

**THE FOOD OF HUMMING-BIRDS.**—The following interesting account of the food of humming-birds appeared a short time since in a New York paper:—

"In June last I happened to be visiting at a house in Pleasant Valley, Erie County, Pa. One fine morning I was sitting in his doorway, looking out upon a neat flower-garden, when I noticed a number of beautiful humming-birds, flitting from flower to flower, busy at their breakfast. Calling my host's attention to them, I remarked that I had seen the question of their food made a disputed point somewhere in print. It was denied that they took honey from the flowers, and asserted that they found in them minute insects, on which they fed. My friend, though a close observer, was not certain on the point, and it was proposed to satisfy ourselves, if possible, by offering them honey. He stated that he had caught humming-birds often, and thought he could do so again. It may be well to observe that the morning was still, and that a heavy dew lay upon the ground. Some honey was taken upon a case-knife, and we walked out upon the boarded paths between the flower-beds. Very soon one of the little fellows, a perfect beauty, one of those with the many-colored, changeable throat, which sparkles so like a jewel, perched himself upon a board's edge, seeming much fatigued. My friend observed that he was wet and heavy with the dew, and could not fly so long at a time as usual. We neared him once or twice, when he flew away, but at last he suffered us to get near enough to thrust the honey into his face. His bill touched it, but he was apparently perfectly ignorant of the nature of the substance. Again and again did we press our kind attentions; his little eye was seemingly 'on the coast of Greenland,' and a very speculative eye it was too, clear and knowing. His black and shining bill was shaped like a cobbler's pegging-awl. We were about to acknowledge that a humming-bird did not know or care anything about honey, when it occurred to the one or the other of us to offer him some on a stick, instead of a knife. We had scarcely done so when his eye chafed its far-off look, and running out from his bill something which looked like an exceedingly fine and narrow piece of white tape, he inserted it into the tempting fluid, and sucked away more like a hungry little pig than anything else we could think of. The tongue was put out from the bill nearly, if not quite, the length of the bill itself. It was a pretty sight. The little fellow worked with a will, and seemed perfectly at home. He satisfied himself, and assuming an air of comfort that would have done credit to an alderman, spent a few seconds in composing his thoughts, then away he went without so much as a thank you. We went into the house perfectly convinced that humming-birds do feed on honey.

**TO AUTHORS.**—We find it necessary to adopt the following rules: When a MS. is sent the same number of stamps required to pay its postage to us must be inclosed in the letter accompanying it for its return. MSS. sent without a letter of advice are never read. If stamps are not sent, we will not hold ourselves responsible for the return of the MS. We find the above rule necessary, as it takes much of our valuable time to hunt up for return rejected MS.

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Be particular, when writing, to mention the town, county, and State you reside in. Nothing can be made out of post-marks.

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Miss D.—Sent articles December 19th.  
 J. A. V.—Sent hair-pin 20th.  
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 Mrs. F. L.—Sent articles by Adams's express 24th.  
 Mrs. J. Y. M.—Sent articles by Adams's express 24th.  
 Miss E. A. P.—Sent articles by Adams's express 24th.  
 Mrs. I. W. J.—Sent articles by Adams's express 24th.  
 Mrs. H. C.—Sent hair jewelry 24th.  
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 Miss A. W.—Sent kid gloves by Kinsley's express 28th.  
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 Mrs. E. L. W.—Sent lead comb, 28th.  
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 A. M.—Sent patterns 28th.  
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 Mrs. J. R.—Sent pattern 17th.  
 F. J. C.—Sent gloves 21st.  
 Miss N. C. R.—Sent articles 21st.

Jolly.—Neither by research or inquiry can we find that the word is used in any other sense than that given in Webster's Dictionary.

L. C. J., and many others are kindly thanked for the sponge-cake receipts. So many receipts have been sent us that we have not been able to publish all of them.

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## Fashions.

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