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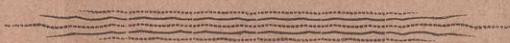
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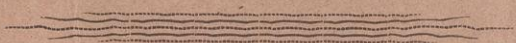
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ISSUED MONTHLY.

50 CTS. PER YEAR.



PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.



APRIL 1892.



Entered at the Unionville postoffice for transmission through the mails as second class matter, by the

BEE-KEEPER PUBLISHING CO.
UNIONVILLE, MO.

THE Bee-keepers' REVIEW

FOR 1892 AND A FINE, TESTED, ITALIAN QUEEN, OF LAST YEAR'S REARING, FOR \$1.75. EITHER ALONE, \$1.00. FOR \$2.00, THE REVIEW, THE QUEEN AND THE 50 CT. BOOK, "ADVANCED BEE CULTURE," WILL BE SENT. W. Z. HUTCHINSON, FLINT, MICH.

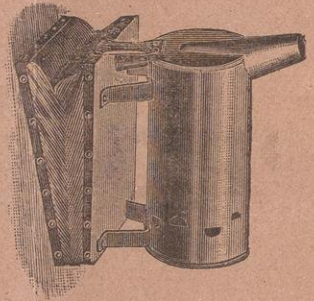
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Smoker, 3 inch byrel, freight or express, each \$1.20; by mail, \$1.40; per dozen, \$10.80. Feeders, one quart, freight or express, per pair, 30c; by mail, 40c; per dozen, \$1.60. Address A. G. Hill, Kendallville, Ind.; H. M. Hill, Paola, Kansas; E. F. Quigley, Unionville, Mo.; G. B. Lewis Co., Watertown, Wis.; Dadant & Son, Hamilton, Ill.; H. McK. Wilson & Co., 202 Market St., St. Louis; T. G. Newman & Son, 246 E. Madison St., Chicago; W. H. Bright, Mzeppa, Minn.; W. S. Bellows, Ladora, Iowa Co. Iowa; Gregory Bros. & Son, Ottumwa, Iowa; F. H. Dunn, Yorkville, Ill. and E. Kretschmer, Red Oak, Iowa; Levering Bros., Wiota, Iowa; Miller Bros., Bluffton, Missouri; Chicago Bee-Keepers Supply Co., Topeka, Kansas.



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We have the most extensive steam power factory in the West used exclusively for the manufacture of Bee Supplies. We can furnish at wholesale or retail, anything practically constructed, needed in the Apiary, at the **Lowest Prices**. Satisfaction guaranteed. Our **New Factory**, four times larger than heretofore, is now running, and we can furnish promptly Alternating Hives, Plain L. Hives, Doveetailed Hives, Simplicity Hives, improved L. Hives, the Best One-Piece Sections, and everything pertaining to Practical Bee-Culture. Send for our new Catalogue, mailed free to any Bee-Keeper. Address

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Bred from stock that cannot be excelled for honey gathering, beauty, gentleness, and all that make a desirable bee. Warranted Queens, \$1 each; 6 for \$5; Select tested and breeding queens after July 1st. Write for sample of bees and prices. Circular free. Address,

E. F. QUIGLEY,
Unionville, Missouri.

N. B.—One Warranted Queen and a year's subscription to the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER for \$1.15.



Best Artistic Metal Works, St. Louis, Mo.
Brass, Iron and Wire Office-work, Railings, Crestings, Nettings, etc. Everlasting Cemetery FENCES. Shipped every where. Agents wanted. Write for Catalogue and Estimate.

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If so, send your name and address for a Free Sample of the **AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL** Weekly—32 pages—One Dollar a year.

THOMAS G. NEWMAN & SON,
PUBLISHERS
CHICAGO, ILL.

PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.

VOL. II.

UNIONVILLE, MO., APRIL 1892.

NO. 4.

Progressive Bee-Keeper.

ISSUED MONTHLY BY

BEE-KEEPER PUBLISHING CO.

Unionville, Missouri.

ONLY 50 CENTS A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Advertising Rates made known on Application.

Our May number will contain a full report of the Missouri State Beekeepers Meeting held at Warrensburg, Mo., April 6, 7, and 8. It contains much valuable information.

A. I. Root's latest super for the Dovetailed Hive is near our idea of a perfect super. We have thought for some time of adopting Dr. Tinker's super in order to get full width wood separators.

Another new Bee Journal is to make its appearance soon. The "Bee Age," published at Spring Valley, Minn., B. Taylor, editor. Minnesota will have two Bee Journals. We wish the new comer success.

We have received our early drone brood from the south; it was cold for several days after it was received, and we took it in the kitchen. They were nearly all hatched April 23rd, and are as lively as any ever reared in July. With favorable weather we will

have queens ready to mate by May 12th. Our yard contains some of the finest stock to be had anywhere.

