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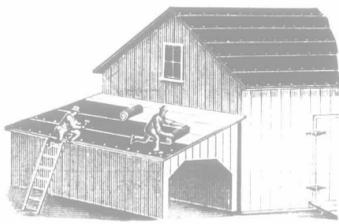
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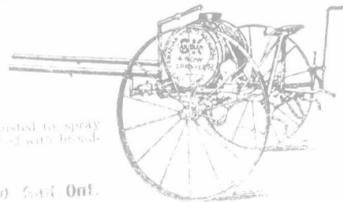


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BOOK REVIEW.

"HOW TO KEEP BEES FOR PROFIT." This attractive title introduces a new book by D. Everett Lyon, Ph. D., which has recently been published by the Macmillan Company. The following from the introduction gives the aim of the book: "It is the purpose of this volume to give the reader an insight into the life-history of the bee family, and point out the various methods by which they may be made of increased interest and profit."

There are twenty-one well-arranged chapters, and the work is tastefully illustrated with photographs, many of which are of practical value. The style is very readable, and the binding and general finish are of the usual excellent order one gets from the Macmillan Company. The price of the book is \$1.50, at which it may be ordered through this office, plus eleven cents extra for postage, if mailed.

The subject-matter is well arranged, and much of it keeps closely to well-accepted facts of modern beekeeping; but it is much to be regretted that so many serious errors have crept in, errors which we must suppose are due to the lack of a practical knowledge of bees. For example, on page 92, the beginner is advised that: "If a swarm should come out with a clipped queen, it may cluster on a nearby tree, while the queen, in her inability to fly, will be found hopping about in the grass in her endeavor to join the swarm, and can be picked up with the bare fingers, as she will not sting, and removed to the house. A new hive being placed on the stand occupied by the one from which the swarm emerged, and the old swarm, having returned and entered the new hive, the queen can be thrown in at the entrance; thus the swarm is hived without the owner having to handle it at all." Imagine carrying out these instructions in detail! What is the queen doing loose in the house while the owner is fixing the new hive? Are the children playing with her, also with their "bare fingers," because she is not able to defend herself? And what about the bees of the swarm rushing in and out of the new hive and back to the tree, because they can find neither their home nor their mother? And the poor queen can hardly be expected to accept quietly the indignity of being "thrown in at the entrance" after being denied the decent privacy of the usual small wire-cloth cage! In another place, the author correctly informs the reader that to handle a queen with the fingers will often cause her to be "balled" when returned to her own bees. When did 2 + 2 cease to be 4? It would be impossible in brief space to mention all the erroneous impressions which the beginner is sure to form as he reads the book. He is advised to pound on the lid of a hive when opening it to find the queen, when we know that this will make her hide. He is told to hive shaken swarms on starters, and melt up the combs of the parent hive as soon as the brood hatches. While this, in a proper setting, is half true, yet without further explanation the beginner will put his colonies into winter quarters with too few worker bees, and too much drone comb in the brood chamber. This dark thread of inaccuracy runs through all the chapters, and seriously impairs the value of an otherwise useful and attractive little volume.

M. P.

GOSSIP.

A BIG CONTRACT.

A German camping with a company of men, awoke one night apprised of the presence of a skunk in the near vicinity. Holding his nose, he made a hasty reconnaissance of the camp, but found all of his companions asleep. "Mein Gott!" he exclaimed, "haf I gott to smell it all?"

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