

From the Ladies Domestic Magazine.

APICULTURE.

THE ADVANTAGE, PROFIT AND PLEASURE DERIVED FROM KEEPING BEES.

THE study or rather profession of bee-keeping is one that at the present day holds its own with many another industry that has more public show, but which really benefits the world in a less degree than the hard-earned labors of our little stinging friends. The advantage of keeping bees in a rural district, in a small way, is the benefit done to the many acres of rich white clover (or any other flower or honey-secreting plant) the nectar, if left there is not as good for its growth or better development than if taken away by our little friends, as it fertilizes the flower and bloom, adding much to its growth and strength. It is not a very natural conclusion to come to that this honey is thus secreted in flowers and plants for man's use and not be uselessly wasted, when we consider this wholesome nectar of the gods, and not to dry up or evaporate under the powerful rays of the sun. Again the bees gather at the least two or three times more honey than they need for their own consumption; therefore man steps in and by means of modern improvements takes the surplus away (I speak more here in reference to *extracted* honey), leaving sufficient storage in the hive for the winter months to be passed through safely. The profit of keeping bees is obvious—many persons starting out with one colony of bees (or hive, as is more generally used) have often put away into winter quarters three or four colonies for the next year's work, thus attaining a large percentage in his stock, besides the money obtained by the selling of the honey stored away by these interesting workers, or the satisfaction of having a good supply for his own table, something well worth considering. Many a farmer has been ably assisted in his "rainy days' savings" by keeping a few colonies of bees, the expense of raising being of very small account, hives being manufactured of every description to suit the varied tastes of the now numerous apiculturists at a small cost. The pleasure of bee-keeping is really a genuine one, and seems to grow with the veteran as well as the novice. From the time of taking the bees out from their winter quarters when after three long winter months, often more, I speak more particularly of Canada, they once more feel the fresh air and sunshine of the outer world, and buzz and fly around in contented enjoyment of the use of their wings once again; to the time of putting them back for their

winter's nap, it is a decided pleasure that the apiarist feels over his "little pets." What examples of industry and untiring activity do we see displayed from the commencement of pollen gathering from the willows in early spring to the thistles and golden rod of August and September. We see the bees ever at work, bringing in both their food and drink, while her majesty remains at home increasing their numbers daily by her wonderful egg producing qualities. Of a bright day in June when the white and alsike clover is well ripened, to watch the bees bringing in the sweets of nature and those starting out on a forage, is a pleasing sight, the quiet hum of contentment that they make when the honey flow is good is really a stimulant to the lazy and a proof of the profitable result of harmonious working together. To watch a swarm of bees issuing out of the hive is a fine sight as they literally pour forth from their old home preparatory to seeking their new one, in all probability some large hollow tree a few miles off; they appear to lose all command of themselves and fly about hither and thither, causing such an uproar that to a novice it would appear quite perplexing; from within ten minutes to half an hour from the time of first leaving the hive the bees may be seen clustering on some low bush, tree or fence rail perhaps, shortly afterwards to again take flight, this time, however, for good. Many a pleasant hour can the apiarist pass watching the "busy bee" and many a lesson taken home as we see their great industry, their practicable ways and great respect they always pay to the head of their home, as with watchful care and attention they guard, feed and look after the welfare of the queen mother.

A. VEASY.

By Greentoft, Correspondent North West Farmer.

How the Bees Wintered in Manitoba.

WINTERING in the Northwest is a subject of much interest to our bee-keepers here, and also to some who would like to bring bees with them from the east. I am aware that some have a desire to hear further in regard to the method sometime ago described by me. I may report my undiminished confidence in it. Last fall I packed up two stocks under chaff cushions, hay, and when it came snow. One of them was in fair condition and came through well. The other having an old queen and mostly old bees and few of them, perished. This untoward circumstance is explained in the following way: The one stock of the previous spring having an old queen and not indicating any intention of swarming, I