Mrs. Jennie Atchley writes she has been sick for sixteen days. If any of her customers have been neglected this will explain the delay. We hope she has recovered, and able to attend to the bees now.

The weather during March and April has been very unfavorable for bees. In our March Bee Keeper we reported two apiaries of 150 colonies that 80 per cent had died. There is now, April 20th, but 10 colonies alive; both apiaries were wintered in cellars. Many having from two to ten colonies, have lost all of them.

We bought an apiary this spring containing sixty dovetailed hives. Twenty of them have been in use three years, the balance of them two years. We find many of the covers cracked, the end cleats to covers on many of them had opened out, allowing the covers to warp. Some of them would let the bees out at the edge. These covers were painted only on one side; we paint our covers on both sides. This prevents them from warping to some extent, but not entirely. The

Leahy Mfg., Company proposes to remedy this by putting on a gable cover.

We went into winter with about a dozen late reared queens that never layed an egg until this spring. Only one turned out a drone layer, the balance are fine, prolific and equal to those reared early in the summer.

We hope to give an illustration of Modified Hoffman Frame in our May number. We think you will like it better than the one others are putting out. It has no sharp edges to form cracks for bees to fill up with propolis.

In ordering queens, when you live some distance from the post office, you should mention it, so that the dealer can notify you when to expect them. This would often save considerable trouble to yourself as it is not always possible to ship queens by return mail.

The Pratt Self Hiver, illustrated in *Gleanings*, page 199, is an improvement on any we have seen before. Mr. Pratt has got the right idea about it; bees will not return to a new entrance, even if their queen is there. We tested this thoroughly last season. The question now is, will the bees return to their brood.

Mrs. Atchley writes, March 29.—“I have been removing the larva from the cells in hives beginning to build cells and putting in larva from my best breeders, and I will soon have a fine lot of natural cells, all from one queen. These cells are

marked by a straw put through the combs.” That’s just like a woman, why don’t some man think of such things.—Ed.]

The American Bee Keeper proposes to start a campaign against dishonest dealers in queens and supplies. Here’s our hand Bro. Falconer. We would be pleased to help you, and if any of our advertisers fail to do as they agree, we would be pleased to know it. But we must not be too severe on them until we know they are really cheating their customers.

YELLOW BANDED CARNIOLANS.

If we turn to the “B. B. J.” for August 23, 1888, page 413, Mr. Frank Benton, writing from Carniola, where he was breeding and exporting these bees, says:—

“I have yet to see an apiary in Carniola where yellow banded bees do not exist, altho’ I have visited all the most important apiaries existing here. There is in the race a tinge of yellow blood that crops out every now and then, do the best one may.” There were at my residence to-day two intelligent keepers from the northern parts of Carniola, and I questioned them on this point, and they replied “that an occasional tendency towards orange or rusty-red bands was always the case with all Carniolans, but that it was no mark of impurity in the race, since it exists so in all Carnolia.”

The above, clipped from the *Journal of Horticulture*, England, seems to completely refute the as-

sertions of those who have so stoutly maintained that there are no yellow-banded bees in Carniola.

On the other hand, I have never claimed that these yellow-banded bees *are pure Carniolans*. I have said, and do now assert *that in my opinion* the original yellow bees are the Carniolans. Everything so far published, relating to this point, seems to support my opinion and views of it.

H. ALLEY.

We never claimed there were no yellow-banded bees in Carniola. Our claim was that those bees showing yellow bands were mixed with some yellow race. We do not think the original yellow race was Carniolans, for if they had been they would remain so in their native country. In our opinion there was once a race of bees yellow all over, and before many years we will have them in this country, but it will not be the work of one man, neither will it be done in two years. Mr. Nally admits that these yellow bees are not pure Carniolans just as we claimed last season.—Ed.]

THE AMATEUR BEE KEEPER.

By J. W. Rouse is a neat little book of 60 pages, designed expressly for the amateur and beginner in bee keeping. It covers the whole ground, in language easily understood, giving full instructions on all points, and avoiding technicalities and scientific researches. The price of the book is only 25 cents postpaid. It is profusely illustrated. For sale at this office.

The Southern States.

CONDUCTED BY

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,

Floyd, Texas.

Bro. bee keepers that take this journal send us some subscriptions and get our premium.

The last we heard of Dr. Miller he was on the fence. Wonder if he has got off yet? If you have Dr., let's have it, bounty or no bounty.

Remember my queen offer and take advantage of it. Some are sending in subscriptions now, and some one will get that fine breeder.

To keep up our bees to the standard, we should breed our queens and swarms from different mothers,—not akin as near as we can tell.

