

## DORSETSHIRE'S BEES AND BEE-KEEPING

WE must apologise to the author for our delay in mentioning the receipt of Vol. II of his book. It came to us sometime since, but owing to pressure of other work we have been unable to get through with all of it. We shall take it up chapter by chapter and probably have, as it were, a continued story, reviewing as much each week as we find time and space. Reviews of this work are at present progressing in both *Gleanings and Reiew*, and there will doubtless be sufficient variety in the style of the matter commented on to make all three readable.

This second volume treats of the practical side of bee-keeping entirely, but in a scientific way, while Vol. I devoted itself to the purely scientific.

## CHAPTER I.

## BEES UNDER PROPER CONTROL.

The author treats the subject in a masterly manner, going into detail wherever needed and setting forth his views in a very intelligent and readable style. He advises that until the apiarist has gained confidence in himself and loses that nervous feeling which is almost sure to reap for itself all the stings that are going, India rubber gloves such as we catalogue are recommended, but with a lining. Although the former are less clumsy, yet they are very troublesome to get on and off. The author explains that this difficulty may be overcome to a great extent by the use of chalkdust. What is said of bee-veils is common to most other guide books: He upholds the position taken by Mr. Jas Heddon, with reference to the statements made concerning the result of "smoking" bees. He says, "I am pleased to find that Mr. H. combats the position of Langstroth whose error may often lead to loss of time and loss of command also. Mr. Heddon says: 'We have been told that the reason the application of smoke pats bees in a friendly attitude is because it frightens them, which causes them to fill themselves with honey, and when so filled they cannot, without disgorging the same, assume an attitude in which they can use their sting. While this teaching may be correct\* in part I think

\*The author says, "This teaching has not a shadow of a shade of truth in it."

the effect of smoke is to frighten out of them all idea of battle. It seems to instantly impress them with the utter uselessness of opposing "an enemy with a breath like that."

The Clark and Bingham smokers are both criticised and the decision is that they are "sixes." The Bingham smoker as described by him does not have the nozzle grated, the same as are all of those sent out by us. Without this it seems to us there is much more danger of live coals or cinders falling out upon the bees. We have made quite a number of improvements in these smokers which are described in "Our Own Apiary" in this issue. Carbolic acid is also mentioned as a "quieter," but it is not recommended to the "every day" bee-keeper. The smoker is the cheapest, handiest and best of all.

## CHAPTER II.

## HIVES FOR BEES.

This chapter contains mostly the general principles to be observed when a future home is being established for a colony. It also treats of the hives in use by the old-time bee-keepers.

## CHAPTER III.

## HIVES FOR BEE-KEEPERS.

The different hives which have been in use in Europe for the past thirty years are described, together with the distinguishing features of each. Much of this, however, is too intricate and unnecessary for the bee-keeper who looks to his bees for his livelihood, but it is well to understand all the principles mentioned, so that science and simplicity may go hand in hand. We observe that in the hive as made by Abbott Bros., and described here, the makers used perforated metal between the first and second frames, to make the hive a non-swarming one. The sheets of metal would of course run right down to the bottom boards. When young Mr. Abbott was over in Canada we think he stated that they had done away with this feature of their hive because of the impediment to the bees. The experience of some of the best American and Canadian bee-keepers off-sets this however, experiments having been made, proving pretty conclusively that it was little if no impediment. The sale of this queen-excluding metal has reached