

pride in the production of first-class queens, and who use real scientific means to secure the best results. One of them is Jean Pometta, and the account of his methods is very full and interesting. This queen breeder has a system very similar to Mr. Alley's, and some of his processes are illustrated by cuts borrowed from that gentleman's well known book on the subject. Though the tour was made in 1881, the narrative of it was only given to the public last year. Visits to the apiaries of M. Mona, Dr. Dubini, M. Sartori, Lucia Paglia, and Josephine Chinni, are detailed very pleasantly. The last named is the village school mistress, and is guilty of the unpardonable crime in the eyes of some, of not being a specialist. Nevertheless, Mr. Blow certifies to her ability and success.

The details concerning Carniola are very interesting, especially those referring to the apiaries of Messrs. George Dolenec and Michael Ambrosic. The latter has a bee-house holding 500 stocks. Mr. Blow holds the Carniolan bees in high esteem, and confirms the accounts given by various parties of their quietness. He has received stocks by rail that he thought dead because they were so quiet; but no, they were only resting quietly on their combs. They can be handled without smoke, and do not run in heaps at the bottom of the bars, or fall off the combs like the majority of races of bees do. They are good honey gatherers. He does not consider that they have a tendency to excessive swarming, but when they swarm they are apt to fly far and settle high. Hence he considers the natural swarms "nuisances." He predicts a great future for the Carniolans.

Not the least interesting part of the book is an appendix by W. Hollier entitled "A visit to Mr. Blow's bee-garden." The first part of this addendum gives a description of the factory, which seems to be a very complete little establishment. The apiary, of which a cut is given, is located in a kind of park, where the trees are much higher than I should care to have them around my apiary, particularly if I kept, as Mr. Blow does, Carniolans. Besides these there are Italians, Cyprians and blacks. As thus compared side by side, their owner pronounces the Carniolans "best for all purposes." The hives are painted alternately dark green and chocolate. On being asked why he did not paint them white, Mr. Blow said he had them white once, but a lady neighbor complained that they looked like a cemetery. A queenless hive was being robbed. This Mr. B. stopped by shutting up the entrance and sprinkling the alighting-board with paraffine intending to open the hive toward evening, so the robbers might go home, and next day uniting the queenless colony with another.

W. F. CLARKE,

St. Thomas, Feb. 8th, 1888.

From the Ladies' Magazine.

APICULTURE.

DOES it not seem strange to the observant reader of bee-lore, how month after month our bee journals are kept up; new articles in every issue, differing in many respects from each other, though all on the same subject, the honey bee, an insect that so few people really know anything about, unless having taken advantage of our bee journals, or having performed manual labor among these "Gatherers of the Sweets of Nature;" this I think must show pretty conclusively that the study of bee-keeping is no small one.

Look for example at the number of books written on this subject, any of which can be read by a novice in the art of bee-keeping, with pleasure and profit to himself, for a little knowledge outside of business, farming, horse and cattle raising, and fruit growing is surely a pleasure and benefit to anyone of an enquiring turn of mind; one hour's perusal from some of our leading books (or our weekly and monthly journals) on apiculture, would open the eyes of a good many to the wonderful and peculiar characteristics of the bee, let me here instance a few: In an ordinary modern hive or colony of bees there should be, during the summer months, from 15,000 to 40,000 bees; this may surprise a good many to commence with, it is however a truthful statement: A good queen has been known to lay from 1,000 to 3,000 eggs in one day and these in twenty-one days are hatched out, hence the truth of some hives having been known to cast off three or four swarms in one summer, thus accounting for the wonderful increase in numbers that seems ever to be going on: Bees have been known to bring in from fields of white and alsike clover ten pounds of honey, and from the basswood or linden tree, fifteen pounds in one day, this, if the reader will consider well, is an astonishing proof of the great industrial habits of our "little friends" for the amount one bee can carry from the field of clover to the store house is very small indeed, as the bee in a great measure derives its nourishment from the honey it gathers before storing it away in the cell, besides the quantity mixed with the pollen deposited carefully in the comb cells, for the forming of "bee bread" as it is called, for the food of the young brood. Bees take from sixteen to twenty pounds of honey to form one pound of wax, hence a great waste of this most necessary article of trade in those bee-keepers who go in for comb honey in preference to extracted, however every man to his own taste and that which suits his pocket best, a very important thing now a days is this same pocket in regard to its