Friends, as we have so much good matter to publish this month we will cut our southern department short, and give it space as far as we can.

I like gable roof hives for this locality for many reasons, but the flat covers may be better for the north. I have both and by experience make my decision.

We are having a cold backward spring in Texas. As I write this it is nearly cold enough to snow, and I am having trouble with my virgins mating this spring.

Are not our bee masters getting things a little mixed in scaling our bees and grading our honey? "Many men of many minds etc".

It's good anyway, and we will get it right before they quit, no doubt.

See Otto J. E. Urban's letter on swarming in this issue. It is sound logic and to the point.

Friends, as I am running this department for the benefit of southern bee keepers, I shall confine myself to southern bee keeping mostly.

Does anybody wish to know anything about Texas as a bee keeping state, any farther than has been told? If so send in your queries and we will serve you to the best of our ability.

Can we all save enough of the filthy lucre to visit the world's fair next year? Wouldn't it be a jolly old crowd for all the bee keepers of this and other countries to meet in one body? Wait and see.

Well, I see some are still holding on to the black bees and praising them very highly. I will here admit that black bees have many good qualities, but they do not pay in the south, at least not like the Italians do. I believe the south is suited to bee keeping some better than the north. Italian bees thrive in the north, as well as other races.

Do queens reared in the south when sent north do as well as northern reared queens? This is a question I am often asked. Now friends let us view this from a common sense standpoint and lay aside all prejudice against each other as queen breeders, and I think you will agree with me that it does not make a

whit's difference where the queen is raised; for you should know that the temperature of a southern colony is just about the same as that of a northern colony, so your queens after introduction, have about the same quarters and do not leave the hive only at swarming time, and then, the temperature in northern states is usually as high or higher, than the southern states. Now, how can you see any difference? The main object should be is she a good queen.

If some of those bee-keepers who are kicking about the size of the type used on the PROGRESSIVE, would put in as much time in getting subscribers for this journal, as they do in grumbling about its faults, the paper would soon appear in a new dress. A complete new dress means an outlay of nearly \$500, and the returns from the venture, thus far, is not sufficient to warrant such an outlay.

Last month the Editor of the PROGRESSIVE promised to be out in better time in the future, but during April we had an unusually large run of job work, which coupled with the fact, that part of the copy was not handed in until late, makes us behind again. The May copy is now ready for the compositor and we shall try to have it in the mails by the 20th of the month. —Publishers.

New subscribers and old ones renewing can have a warranted golden queen in June with a years subscription to P. B. K. for \$1.15. Have your order booked at once.

Communications.

NOT A SUCCESS.

MRS. MILTON CONE.

Having opportunity recently, I took occasion to investigate the results of shipping honey in covered boxes, in compliance with the rulings of the Western Classification Committee, to the effect that the glass on the honey boxes must be covered and find that it makes no end of trouble. Commission men say that they never had trouble before, where the honey was packed as it should be, and sent by freight with the glass uncovered and the honey in sight. But now it comes in the very worst shape. That shippers not aware of the contents handle the boxes as they would any freight. One man in the business said that it seemed as though they were carried upside down and side ways too.

As the ruling does not apply on roads east of Chicago, it stands that western shippers are most concerned.

There is no doubt, but that it would carry safely if crated as Bro. Root describes in Gleanings, Aug. 1st, but it seems that this plan is not adopted for some reason, at least not to any extent. It seems to me that matters ought to go back to old rulings. I do not understand why that was not good enough, and hope that we will get the expression of others on the subject at our convention so soon to convene.

We are making large aprons to-

day with "big" pockets, such as we used last year. We found these pockets very handy. In one I carried book and pencil, in the other fuel for smoker. I have so often found the smoker empty when furthest from supply and as we have so many steps to take in a busy day, it is quite an item to save a few. How many I wonder have made, and will use the very convenient seat for the Apiarist, with drawer for tools recommended by W. S. Hart, Hawks Park, Florida, and illustrated in Gleanings, Aug. 1st '91'. I mean to have one for I think a seat in the apiary a necessity. Perhaps the reverses in the raising of honey for the last year or two here has cooled the ardor of some, who will hardly feel like making exertion to make, or spending money to buy, useful and handy implements, to be used in the apiary. But we must not be discouraged, but aim to be ready so that when the time comes we may be ready to do the work easier.

We like the Progressive name of our Journal—but think with brother Morton that Missouri was good enough and I want some people to disabuse their minds of the idea that Missourians are all in the back woods yet, and that the men all wear long hair. I heard a gentleman say once that he could always pick out a Missourian in an assembly of people even at a world's fair by his appearance. The idea!

