

## BEE-KEEPING IN LONDON

## Daily Mirror's Two Hives Installed on the Office Roof

Two colonies of bees, numbering 50,000 in all, were installed on the roof of the Daily Mirror offices in Whitefriars street, London, E. C., yesterday morning.

These bees have been imported into the heart of the City as an experiment. The Daily Mirror has arranged with Messrs. Abbott Brothers, the well-known bee specialists, of Southall, to demonstrate the practicability of bee-keeping in London.

Messrs. Abbott installed the two hives of bees on the Daily Mirror roof, and will keep the colonies under close observation during the coming months, frequently weighing and examining the honeycombs and testing the quality of the honey. Endeavors will also be made to note to what parks and gardens the insects fly in search of food.

One of Messrs. Abbott's experts, who superintended the erection of the two hives, said that if bees can flourish on the Daily Mirror roof they could flourish anywhere.

These hives are of a very different character. One is a conventional thatched straw skep, such as is seen in cottage gardens, and contains a colony of pure English bees; the other is a wooden hive of the very latest pattern, containing every facility for collecting the honey, and furnished with the most up-to-date fittings. A colony of hybrid Italian-English bees occupies this.

The two hives, side by side, are particularly interesting, since they illustrate one of the crudest and the most advanced method of bee-keeping.

Yesterday was far from an ideal day on which to instal two stocks of bees into new and most unusual surroundings, but, despite the falling rain, the transfer of the insects from the travelling box in which they were brought from Southall

early in the morning into their new homes was effected with very little trouble.

A few of the bees flew about wildly, evidently amazed at the environment of chimney-stacks and telephone wires which replaced the green fields and hedgerows they were accustomed to, but the great majority stuck closely to the combs, enclosed in wooden frames, as they were lifted from the box to the hive.

After a few minutes both colonies settled down to a quiet day "indoors." The rain and the gloom outside were not attractive, and not a gleam of sunshine broke through the clouds to entice the busy workers to fly afield in search of blossoms.

Early in the afternoon a few bees emerged for a preliminary voyage, but they found the weather conditions too forbidding, and soon sought the shelter of the hive again. By 4 o'clock all was quiet in the hives.

Given a sunny day to-day, the bees should be off soon after sunrise in search of nectar. Their task will not be an easy one, for their best feeding-grounds of any size are well over a mile away.

But bees will wander as far as three miles from the hive in search of honey, and two miles is quite a fair range to allow them. This latter distance brings a number of green spots within range.

Within a two-mile radius of Whitefriars street may be found St. James' and the Green Parks, a portion of Regent's Park, as well as the Bloomsbury squares, the Temple and the Embankment Gardens. The three-mile radius includes a large portion of Hyde Park and a part of Southwark Park.

Any fruit trees in blossom that may exist within three miles of the Daily Mirror offices will prove a certain bait for the Daily Mirror bee colonies. Later, lime trees in bloom will be sought keenly by the insects, since limes provide abundant honey.

The results of the experiment show interest to London whether bees can flourish in the City, whether in the open spaces of the park can procure enough honey to sustain them. If these things are of interest to the bee-keeping hobby is the most crowded place in the initial outlay any man may expect fresh honey be a larder.

## THE SCIENCE OF AP

Dr. Thos. S. Elliot, Mr. Hayes, in British Bee-keeping, 1907, showed in the detection of absence of pollen indicate substitute other material for honey contained in the not found in will be proved to The subject has in attention it deserves the not distant future detection of pollen grains not necessary, perhaps the honey-analysis some day be able sources of origin of and not only the sources of honey derived from relative proportions of pollen grains reaches us the complete pollen and the larvae of queen, and is of practical use