forms for the working ants are directed

stunted in their development, for they possess stings (which are peculiar to females),

"To follow out the history of a hive, we not having been recorded (John xxi. 25); find in early Spring the comb of the last true queen. At this period there are no males and no larve. The first operation consists in the waking-up of the hive. The workers sally forth and collect honey and pollen. These workers or neuters separate into two divisions—one party is employed in collecting food, the other in turning it to account when collected. These latter the well fed ones, hang themselves up in bunches in the hive and the nutriment they have received is converted into wax, which is separated from the body, and passes out between the abdominal rings. After this period of rest, they set to work and employ the wax to build up cells. The others return to the live, and regurgitate the saccharine matter that they have collected into the cells which the other set have formed—so that, however disagreeable the idea may be, honey is really the vomit of bees. Other cells, at this period, are ready for the de-posit of eggs. For this purpose the workers build up three different kinds of cells. The cells for the workers and the drones do not

cells, and drops an egg into the open mouth of each. The eggs are elongated, and stick to the bottom of the cells, so that every cell contains an egg. The larve when they emerge from the egg, are all perfectly similar—they possess no feet and are perfectly helpless so that they have to be fed for this purpose, the working bees, store up in their crops a chylous substance which they regurgitate into the cells of the larvæ. During the first six days the food supplied to cells is of the same character—but after this pried the queen larve continue to be supplied with the same form of highly elaborated food, but the others are then fed on a mixture of honey and pollen.

After a time the larva changes into a chrysalis, the lid of the cell is shut down and covered lover with wax, and the final changes are undergone. In the first place there is a vastly greater number of worker-cells made than queen-cells, and these workers emerge first, and take their share in the work of the hive. By-and-by the young queen is ready to pass out of her cell—she then makes a kind of chirping noise—at this the old queen gets into a great rage and tries to destroy the young one, but the workers assemble round their new queen and repel the attacks of the old sovereign respectfully, but firmly. Then p religious experience. It is this which, sovereign respectfully, but firmly. Then the estimation of religious persons, in on a sudden accession of rage the old queen eral, gives it its chief value. It is the deserts the live, followed by a certain out:

more and more the companion, the com- This is what is known as the first swarmforter, and the counsellor, as the believer the old queen with her followers found a new moves along through the varied scenes of home. Soon after this there is a second life, and as gray hairs come upon him, and swarm participated in by the new queen as the infirmities, which pre-intimate the and a numerous escort—they ascend high approaching close of all things, press him up into the air and again returns to the down. A religious man is rarely, if ever, hive. This ceremony instals the new queen placed in circumstances where he will not into office, and she is prepared to perpefind something in the Psalms appropriate tuate the existence of the hive, and remains to his circumstances; where he will not find in command until the birth of a new queen that the Hebrew sacred bard has not gone on the following Spring, when she, enraged before him in the depths of religious exper- at the evidences of affection which are maniience. Hence, in sickness, in Careavement, fested for the new-comer, leaves the hive in

disgust, and founds a new home. We have now another difficulty to solvewhy is that out of a worker's-cell, there always proceeds a stunted female—out of a drone's cell a male, and out of a queen's cell a perfect female? Some beekeepers the neuters and the queens was brought about. It was noticed that the hive loses days old the living workers were able to convert any grub they chose into a feeble; grown queen, simply by altering the condition of its life—they enlarge its cell, alter its shape, and continue to supply it with highly elaborated nutriment, therefore no arrest of development takes place a perfect female insect is formed.

It is thus seen that the bees possess the power of checking the development of their young by altering the condition of their existence. This startling fact, therefore, is proved, that each working been a poten-tial queen stunted in development by deprivation of nutriment.

As to the drones it was ascertained after long investigation, that they proceeded from non-fedundated ova, the queen possessing the power of interrupting the fecundation of certain ova, and of virgin reproduc-tion. J. E. M.

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and (3) the fertile female or queen. Sometimes in the ant, there are four distinct forms for the working ants are directed into two sets. (1) the ordinary workers and (2) other workers exclusively concerned in defence—these are the soldier ants, they have large heads and strong mandiples.

"In regard to the bees, one point is soon made out—viz, that the drones are true males and that the queen is an indubitable female. But the true condition of the workers only made out after mindh investigation. They are simply females stunted in their development, for they possess at large (which are negative to formeles).

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