It has been my privelege to be in a few states in the Union, and I think there are Hoosiers to be found in ali of them. A young man of

our acquaintance whose home was near the Iowa line, went to Chicago to school and through fear of ridicule gave his address as Iowa. Not long after, I visited in a wealthy portion of central Iowa, and while there took occasion to notice the people who congregated on the streets in the city where I was stopping. Here were representatives from city and country and Oh my! Well, I said to my friends there that they could never laugh about Missourians again before me. All one has to do is to travel around a little and keep their eyes open and they will soon be convinced that Missouri will compare very well with at least some other states in bee culture, as well as other interests.

Mrs. Axtell tells us how to make some nice things in wax flowers and Miss Wilson speaks of how thrifty their plants are. Now we have some thing so perfectly lovely in our window that I want to tell about it. It is a double blotched petunia that has now sixteen perfect flowers though the plant is less than a year old and not very large. Our plants are all especially nice, but this is the gayest of all. We have kept a vessel of water on the back of our base burner all winter and think that this has helped our plants very much, as well as made the air healthier for us.—*Kansas City, Missouri.*

QUIET QUEENS THE BEST.

MRS. A. L. HOLLENBECK.

What is the matter with the weather? Have those spots on the

sun, got all over the portion of it that shines on Nebraska? or has the earth got twisted out of position some way so we are going to have winter all the year round? Perhaps some of the wise ones can tell, I can't. Up to the present time, we have had but very little weather like spring, only now and then a day that the bees could fly a little while in the afternoon. They have worked three days, I think, on soft maple and one day on the cedars. Today (April 18,) they are working in artificial pollen (corn meal and wheat flower mixed) which I keep in the warmest, sunniest place I can find in the yard which is protected by trees on the north and west, thus giving them a chance to work out of the cold north wind.

As they have plenty of honey, brood raising goes on in spite of rain and north wind. Found sealed drone brood April 9th in the strongest colony.

Last summer I received from different dealers, two queens just about the same time. Both were large, yellow and just as fine looking as you need wish to see. They were both treated as nearly alike as possible (introduced in order to test them to hatching brood) and results noted. One did not make up her mind to accept her new home for several days, and for a long time each time the hive was opened she appeared to be badly frightened. The other one, from the first, was perfectly at home, nothing seemed to disturb her, no matter how much the frames were handled so long as no rough treat-

ment was used. She attended strictly to her own business.

Now for results. Both built up to good colonies. The bees of the first queen very active and good workers, but irritable and inclined to sting on slight provocation, uneasy during the winter, coming out of hive often, when they had no business out.

Those of the second queen just like their mother, quiet, good workers and given to minding their own business, working whenever there is anything to do, at other times remaining very quiet in hive. You can easily guess which colony came out strongest and in best condition this spring.

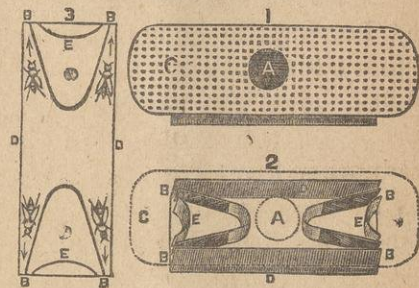
Now, I wonder if it is not the uneasy way and irritableness of some queens that is at the bottom of so many queens being lost in introduction; also can we not by rejecting all such as breeders do away in a great measure with much of our trouble?

By the way, I received a queen April 12th, that came all the way from Texas (from Mrs. Atchley) and before she reached the end of her journey was obliged to travel a mile and a half in the rain from the post office. The weather was so cold and bad that I said when I received her "Oh! dear, I am afraid she is dead." Perhaps I was not pleased on opening the cage, to find only one dead bee, and the queen and attendants all right. So let me speak a good word for Mrs. A., and also for the Alley drone and queen trap which will enable you, if placed in front of hive, to tell

whether queen is killed in introducing without disturbing the bees, as they can not get her through the trap. If she is killed you will find her in trap.

I am not going to whisper my opinion of the nice large type I will say it right out loud; I like it and hope you won't discard it. Tell the strong eyed grumblers to read it by moonlight, if it hurts their eyes in the day time.—*Millard, Nebraska.*

A NEW ESCAPE.



The above cut is a sectional illustration of Hastings' Lighting Bee Escape, which he is placing on the market. Fig. 1 shows the escape complete, ready for the board. C is the perforated top which allows free ventilation from the hive to the supers. A is the top opening which the bees enter on leaving the supers. Fig. 2 shows the escape with the top removed. A is an outline of top entrance. B. B. B. B are the outlets from the escape to the hive, C is an outline of top plate. D. D, are side walls, and E. E, are circular end walls. The ground plan shows the bees passing out through the four passages toward B, each bee pushing against the spring as it passes out. It is impossible for them to return, there

being only space enough for a drone to leave, between the ends of E. E, and the side walls D. D., and the springs hang in the center between the above mentioned walls. By simply placing a suitable board, with bee space top and bottom, having an escape in the center, (as explained in printed directions which accompany each escape) between the supers and the hive, the escape will do the work that was most dreaded, that of harvesting the surplus honey, with neither the taint of smoke nor the capping injured, leaving the honey in perfect condition for market.

