

tant in apiculture, one can use it to breed better bees, long-tongued bees, bees which swarm very little, bees which are hardy of good temper, etc., but its best use is undoubtedly to cure or to eradicate several kinds of disease. It seems to me, however, that a great many bee-keepers think only of the queen and drone in all these cases, but this is a mistake. The influence of the workers are very great, let a degenerate colony have eggs from a good colony and breed a queen and this queen will not be as good as she would have been had she been bred in a good strong colony. Let us remember that the queen and drone are not capable of collecting honey or pollen, building comb, cleaning the hive, etc., and that it is to a great extent they impart these qualities on their progeny.

#### A Bee Keeping Enterprise.

Miss Mills, a member of the Freshman class at Syracuse, N.Y., University, is paying her educational expenses by keeping bees. For two years she has cultivated the honey-makers, and has found it remunerative and interesting. She has eighty swarms, and takes entire care of them herself. They are kept in a vineyard on her father's farm near Syracuse, as they can be captured more easily in the vines than in the trees when they swarm.

When Miss Mills goes among the bees she wears brown clothing, as they are known to be less offended by that color than any other. To protect her head and face she puts on a broad-brimmed straw hat and a veil, tucked carefully in. She has never suffered any harm, and says that if one is gentle and self-possessed among the winged creatures they may be made quite good friends. She does all the carpenter work necessary to

keep the hives in repair.

The care of her bees does not require so much time as to interfere with her studies, even in the height of the season, and during the winter it is almost no trouble at all to take care of them. Miss Mills has secured regular customers who take all of her honey at good prices, because it is so uniformly excellent. Her specialty at college is music. She is literally turning honey into music.

#### Value of the Bee.

The value of the bee in the work for fertilizing plants by carrying pollen from one plant to another is greater than its use in producing honey. In fact, without the aid of bees many crops would be complete failures. Darwin found that in 100 heads of purple clover protected from the visitations of bees not a seed was produced, while 100 heads visited by bees produced nearly 3,000 seeds. When two varieties of certain plants are grown in the same neighborhood there is a liability of cross-fertilization as bees forage over a wide territory. It will, therefore, pay the farmer or fruit-grower to keep at least one hive of bees or encourage his neighbor to do so.

At the Oregon Experiment Station they forced a number of peach trees into bloom under glass last November, and introduced a colony of bees into the house, first protecting one tree so that the bees could not get to it. From that tree all the fruit dropped when the stones began to form. From the others not a fruit dropped, and the fruit was so abundant that it was necessary to thin out severely. This shows very clearly how much every orchardist is indebted to the bee-keeper for the success of his fruit crop, as without the bees there would not be insects enough to pollinate the blossoms.