

It was the discovery of these facts, amongst others, that first led me to inquire more fully into the question of the quality of my queens, and endeavor to find a means of securing queens of the best quality, and produced under the best and most natural conditions. I obtained and perused the works of all the authorities on the subject, but, with the exception of the writings of the gentlemen I have mentioned above, there was no other writer, whose methods were new, or in my estimation worthy of attention.—HENRY W. BRICE, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Bee Keeping as an Occupation.

Trusting that I am not imposing too much on your generosity by asking the following questions, I should like the opinion of some one more experienced than myself before coming to a decision, under the following circumstances:—I am a young man with a situation (indoor work, partly writing), which the doctor tells me is very injurious to my health, although I am sound. He therefore advises me to leave it, and obtain a situation where I shall be more in the open air. My present salary is £57 p. r annum.

I know of no occupation I am capable of following out in the open air except that of bee-keeping. This I already understand fairly well, having kept bees in bar-frame hives for eleven years, and I have also recently obtained a "first-class" (advanced stage) in scientific agriculture, taking bee management as one of the questions. My house is well situated, with ample accommodation for carrying on a large apiary, and the district is considered a very good one for honey, as the fields are all pasture—soil, clay loam—and are white with clover bloom in season. Lime,

Spanish nut, and blackberry are also plentiful; and just one mile away is Cancock Chase, where the bees obtain sufficient heather honey to carry them through the winter, after taking the whole of the other honey from them. I think there are not more than thirty hives kept within five miles from me any way, about fifteen half a mile to the north, fifteen half a mile to the south, and east and west nil. I could stock an apiary with 150 hives, and still then have £100 left to fall upon in case of bad season, &c.

I calculate that 150 hives will average 3 lb. of honey per hive each year, which, if sold at 5d. per lb., would bring in a yearly income of £93 15s. and, allowing £23 15s. for expenses, paint, &c., I should have £70 per annum, an increase of £13 on my present salary, and better health. I am also an experienced poultry-keeper, and could fill my spare time in the winter at other things.

I have taken 30 lb. as an average for good seasons, and bad, and 5d. per lb. for honey, as I consider this the lowest it is likely to fall to. I obtain now 10d. per lb. retail, and 8d. wholesale, and often take over 60 lb. from a hive, and I have no winter or spring feeding. I have also omitted to allow for swarms I might sell. I think you will now understand what I require, and shall be very pleased if you will kindly give me your opinion in the BRITISH BEE JOURNAL on the following questions:—

1. Are 150 hives too many to keep together in one apiary? Are there any apiaries so large as this?
2. I have now eleven hives. Could I increase these to thirty next season, sixty the following season, 100 the following, and 150 the next, with a certainty of obtaining a little honey to cover working expenses?
3. Do you think 3 lb. per hive a fair average, and is the price of honey likely to fall below 5d. per lb.?
4. Could one man manage 150 hives in the season?