

“Has it ever occurred to you, “ said Mrs Moores to me one day, “that if I were to be stung by a couple of bees that would add up to my becoming ill.”

Not for the first time I began to think that Mrs Moores was not quite right in the head, but I could see she was getting rather a lot of pleasure from the fact that I couldn’t understand what she was talking about.

“I,” she said, “and a couple of bees; add them up together and become ill.”

“Like this,” she said, and she then wrote down for me what I could see was an addition sum.

It looked like this:

$$\begin{array}{r} \mathbf{I} \\ + \mathbf{BB} \\ \hline \mathbf{ILL} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

When I understood what she meant I could see that it was an addition sum that even I could manage. Can you? (Each letter stands for a different digit.)

Write down the addition sum with numbers substituted for letters.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 & & 1 \\
 + & & BB \\
 \hline
 & IL & L \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

I must be 1 because there can never be more than 1 to regroup when two digits are added together.

B must be 9 for otherwise there could not be three digits in the answer..

L must be 0 as $9 + 1 = 0$

Complete solution:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 & 1 \\
 + & 99 \\
 \hline
 & 100 \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$