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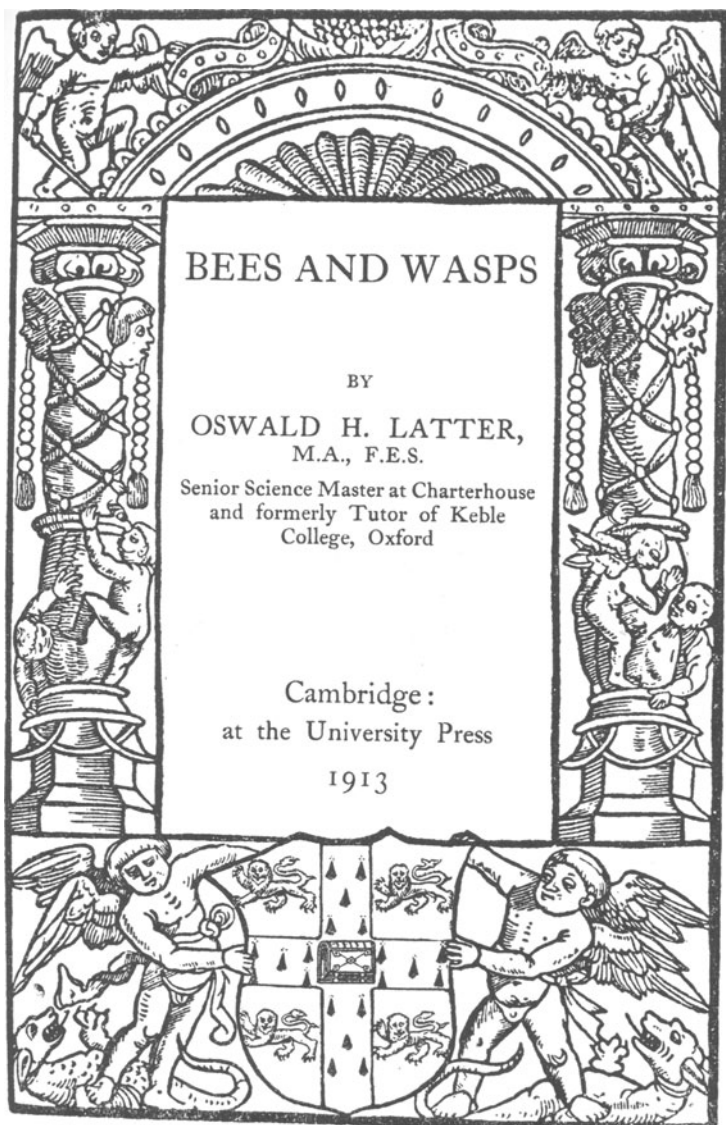
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## PREFACE

THIS little book makes no claim to be an exhaustive treatment of a very large subject. It is merely a sketch in which I have filled in details of those few insects which happen to come under my immediate notice, have touched lightly on others in mere outline, and have omitted entirely many extensive groups which are visible enough to those who look for them, but which for various reasons are not familiar to the general public. It has been my aim to write mainly on those Hymenoptera which have especially interested and delighted me, in the hope that I might thus best interest others and introduce them to one of the most fascinating branches of Natural History. It is for this reason that I have confined my remarks to British species of Hymenoptera. Much of my information has been derived from other sources: these are not acknowledged individually in the text; but it is hoped that the bibliography at the end of the book will be recognised as an adequate acknowledgement of my

indebtedness. I cannot refrain from taking this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to my old friend and schoolmaster, the late Mr W. H. Poole of Charterhouse, who first introduced me as a boy to this group of insects whose study has since afforded me so much pleasure and recreation both in the laboratory and on the sunny heaths of Surrey and elsewhere. To my friend and pupil Mr Kenneth W. Merrylees I am much indebted for kind help with many of the illustrations.

O. H. L.

CHARTERHOUSE,  
GODALMING.  
*February, 1913.*

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