It has been thoroughly tested, and is no experiment. It will clean the supers in from 2 to 4 hours time. One super containing 27 one pound sections was cleared of every bee in 1 hour and 43 min.

It is without doubt the best escape yet placed on the market. [See advertisement in another column.—Ed.]

REPLY TO BRO. URBAN.

JAMES HEDDON.

Mr. EDITOR: Some one has sent me a marked copy of your Journal containing a bitter complaint of ill-treatment by one Otto J. E. Urban, of Texas. I am very sorry that any visitor ever should have left here with such feeling and I am quite of the opinion that the fault or mistake rests with Mr. Urban and not, myself. I have no memory of ever meeting anybody by that name, neither do I remember ever seeing the name before; that I may have seen it in print,

is possible, and that the owner of it may have been here I do not doubt, but I do not read one-fourth of the articles in Bee Journals neither do I personally entertain half the visitors who come here; neither can I. If I had a brother I should not fancy that he was any better nor more worthy than your brother, but if he came to visit me, I should entertain him differently, because of our former relation. One feature of which would be the fact that we were partners in the ownership of a father and mother and once together "roamed wild among the flowers in our boyhood's happy days down on the farm." Although I had never seen him I felt acquainted with John H. Martin, the Rambler; he was one of the first to buy a right to my hive; among the first to discover its advantages; in the front rank of those who had the courage to tell the truth about it and the genius to adopt or discard it upon its merits rather than its inventor's ideas of etiquette. The "Rambler" was an old correspondent with whom I felt acquainted and while he knew he must be welcome at the house, he went straight to the best hotel in our city and it was with great effort that I could induce him to spend the night at my residence.

If our house had been full, as it is part of the time, I should not have invited the "Rambler" from his quarters to my own; had my "fast horse" been in other use by some of the family, Mr. Martin would have walked to the Apiary, if he went there at all, the same as my men and I

do nine-tenths of the time. Mr. Urban says it sometimes pays to treat a man nice and take him out riding.

Had I known that Mr. Urban would have bought some hives, and the whole state of Texas in my patent; if I had taken him around the town at a three minute gait, I would'nt have done it. I consider it wrong to take advantage of a man who has no more business judgment, than that. I prefer to sell the hive on its merits. I have not had the name of neglecting visitors, but no man ever did please every member of a multitude. Either Mr. Urban looks at proper entertainment in a different light, or else he was not as well treated as the average stranger, Bee Keeper, who visits my Apiaries. What there could be about the looks of Mr. Urban which drew forth this treatment and put to sleep my usually wide-awake boy, I have now no means of guessing.

He is entirely right about my having far less Heddon hives than Langstroth hives in use. In my writings for Bee Journals and in my book I have advised against melting up the combs and throwing away good hives of the Langstroth pattern for the adoption of any new hive and I follow my own advice. It is my increase that go into the new hives and my sales of colonies keep the number of those hives in my yard down to the minimum. Nearly every customer wants his bees in the new hives at a price in advance sufficient to pay for the hive.

When Father Langstroth came here and stayed a month investigating the merits of the new hive, he preferred going to the Apiary with my men and without me and I preferred he should, as I had every reason to believe and still believe that in its manipulations and workings the hive could plead its own case without its inventor present as an advocate. Those who have read Mr. Langstroth's printed testimony, will share my opinion.

Now Bro. Quigley, a few words in response to your foot note. I am astonished that you should say that perhaps it were better that Mr. Urban did not adopt the new Heddon hive. Following is your testimony which you refer to. E. F. Quigley, Unionville, Mo., Nov. 1:

"For honey production there is no hive that will compare with yours. All my prime swarms hived in them gave a surplus of from 72 to 120 pounds of white comb honey, and some third swarms gave 24 pounds. I cannot say yet as to its wintering qualifications. I can say that some small colonies put in the cellar very early, on four frames only, all wintered and did well. After one season's experience with the New Hive, I will discard all others for honey production. I never used a hive before which gave the apiarist such complete control. I can get more and better surplus honey with it, and get it with a medium size colony which will winter better. The frames are very easily removed. I would like to give my system of management with your New Hive to the Bee Journals, provided they would use it."

