

An Interesting Work.

WE have just received a copy of "Insect Life," a monthly publication devoted to the economy, and life habits of insects, especially in their relations to Agriculture, edited by C. V. Riley, entomologist, and L. O. Howard, with the assistance of other members of the Divisional force. It is published at Washington, in the government printing office. What they say in reference to bees, we have copied and give below, and we may have occasion to select further in reference to some other subjects, as it seems to be well filled with valuable information about small fruits, gardening etc., which is more or less associated with beekeeping as a profession, while a hint on farming, might not be out of place. We are pleased to see our old friend Mr. Benton, occupies a prominent position on the staff, and the extensive experience, which he gained while travelling in Europe and Asia, will enable him to furnish most valuable information to the department, and should they decide to make any efforts to search out new cares, Mr. Benton would be just the man to take charge of such an expedition. His long experience and familiarity with the different languages spoken in the East, would enable him to perform a greater service, for a smaller sum, than any other person we know of. We should be pleased to hear of his receiving the commission, to go and search out anything new, and valuable, in the interests of the beekeepers of the world. It would be a great source of information, to have him report from the various points, the many races or strains to be found on the various islands of the seas in the East.

While little attention has so far been given by the different stations to the subject of apiculture, except at Lansing, it is nevertheless an important branch of economic entomology, and there is much promise of good results yet to come from careful experiment and investigation. One of the most inviting fields is the search for and introduction of new varieties or species of bees; for just as American apiculture has profited in the past by the importation of races like the Italians, Syrians, and Carniolans, there is every prospect of further improvement by the

study and introduction of such promising races as are either known to occur or may be found in parts of Africa and Asia. *Apis dorsata* is believed to have many desirable qualities, and private efforts have already been made to introduce it and have failed chiefly for want of means. The further study of desirable bee forage plants and the introduction and acclimatization of such as are known to be valuable to parts of the country where they do not yet occur, are very desirable.

Much has yet to be done also in the line of systematic breeding, and we should be able to make rapid advances in the amelioration of existing races by proper selection, if we could assume practical and ready control of the fertilization of the queen. In these directions we are now planning, with Prof. Cook's aid, some effective work, but the introduction of foreign bees, which the Department should be able to undertake to better advantage than any private individual or State institution, is rendered more difficult by virtue of the restrictions in the appropriation already alluded to in discussing the subject of the introduction of parasites; and whatever is done in the other directions by the National Department will be done most advantageously through the co-operation of one or more of the State stations, many of which are far better equipped and more favorably situated for apicultural work than the Department at Washington.

A Swarm Inside a Hobby-Horse.

WE often read in the *Bee Journal* of bees, when they swarm, entering into strange places, and making use of them as hives. The following may be of interest to your readers:—A month ago a neighbour of mine, named Coppin, had a swarm, which was seen to leave one of his hives, and fly away without settling, and as there was no one near able to follow them they were lost. About two hours afterwards Coppin was told that a swarm of bees had been seen on a horse at the Rye House, but he, thinking it was a hoax, took no notice of it at the time.

The Rye House (scene of the Rye House Plot) is situated about five minutes' walk from where we live. During the summer months the castle, gardens, and grounds are open to pleasure parties. There are all sorts of amusements in the way of swings, roundabouts, &c. After the season is over the roundabouts are taken down and packed in an open shed. The wooden horses are hollow inside, having a space about 2 ft. 3 in. x 9 in. x 7 in. The iron rods,