

for use in the apiary and is conveniently arranged for this purpose. To avoid needless repetition, cross-references are freely used, but not in such a way as to become exasperating.

The author has been wise in leaving matters of anatomy and physiology to books primarily devoted to those subjects. He is at his best when giving directions for the carrying out of some operation of practical beekeeping. His instructions are precise and to the point, and much of the information given is most conveniently tabulated. 'Manipulation' is a word beloved by beekeepers, and if a tithe of the operations here detailed were carried out, beekeeping would cease to be profitable, but the author gives us a timely word of warning: "*The skilled beekeeper is known by the small number and apparent simplicity of the manipulations he employs*". (The italics are his own.) Nevertheless, the directions for dealing with an emergency when it arises are to hand in these pages. The sections dealing with biological matters such as the underlying principles of swarming and the causes and diagnosis of bee diseases are less happy; while the lists of honey plants are necessarily sketchy and compiled from other sources.

The information given is intended to be generally applicable, and an attempt has been made to do justice to the conditions and practices of the honey-producing regions of Canada, New Zealand, and Australia.

The volume is singularly free from the expression of pet theories and prejudices such as mar so many books on bees. The figures are good and illustrate points in the text. The binding is of a practical and durable type, as it will need to be if the book is to be used in the way that is intended.

D. M.

*Borstalians*. By J. W. Gordon. Pp. 284. (London: Martin Hopkinson, Ltd., 1932.) 7s. 6d. net.

THIS is an interesting, useful, and on the whole well-written book. It appears at a time when outbreaks of crime, especially in the United States and to a certain extent in England, have made methods of prevention even more urgent than methods of detection and punishment. Mr. Gordon reveals with intimate knowledge and sympathy the methods employed now for a good many years at the five Borstal institutions in England. It is an encouraging picture, and being drawn with a frank and critical hand, carries the more conviction. He was himself an inmate at the Feltham Borstal and, having made good afterwards, largely through the interest and generosity of an American friend, was able to revisit the scenes of his early training, recall his own experiences, and note subsequent changes. He also visited the girls' Borstal at Aylesbury, and seems to have marched with the new colony which swarmed off a year or two back from Feltham to Lowdham. This forms one of the most attractive episodes in the book.

Criticising his own criticism, one is inclined to ask whether more might not be done in the way of stimulating intellectual interest, encouraging reading and providing classes and lectures, as well as

the excellent work done by sports, games, badges, houses, etc. The girls seem to be better looked after in this respect. Perhaps women generally are less inclined to be frightened by the damning appellation of 'highbrow', a word and an idea that are doing a world of mischief.

F. S. M.

*Breeding and Care of the Albino Rat for Research Purposes*. By Milton J. Greenman and F. Louise Duhring. Second edition. Pp. 121+6 plates. (Philadelphia: The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, 1931.)

THIS book gives a clear and detailed description (with diagrams) of the housing, feeding, and behaviour of a colony of rats which has been in existence at the Wistar Institute for some twenty-four years. Thus the various points recommended are the result of much experimenting and long experience, which make them of real value, though some of the arrangements for housing appear to be unnecessarily elaborate. In addition, details of cages and water vessels, etc., in use and found suitable in other laboratories are given. Chapters on the parasites and diseases specially likely to attack the albino rat are also included. Special stress is laid on the advantages of 'gentling' the rats by frequent handling and of giving them opportunities for exercise, a point too often overlooked in breeding rats for experimental purposes. The importance, too, is emphasised of making full records of growth and fertility of the colony from time to time, so that any possible deterioration may be rectified.

The book will be of particular value to research workers who are starting a colony of rats, and it cannot fail to interest also those workers who may have a colony already established.

*Theory of Simple Structures*. By Prof. T. C. Shedd and Prof. J. Vawter. Pp. x+345. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1931.) 22s. 3d. net.

So many textbooks have been written on the subject of structural statics that it must have become a somewhat difficult matter to find any fresh aspect of presentation. The authors of the present work, however, very properly and consistently emphasise the application of fundamental principles to all constructional problems, and this attitude constitutes the keynote of their treatment. They deprecate merely graphical methods, which "have a tendency to leave the student with the memory of a method of construction and only a vague notion of the principles involved". Certainly, they have produced a very clear and concise exposition of the subject, which students should have no difficulty in assimilating, while the abundance of problems set provides an ample field for testing the knowledge acquired. Written by two American university professors, the prurview of the photographic illustrations is largely trans-Atlantic, but the examples are interesting and helpful, while the diagrams generally are very clear and comprehensible.

B. C.