

daily, there is yet to be the first complaint, such a gentle race of bees does Mr. Boomhower possess. The yard is entirely covered with a thick coating of sawdust (the sod having been first removed), packed down hard; and, consequently there are no weeds or grass anywhere near the hives. It is just fun to see the little fellows pick themselves up on the sawdust, when shaken from a comb, and tumble into the hive; for the alighting boards are so low that they can crawl right into the entrances. Mr. B. uses a hive with a movable bottom, holding eight frames of about the dimensions of the Gallup; also one containing nine Langstroth frames. The surplus arrangement is a rack, something like the Heddons case, but it brings the sections nearer the brood combs than does the latter. He also has many other ingenious devices, among which is a shipping and introducing cage which is certainly far ahead of anything before made for this purpose.

Mr. Boomhower made his first purchase of two box hives nine years ago at which time he knew nothing concerning bees and had scarcely a dollar capital. To day he is giving his whole time to the business, owns 135 colonies, besides having a partial interest in 75 or 100 more. His annual receipts from the sale of honey and bees, about an equal amount from each, makes a very comfortable income. This Spring he had orders for all the bees and queens that he could spare; and it is no wonder for he has a remarkably fine race of bees, gentle, extremely hardy—he has not lost a colony in wintering for the last six years—and what is best of all a race which works very largely on red clover. One-half of the surplus which he obtained last year was from this source. His bees will work on the second crop of red clover, making beautiful white honey at the same time that most other bees are working on buckwheat. In fact, his bees have no liking, apparently, for dark honey. Although there is much more I should like to speak of—his method for the prevention of increase, etc.—I fear that I have already occupied too much space. At another time I may write of this method, and also give you a glimpse at some other bee-keepers' homes.

SAMUEL A. MILLER.

28 Carteret St., Newark, N. Y., June 19, 1885.

MASTER JAMES Y. YORKE, WARDSVILLE, ONT., wrote us some time ago. Took 400 lbs. of honey from seventeen hives. Wintered outside; lost nine by cold and one by thieves. First honey, from cherry blossom, had a dark color and bitter taste. The way we sold our honey was a two quart can for \$1, five pound can for 75c.

## BOTANICAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

**M.** E. ANDERSON, Ballantrae, Ont., sent us specimens of plants which we forwarded so Mr. Macpherson, our botanist, and here is his reply:

Specimen No. 1, with the "green berries" and purple flowers is *Solanum Dulcamara*, (bitter sweet). The berries become scarlet when ripe, and are in common with every part of the plant poisonous, but possess valuable medicinal properties. It possesses little interest to the apiarist.

No. 2 with yellowish flowers is *Diervilla trifida*, (bush honeysuckle) once very common in our woods, but now rare in the older settled parts. It is a valuable honey plant and is well worth preserving.

And to the specimen from "Inquirer," Simcoe county:—

Your specimen marked "A" is *Echium Vulgare*, (blue weed) a member of the Borage Family. Twenty years ago the plant was scarcely to be found in Ontario, except in gardens where it was sometimes cultivated for its beauty. It is now only too common and rapidly spreading. From an agricultural point of view it is a pest difficult to eradicate and will go to accommodate itself to any kind of soil. This plant is naturalized from Europe and was a troublesome weed in Virginia and southward long before its introduction here. It is one of our best honey producing plants and blossoms from June till frost,

C. MACPHERSON.

Prescott, Ont.

R. KNECHTEL, WALTON, ONT.—Enclosed find honey-plant which has blossomed for a month and a-half, and is still in blossom. Please describe?

The plant referred to is the same as the one received from "Inquirer" for description of which see above.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

## A BUMBLE BEE.

**W.** H. KIRBY, OSHAWA, ONT.—I send you by same mail as this, a specimen of an insect, found on the ground outside one of my hives on the morning of the ninth, it being dead when found. I showed it to some bee-keepers here. One said it was a queen and others said it was some kind of an insect. I never had bees before this season and don't