If you could be so mistaken then could you not be worse mistaken now? My experience with the

hive and 55 other testimonials found with yours in my circular (Father Langstroth included) which are on an average full as radical as your own convince me that you were right when you wrote it; at that time, with your whole attention devoted to the practical and none to the literary department of apiculture you were certainly as able to judge as now. You were then interested in getting the most honey with the least expense, what all you may be interested in now, I do not know.

You speak of my holding a veil over the new hive and system, promising wonders but giving only just enough to draw you on. The last sentence in your testimonial written when you had no Bee Journal, evinces a desire to give your system of management with the new hive, provided the Bee Journals would use it. You could feel it in the air at the time that the interests of the Bee Journals were in some way opposed to this new hive, so they were all of them and it takes more than the average moral stamina to do justice to one opposed to our interests even when that opposition is just and wholly incidental. Now you have a Journal, and have had for some time, and I have not yet seen you make use of your system of management with the new hive in its columns. You said I promised wonders and I am left to presume that you failed to discover any of the wonders. Let me point them out to you. More than 30 years ago, Father Langstroth invented his movable frame hive. For over

a quarter of a century, like the Wilson Albany seedling strawberry, it stood unsurpassed. Of course the invention was claimed by others; these claims shared by the public until the patent run out, when all Bee Keepers were glad to have Father L. have all the credit and honor, now that it did not cost them anything. No hive construction became at all popular during all those years which did not embrace one or more of the features contained in the Langstroth patent. Then I invented and explained to the public a bee hive possessing functions which I claimed to be superior, taken all in all, to those of the Langstroth hive, and combined in a hive-construction not containing a single function covered with the Langstroth patent. I "promised" that this new combination should be found superior to the old one which had stood so long without a rival; that was enough to produce a "wonder." Now mark the results. One writer is advocating a new system(?) embracing small brood chambers which may be used two together for enlarging and then but one for contracting. His other two patent hives are dropped like hot potatoes. Fixed frames and close fitting frames are very old and heretofore wholly unpopular; now how is it? Who made them popular and when did their popularity begin? It seems to me that the above without any more is fulfillment enough of "promised wonders." You say I don't remove the veil and give to the public enough of my system of manage-

ment. There are enough others doing it to save me the trouble. Of course most of them forget to mention my name or hive; a part going so far as to claim it themselves, but those who have read my book or will read it in the future, will there find the system, finding ample proof of the truth of the above and one of the stubborn facts is that the book was written and on sale before the imitators knew what they were going to imitate. They will do the unveiling for me and my patent will take care of my rights by and by.

Friend H. Several times during the past year we have mentioned your hive and the reason we prefer it in honey production. If you have the original testimonial from us you will see that you left off some of it. We mentioned that black and Corniolan bees gave best results. You will notice in our foot notes page 49, we say our business has changed. Well, this change is from honey production to queen rearing and shipping bees. This season we have a separate yard for honey, and it will contain nothing but "new Heddon" hives. We have long ago decided not to discard a good L. hive for any other, as there is not enough difference to pay the extra expense; the strain of bees makes a difference in results. You use and prefer Hybrids, while in our queen rearing we must have pure Italians. All pure Italians are inclined to crowd the brood nest full of honey, and they are worse in the devisable brood chamber, then the expense is quite an

item as the hive must be just right, frames filled perfectly with comb. We would use it for honey production alone, but as our present business is mixed with other branches of the pursuit, we must use the implements best suited to our needs.—ED.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN NOTES.

D. A. PIKE.

In your comments on my article (P. 20, Feb. '92) you say there is another point I did not mention about impure drones in the same yard with the drone rearing colonies. I can not see where the impure drones would come from.

If your queens are all pure and purely mated there can not be any impure drones.

You say you have brought out some of the brethren on the imported queen question. I have had imported queens that cost me over sixteen dollars apiece; they were not fit to rear queens from.

I also had an imported queen from A. J. King, which was the finest looking imported queen I ever saw, but I only raised enough queens to test her that she was not fit to breed from.

I also had daughters from imported queens from some of the best queen breeders in this country, but not any of them gave satisfaction.

I suppose they have yellow queens in Italy now, as there was a number of American yellow queens exported to Italy about ten years ago.

J. C. I. in February number of the P. B. K., asks some questions

about the American bee hive. There are more American bee-hives used here than all others combined. It has been tested along side of the Langstroth, Simplicity, Fairview, New American and Success hives and a number of other hives, but the American hive comes out ahead every time.

As far as surplus honey and a queen rearing hive the American hive is far ahead.

In getting good queen cells started I may give you my method how I get good queen-cells in some future number.

