

Provincial Agricultural College at Truro, N. S., he graduated at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. Later he was appointed State Entomologist and Professor of Entomology at the Agricultural College for South Dakota. Two years ago he returned to Cornell University where he assisted on the staff of the entomological department, taking his doctor's degree last year. Dr. Matheson's training makes him well qualified for the position he now holds, and with the recent introduction of the San José scale, the presence of the Brown-tail moth and the occurrence of several other serious insect pests in Nova Scotia, he will find problems of importance and interest awaiting him.

C. G. H.

BOOK NOTICE

THE HUMBLE-BEE.—Its life-history and how to domesticate it, with descriptions of all the British species of *Bombus* and *Psithyrus*. By F. W. L. Sladen. 13-283 pp., 34 figs., 5 coloured plates (Macmillan). \$2.50.

"Everybody knows the burly, good-natured bumble-bee," the author states in his opening sentence, and while this is true, the author has shown, in giving us the results up to date of what has been a life-study, how little even the entomologist knows of these people of the hedgerows, whose homes he no doubt laid waste when a boy.

Roughly speaking, the book can be divided into three parts. In the first part the life-histories and habits of *Bombus* and of the parasitic usurper *Psithyrus* are described in full and in a fascinating manner, a manner which makes the general reader feel the intense interest of the real naturalist. We see the queen in her solitude anxiously choosing the site of the future nest and brooding over her eggs and young; then the gradual development of the little community. Some of the author's descriptions are the best we have read in entomological literature; one of these is the description of the death of the queen: "In the case of *B. pratorum*, and probably of the other species whose colonies end their existence in the height of summer, the aged queen often spends the evening of her life very pleasantly with her little band of worn-out workers. They sit together on two or three cells on the top of the ruined edifice, and make no attempt to rear any more brood. The exhausting work of bearing done, the queen's body shrinks to its original size, and she becomes quite active and youthful-looking again. This well earned rest lasts for about a week, and death, when at last it comes, brings with it no discomfort. One night, a little cooler than usual, finding her food supply exhausted, the queen grows torpid, as she has done many a time before in