

found to have two combs with brood with quite a lot of young bees, and not too much honey. Seldom had we so few bees laying on the snow after the first flight. Eighty colonies in the cellar are so far pretty quiet yet; thirty of them are in a cellar very dry, and sometimes a little too warm. It is adjoining the furnace cellar, but bees always winter well in it. Fifty are in a good cellar under an unoccupied house. The cellar is partitioned off in cold weather, a little fire kept in the empty part, and in the room above; door up to the room, nearly every day open for a while; temperature from 40 to 42—seldom higher; will see how they come out. Comparatively less dead bees on the floor than in the warmer cellar so far.

A good start for another blizzard today.

Zurich, March 7th, 1910.

HYMALAYAN HONEY BEES.

Indexed

Experiments in Apiculture in Kashmir.

Dr. Burton N. Gates.

The Leipziger Bienen Zeitung recently quoted from the British Bee Journal, Vol. 37, pp. 365-6 an account by Dr. Earnest F. Neve, F.R.C.S., Kashmir, N. India.

Little is known of the status of bee-keeping in this part of the world, yet an association for bee-keepers has recently been organized at Simla, with the Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab as president.

The author says that bees are very common, having seen them as high as 7,200 feet above the sea level. There seems to be at least three kinds of bees, a wild type and two domesticated varieties.

The villagers frequently keep bees in cylindrical earthen jars about 2 feet long and built into the house wall. The end on the outside of the house has the entrance to the hive, while the end on the inside of the house is fitted with a lid or

cover of earthenware held in place by clay. The care of the colonies is slight and consequently during severe winters, when the mercury falls as low as 0°F., the mortality is as high as 75%.

The natives have some knowledge of queens. They have a curious way of securing a restless queen by tying her with a thread which they pin to the comb.

Although sulphur is not used to secure the harvest in October, the colony is usually so much mutilated as to cause a heavy loss of bees.

"In hot weather when supplies were scarce I noticed drones, who often disport themselves outside the hive during the hotter part of the day, were sometimes very reluctantly admitted, and were even then treated as if they were strangers, being chased from the hive. During such weather a fall of rain, so far from stopping work, seemed to give it a stimulus, owing perhaps to the more rapid secretion of nectar in the flowers. I have been surprised to find how comparatively few varieties of flowers are resorted to by the bees. Of course, in spring the blossoming fruit trees and fields of flowering cruciferae are crowded, and in summer mignonette, virginia creeper, hollyhocks, and balsams appeared to possess the greatest attraction; but, curiously enough, there were very few bees to be seen working on white clover. During the hot weather, when supplies are scarce, the bees are rather bad-tempered, and occasionally undeserved stings are sometimes meted out to an occasional observer who has been previously tolerated. In the evening, although the hive may be full, the inmates seem more gentle than in the heat of the day. The stings appear to vary considerably in intensity. Some, even when delivered deeply and strongly, produce little swelling or pain; others, inflicted lightly and on passing, as it were, have produced great irritation. It is probable that in this and many other respects Kashmir bees are very like their English

relatives. It will be interesting to see whether the introduction of alien queens will result in a better try or whether their parents will succumb to the somewhat influence of climate and autumn droughts."

SPRING REPORT, D.

James Sto

This season is very interesting. It has been used to for a in this district. Most of their bees on the summer 25th of March, and gathering pollen nearly My experience of last year put on summer stands. A came in until the 25th, knew. As far as I can good order; less than last winter loss. Of course few losses from queenless unexpected causes, but are strong and healthy, with sufficient stores for clover has not been winter to great extent, and should kind of weather, we may honey. Last year our son started June 25th, 15th. In this locality honey kept up until first bees kept raising brood time to put them away gave a large number of winter. I saw a few hives in two different cellars, and brood a couple of days on summer stands. Don't rather unusual?

[It is unusual. The spring has been unusual, make unusual preparati ing season, we have a regret it. Thanks for your very thoughtful of you.