Friend S. E. Miller in March No. of the P. B. K. would like to know how I tested Albino and Syrian bees along side of the Italian bees. This is the way I did it; I have my apiaries of the Italian and Albino bees in separate apiaries at the foot of the south mountain. There is but little difference in the honey resources for twenty miles along the foot of this mountain. I introduced my Syrian queen into a colony of Albino bees and reared a few Syrian queens from her and had them mated with Albino drones, but I did not let any of my Syrian queens rear any drones for I soon discovered their bad habits.

If you wish stings and robbers, get the Syrian bee.—*Smithsburg, Maryland.*

We did not intend to say impure drones. We should said undesirable, as we want only the best to fly, and unless we trap them they will mix up.—Ed.

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PREPARING BEES FOR CELL BUILDING.

C. B. BANKSTNS.

I have had cells built by nearly every method given to the public and I have endeavored to improve upon and simplify these so I could get along without so much fussing, at the same time improve upon the quality of queens produced. I have never seen as nice queens raised by any method as is reared by the following plan. When I am ready to start cell building, I take the queen and all combs containing brood or eggs from some strong stock, kill the queen or otherwise dispose of her, exchange the combs of brood for combs of honey from other stock; these combs are placed in the hive from which the queen and brood is taken and the cover is replaced and no more attention is given them until the following morning when the prepared eggs is given them.

The work of preparing the bees should be done about sun down and the eggs given the bees early the following morning. The eggs may be prepared by Doolittle's or Ally's plan as given in their books, in four days from time the eggs is given the bees they will be sealed and may be removed to a strong nuclei the combs of honey is then exchanged for the queen and brood in the next colony that we wish to build cells and soon till every colony in the yard have built its lot of cells, there is no limit to the number of queens that can be raised by this plan.

These cell building colonies may

be run for either comb or extracted honey.

Building cells will not weaken them in the least, but on the contrary they will gain in strength. This may be called the simplicity method as the time spent in preparing the bees and eggs will not exceed ten minutes.—*Thorn-dale, Texas.*

ARTIFICIAL VS. NATURAL SWARMING.

OTTO J. E. URBAN.

As I am a great friend of natural swarming, of course my article will be a little partial, though, I will try to weigh the pros and cons fairly.

I have always loved to see a strong swarm of bees rise up in the air and fly around over my yard and finally settle on a bush or tree or anything, just suited to their fancy. It has ever been a joy to see a large cluster of bees hanging on a limb of a tree and then, after shaken down in front of the new hive, see them march into it. Then watch the rapid growth of the combs and last, not least, see the nice comb honey stored in the surplus apartment by such a large prime swarm. I admit there is some drawbacks to natural swarming, absconding of swarms, clustering in tall trees, queens not being ready to leave when the workers swarm out, etc. It is very vexacious to see a swarm come out nicely and by the time you think you have them safe in the new hive they find out that the queen is not with them and

consequently start back to the old hive.

The absconding and also clustering of swarms in tall trees can be remedied easily enough. Keep your bees in a grove of low trees and don't take after swarms. When one of your prime or first swarms comes out, it will without fail settle on a low bush or tree if to be had, hive them in a clean hive [one that you have kept in a cool place, not out in the hot sun] and as soon as all the bees have entered, move it to a place at least twenty-five or thirty yards away from the place where they first clustered, and not one swarm out of twenty will leave the new hive. I control after swarming by simply placing the newly hived swarm on the mother hive's stand, after moving the mother hive to a new place some little distance away. This throws all the field bees in the new colony and the old ones are not likely to swarm again that season.

Now dear reader follow me a step further and let's see what we can gain or lose in artificial swarming.

First of all, you have to be an expert in apiculture to have general success with artificial swarms. On opening a hive you have to be able to tell whether or not this colony is in the proper condition to be divided. You have to know further that there is a good flow of nectar in the fields and likely to continue; you have to know that the season is far enough advanced to expect to have continued warm weather. Further, if you don't

want to buy queens you ought to be able to rear them in your yard, as you need a laying queen for every colony you intend to divide. If you understand all these things and conditions thoroughly and have the young queens ready, then go ahead, divide your colonies and success is almost certain. If you have fifty colonies in proper condition to divide and all your new hives ready, you can go to work in the morning, and by nightfall you will have one hundred stands of bees. This seems a very nice and easy way of increase and so it is. I fully admit of this fact. But if you are a "green hand" at the business you can just as quick lose half of your bees outright and leave the rest in a condition so that they will be dead capital on our hands the rest of that whole season.

