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## BEEES

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bees with such characteristics should go far to revolutionize the industry of bee-keeping in this world and the next. Two hundred and twelve pounds of honey! Innocuous stings! New powers of resistance to disease! The Waterford vendors at 5d. per lb. have fortunes before them. Bee-keeping may become a nursery game. The poor will need but to raise more children, set them to hive management, and tour the world in motor cars. As for "I.W.," "F.B.," and the other ills that bees are heirs to, these need trouble us and them no longer: the new bees will laugh at *Nosema*; only the vendors of "cures" will suffer.

By the way, no one, so far, has claimed to have heard bees laugh. We all have heard them cry, and many of us know what their rage is like. Can it be that they, poor things, are deprived of the pleasure of healthy laughter, with so many provocations to merriment as mankind affords them? We hope not.

Some of our correspondents have had their doubts increased by the report that this new strain of "harmless bees" has resulted from "a mixture of the Cyprian drone and the Italian queen." Hitherto it has been supposed that temperament has come chiefly from the drone; but Cyprians have the reputation of being exceedingly vindictive. However, we never know what wonders selection, environment, or even physical deformity, may accomplish. We have met a celebrated artist who painted with his feet, because he had no hands. It is recorded of a disabled stoat that necessity taught him to catch rabbits by making a noise like a turnip, and of a flock of geese, reared in a kennel, that they barked like a dog, and every back feather lifted at sight of a cat. Let us not be too skeptical, but keep our minds open to every form of useful knowledge. Stranger things have happened than the evolution of "harmless bees."

Mr. Burrows tells us that he has never before come in contact with a strain so quiet as this. The difficulty is to import perfect Cyprian queens, and it was only in three instances that those imported gave the results required. They are splendid gatherers; more suited for extracted honey, their capping of comb not being quite satisfactory. He has nine stocks, and has averaged eighty pounds of extracted honey, besides having each of the fifteen brood-frames well filled. The stocks have gone into winter quarters exceptionally strong. He thinks that he has solved a very knotty point, and quite by accident, when endeavoring to produce a more prolific gatherer, and this after he had imported a large number of foreign strains sent by his many friends abroad. He has also several stocks of pure Cyprians, but finds them absolutely useless, being very vicious, and just gathering sufficient nectar for their own consumption. He is receiving letters from all parts of the world, and several of the leading firms of bee appliance manufacturers are in touch with him.

Our readers will look with interest for new developments in the coming season.

## "THE HUMBLE BEE—ITS LIFE HISTORY AND HOW TO DOMESTICATE IT"†

It is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Sladen has done the world a service and crowned all his previous work by the publication of this remarkable volume. Though they be not many whose studies turn in the direction of the humble bee, he who increases knowledge is a benefactor of mankind. Mr. Sladen has not only given us a great deal of information: he has given it plainly, and clothed it so attractively that every

†"The Humble Bee. Its Life History and How to Domesticate It." By F. W. L. Sladen, F.E.S. Demy 8vo. 283 pp. Illustrated. Macmillan & Co., London, 1912. Cloth gilt, 10s.