

Reviews.

Booklet on "Beekeeping" in Tamil by S. Gopalakrishnan, Madras.

The booklet is on the whole well written, presenting the salient points of the subject, in a concise form, with a few illustrations. Its get up is quite attractive and the low price (four annas) as compared with the information contained, is bound to make it quite popular.

The subject is dealt with in 11 chapters, commencing with beekeeping—new and old. The subsequent chapters contain information regarding the life history of the honey bee, the different indigenous varieties, hives and appliances, care and management of bees, swarming, enemies, etc. Information on hiving wild colonies and details of the bee hive are given in two appendices.

As the booklet is expected to serve as a useful guide to amateurs, the following few suggestions, to make it more useful to the public, are offered. A few facts on the bee pasturage plants, breeding season, economics, may be given in the booklet. There are certain statements such as the capacity of the queen to lay 3000 eggs per day, of the capacity of the bees to travel up to 2 or 3 miles, the massacre of the drones, which are not quite correct in the case of the Indian bee. The statement that the pollen basket is in the second joint of the hind leg needs correction.

The portion dealing with the care and management of bees must be more comprehensive, giving fuller details of the various operations including uniting bee colonies, introduction of queen in a queenless colony, which are often necessary while managing an apiary. The portion on swarming—the most important aspect—is too meagre. The portion on bee enemies is too short. The wax moth especially deserves a more detailed treatment and the remedy suggested by the author will hardly be of any use to the amateur. The method advocated by the author for hiving swarms and capturing wild colonies do not seem to be quite practicable; at any rate, there are better methods, which can be suggested.

M. C. C.

Rural Reconstruction. N. G. Apte, B. Ag. (Dairy).

The book is a collection of a few notes and articles prepared by the author at different times during 1931—34 as a result of his investigations into the rural life of Maharashtra. Mr. Apte has spared no pains in making the investigation as thorough as circumstances permitted and as far as it goes the book gives a fair idea of the present-day conditions which rural workers are faced with. The only portion however which will interest the general reader is, in our opinion, that which deals with the possibilities of starting "Fruit preserves" industries wherever facilities exist.

As regards the rest we do not certainly see eye to eye with the author especially regarding some of his generalisations about the causes of the present unenviable position of the Indian villager. Nor are the remedies proposed as convincing as the author tries to make out. The chapter on the village water supply is, if at all, of only local interest.

As a faithful record of the investigations carried out by an enthusiast we commend the book to all those interested in the work of rural reconstruction.

The publication is priced Rs. 2—8 and is available with R. K. Rao, Pallipat, Nagari Ry. Stn., Chittoor Dt.

M. U. V.