For the benefit of the amateur bee keeper I would like to offer the following suggestions:

Along in April and May, or whenever the weather is settled and do more cold snaps are expected and a good flow of honey out in the fields, pick out one of your strongest colonies, open it and ascertain that there is at least six frames full of brood (eight is better) the brood all well covered with bees; take half of the frames with all the adhering bees, place them in the center of the new hive and fill out on both sides with empty comb or full sheets of comb foundation well wired in the frames. I would like to say here by way of parenthesis that the use of full

sheets of foundation is one thing that I can't get along without in making artificial swarms. Now move the remaining brood in the old hive to its center and fill out on both sides like you did in the new one, cover both hives up and this part of your job is done. If you didn't see the queen during the operation you will have to wait a while and judge by the actions of the bees. The one which has the old queen will quiet down very soon and work on as if nothing had happened to them; you can take it and move it to a new location. The bees in the queenless hive will soon become restless and uneasy, they will run out of the hive, fly up and about the hive, go back in and out again and have a general "cutting up" for an hour or more. Set them on the old place and give them a caged, laying queen, but do not permit the bees to release her at once, as they might ball her in spite of you! Mash the the queen cage in one of the brood combs right above the brood, or lay it on the top bars of your frames, if your hive cover permits of it and leave her there for 48 hours. The bees will soon find her majesty and become quiet, after two days you can give the hive bees access to the candy, and in two or three days all will be lovely. If you are unable to decide which one is queenless, you will have to wait two or three days. By this time the queenless hive will have queencells nicely under way. Now you can give them your queen and give the hive bees

access to the candy at once. Now my young friends, I think I hear some one say, "O well, with these instructions I can divide all my bees and increase fast." Don't you do it, or you may have to pay for your smartness, the same as I did when I started. Don't divide but one hive at one time and study everything close and watch for results. If you fail to succeed you are out but one colony of bees; if you succeed with this one you will have plenty of chance to learn, and if the nectar continues to flow you can take another one and try it again, but don't ever divide a colony after the main honey flow ceases, as failure is almost certain. Don't ever divide your bees late in the season and calculate to build them up on the fall honey flow—that flow may not come and you may have to feed them through until next spring. Do you know what it takes to feed 100 colonies of bees a whole winter and spring? I do, and you had better not try it to find it out; it will make you feel awful sore.—*Thorndale, Texas.*

TRANSFERRING FROM BOX HIVES.

S. F. TREGO.

I promised to give you an article on transferring and as I have just transferred seven colonies, I will give you my method.

I like to transfer as early as possible as there are few bees and not much honey to bother.

First, I get all the tools I will possibly need, and a few that I will not need—for it is no fun to be

half through with a hive and then have to go to the house, or tool shop, for some needed implement. I generally get together a hammer, nail chisel, a long and short knife, smoker, transferring clasps, string, large board to lay comb honey on, box or pan for broken honey, basin for water and towel, empty frames, empty hive and a few more "traps" and arrange them in a semi-circle on the ground and sit down with all in easy reach, give the bees a little smoke, and cut the nails in two or three sides of the box, and knock off the top. I then cut the combs out carefully and fasten the best ones in frames after brushing off all the bees from each comb, as I take it out, into the new hive. I transfer only the best combs and those containing brood, and feed the scrap honey back and melt the combs into wax. By having everything handy and transferring before there are too many bees, I can transfer at the rate of three or four colonies an hour.

I have transferred successfully very early, and as late as October (with the hives full of bees and honey,) but would advise the novice to do such work during first bloom.

A FREAK OF NATURE.

On February 1, I opened hive 26, and found drone brood in worker comb and hatching drones, nearly pure yellow. The queen was a late one and did not lay last fall. A month later, I opened the hive and there was no drone brood, but some nice, healthy worker brood. I cannot understand why she should

seem to be a drone-layer, and then produce worker bees. Honey dew killed the colony in March.—*Suedona, Illinois.*

We trust that none of our exchanges have been caught by the Famous Mfg. Co., of Chicago. A short time ago they contracted for some advertising in the PROGRESSIVE, and so far we have been unable to get our money—only last week we drew on them and the same was returned and no explanations made. To those of our readers, who may contemplate making a purchase from this firm we say, look out, for we believe them to be swindlers.

“Bees at Fairs,” by Geo. F. Robbins; “Bees and their Respects,” by C. L. Strickland; “Honey Resources of Colorado,” by W. L. Bankenston, and “G. H. Ashworth’s Dream” are four very interesting communications that we are compelled to omit this month for the want of space. As they are good any time they will appear in the June issue.

Please do not overlook my queen offer. This is a chance for some one to get a fine breeding queen. Price of PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER, 50 cents a year, post paid. Stamps taken.—*Jennie Atchley, Floyd, Tex.*

Editor Newman, of the American Bee Journal, has recovered somewhat from an attack of la grippe and is again looking after the Editorial department of his Journal.

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OTTO J. E. URBAN, Thorndale, Texas.