

selecting the drones or taking good care of them. In stock raising the sire is looked to a great deal; too little attention perhaps has been paid to the male bees by those who have been giving their attention to queen rearing.

An Observatory Hive.

A SEASON'S "OBSERVATIONS" OF BEES
AT WORK—FROM BRITISH BEE
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Probably no development of bee keeping can give greater and more sustained pleasure to its fortunate owner than a well-devised observatory hive stocked with a healthy colony. It will, indeed, prove to be of absorbing interest to any intelligent person who may come across it. The hive should contain not less than six standard frames, and an additional story for sections as may be needed. It should be double glazed in such a manner that every portion of the combs on each side is visible, and should contain a trustworthy thermometer. The best position for the hive is close to a roomy north or north-east window in a hall or sitting-room. The exit will be through the hollow central pivot on which the hive revolves, and this should lead immediately into a glazed passage through which the bees will pass on their way to the flight-hole through the window. The advantage of this arrangement cannot be overrated. Not only will the movements and disposition of the framing bees be thus displayed, but every bee that enters will be under convenient observation, and a magnifying glass can be used to advantage. A feeding place of the kind devised by Mr. Price should form part of the equipment, as staged by Mr. James Lee in the "Royal" and several other hives during the past season.

Into such a hive as this I introduced a stock of nearly pure Ligurians on June 3rd last. The queen had been lost a few days before in an attempt to swarm, and queen-cells were in progress. A queen was soon hatched. It was interesting to see how little notice was taken of her even when, as the other queen cells were nearly ripe, the bees made up their minds to swarm. The queen showed great excitement, but failed to find the exit, in spite of which the bees went off, and actually clustered on a neighboring tree, remaining there for several minutes. They then returned. Next day the queen must have found the way out, for two days later all the queen cells had been destroyed, and she herself bore a matronly appearance as she walked about the combs, attracting to a moderate extent the attention of the bees as she passed them. I was disappointed at not having seen her leave the hive or return to it, but that very week, when examining a nucleus hive, I found another young queen at what must have been almost the moment of her return, for she was still carrying about with her the organs of the mutilated drone with whom she had coupled.

The colony thrived and multiplied until the middle of August, when the queen became less anxious to lay eggs, and by the end of the month most of the combs were filled with honey, principally, I think, from heather. So I cleared out one side of the hive, gave one empty comb and a full sheet of foundation, and fed back the honey removed. In this way fresh energy was aroused; the queen laid freely, and all partly filled sections were completed. Sections completed under the influence of autumn feeding will never be very clean or good to sell, and on the whole it is as well that it should be so. The whole summer's yield was