

them. The natives keep bees largely in earthenware pots, about a foot in diameter and $1\frac{1}{2}$ long, shaped like a stump-necked bottle, the mouth being filled by a stone bung with four channels for the bees to pass through, but this they invariably refuse to do, and prefer to use the big end, which is simply covered loosely with a board, the pot being on its side, and generally on the ground, and under a tree. Consequently you can imagine the assortment of creatures to be found inside. They take the honey and wax once a year, and leave little or no stores, and are astonished at the loss in numbers during the autumn.

My brother started three or four frame-hives late last year. One, the first, is in very good order; the other very weak, but breeding fast, and they are getting in pollen in greater quantities already. I have made myself two hives, but on account of the great heat in summer and the temperate winter, I have not stuck to the English form quite.

My hive proper is single-walled, three-quarter inch stuff, and this I place in a large box on legs, giving quite 3 inches room all round, with roof to lift or hinge, raintight but not airtight. To allow of a current of air in the summer, I intend boring holes in the outercase low down, and covering with perforated zinc, and leaving the tops slightly open during the day, and if I find the sun's rays too powerful, propose having a hood like a child's perambulator to draw over to shade the south side. The natives simply cover with grass mats, but these I do not fancy, as the ants and insects are in legions, and will harbor in them. Ants are a pest, but they are get-at-able. Hornets, however, are the enemies. Last year nearly four hundred were killed round the hives. I am trying to devise a plan to lessen the evil, and offer a reward for each nest, or for each dozen of dead hornets. I do not like the Palestinian dodge of smoke.

The bees themselves appear to be docile, but I am told that at certain seasons they get vicious. I fancy orange blossoms and karob bloom affect them. They have, as far as my inexperience goes, all the appearance of Cyprian bees, yellow bands, etc., and fly in any weather almost. I sent some dead ones to Mr. Baldwin lately to look at, and if I visit England in the summer, shall try and bring a hive with me for examination by experts. The natives, as usual, are superstitious, and object, as a rule, to their hives being looked at, and I have difficulty in getting information. They laugh at my hives, and the trouble I take, and also the feeding, but I hope by the time the Agricultural show takes place to have some frames and sections to show, and

some extracted honey and perhaps a hive; but wax as yet beats me, I cannot get it clean. Certainly I have only smelted down old black combs and scraps hitherto, and if any one could give me a few hints I should be grateful.

There is no question about it being a splendid place for a bee-farm. The winter is so mild that no wintering, other than feeding, and perhaps a stopping-up of draughts, is necessary, and already the honey is being gathered, white broom, mignonette, and other flowers being out. Later on the *sulla*, or crimson clover, will give a harvest, and orange and other plants until the end of August. From September I expect to have to feed a little, and during the heat water is the difficulty.

I am so afraid that the heat will cause heavy combs to drop, that in fixing foundation, I make the sides of top-bars moveable, then fix the sheet with glue on both sides, and screw the movable piece back. Some I have tried without glue, and am waiting for results. I find screws are necessary, as the wood is so liable to warp that nails and tacks do not hold.

I have planted white clover and limnanthes, but I do not think they will do. In some parts of the island wild thyme grows freely, and some keepers move their bees to this, which comes much later.

Should I find out anything interesting or queer as I get along I will let you know. MALTA.

For the Canadian Bee Journal

CORRECTIONS.

MESSRS. Editors,—Will you kindly permit me to correct some typographical errors which I notice in my reply to "Critic on the Path" in the last *JOURNAL*, for should your critical correspondent strike the warpath again I will thus save him the trouble of striking at what I did not write. In the second sentence it is printed "in the business as well as other things," while it should read "in the bee-business as well as other things." In the last line of the second paragraph is "only vindicated" instead of "duly vindicated." In the last line of the third paragraph instead of "selfish egotist" read "selfish egoist," which is something quite different. But the reader of this who also read my reply to "Critic" will please bear in mind (and "Critic" will also bear in mind) that I did not call him a "selfish egoist" or "bloated monopolist," albeit I have a strong private opinion that most readers of his letter would have these and other such adjectives suggested to their minds.

It is not much to be wondered at that some selfish bee-keepers should catch the monopoly contagion which is now infecting and infesting the whole commercial atmosphere. The disease is spreading so rapidly that parliament is about to look into the "combinations" and set itself down upon them, that is the outraged people are call-