

that he corrects his former statement. He also alludes to what M. Bertrand says in respect to these bees in the *Revue Internationale*. We have had an opportunity of seeing these bees and found them different in appearance to Carniolans, resembling more closely our common bees, except that they are much darker, almost black, and appear to have a more glossy surface. We cannot say much for their temper, which appears very different from that of Carniolans. They seem much more irritable and inclined to sting. Of course there will be a difference in various colonies in this respect, and, like Cyprians and other stinging races, those hives containing the youngest bees will be the quietest. That they are very free with their stings we have abundant evidence, although we have not ourselves felt the sting is a mild one like that of Carniolans, or a virulent one like that of Cyprians and Syrians. Mr. Andreu assures us they are mild in disposition and easily handled.

When we examined the bees a short time ago, it was on a cool day, and as soon as the quilts were removed we found that, whilst the other races of bees were all snugly and compactly clustered, and that they were hardly stirred by the disturbance, the Minorcan bees were spread over the combs, were much more vivacious, and flew out to resent the intrusion. Numbers of bees ran out at the entrance, whilst with the other bees not one was seen to leave that way. A smoker was not used in either case, so that all had the same treatment.

We were much interested in the peculiar barricade constructed in front of the entrance, and which we find quite different in appearance to anything we had seen before. The barricades were built up apparently of the usual materials, viz., propolis and wax, and extended the whole length of the entrance, which was about 8 inches long. We have seen bees build barricades to protect themselves against robbers and also the death's-head moth, but in such cases the inside of the entrance is filled with propolis and wax, and a hole left here and there just as the bees



seem inclined. In these barricades there is a regularity that is most beautiful, and has called forth the remark from one correspondent that "they seem for all the world the work of engineers learned in the art of self-defence." In this case the barricades form a regular trellis, each hole being nearly one-quarter of an inch wide,

or just large enough to allow a bee to pass, and having an upright bar of about one-eighth of an inch wide between each hole. The illustration will give an idea of the structure. When we first heard of these barricades the idea at once occurred to us that they were probably intended to keep out the rose-beetle (*Cetonia Aurata*), very common in the South of Europe, and that he habit was probably inherited.

We are told that in Minorca the practice is common for the bees to systematically and scientifically barricade the entrance in the autumn. It is very interesting to find that the bees when first transported to another land carry on the same practice, for this was the only hive in the apiary that had built barricades. We think it shows that the habit is inherited and transmitted from one generation to another, because there is a use and necessity for it. As the bees are possessed of a certain amount of intelligence we shall expect to find that they will drop this habit when they find they have not the same need for their barricades in their new circumstances. With us the rose-beetle is not so plentiful that it should be reckoned as an enemy of bees, and therefore shall expect that the bees in time will abandon the barricading. They will not probably do so at once, but may take several generations before they entirely give it up. Of course, if the race is crossed the habit would probably be bred out very rapidly. We should be glad to hear whether the Minorcan bees reared by Mr. Abbott and other gentlemen have been noticed to possess this peculiar characteristic. We do not think the bees have been tried long enough out of their native country to speak positively as to their good or bad qualities; at any rate the past season was too bad to give them a fair chance

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