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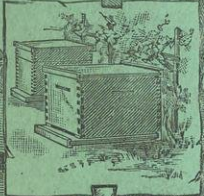
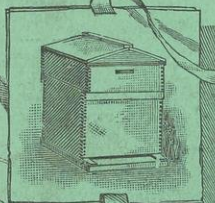
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NOV. 1900.



WURRY-HEISS CLEV. O.

PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND
KINDRED INDUSTRIES.



PUBLISHED BY

LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO
HIGGINSVILLE, MISSOURI.

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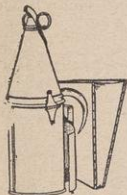
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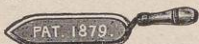
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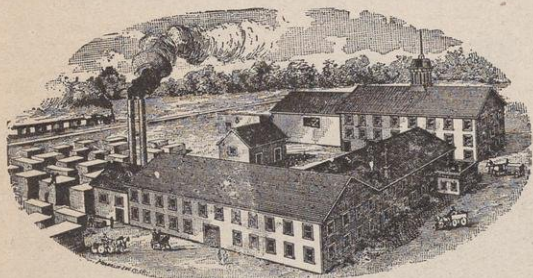
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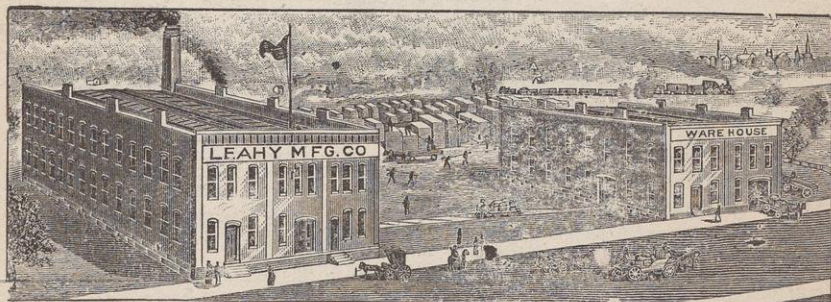
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50 Cents a Year.

Published Monthly by Leahy Manufacturing Company.

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HIGGINSVILLE, MO., Nov. 1900.

No. II.

(Index crowded to editorial page).

Comments:—Handling Supers Instead of Sections.

F. L. THOMPSON.

“The most seasonable time to write just too late to be seasonable to read”—“seasonable writing as important as seasonable reading”—just what I was going to say, Mr. Culley. We have had it hinted of late that articles should be on seasonable subjects. But very few bee-writers make a business of writing so much as to make it pay to write their articles when the subject is freshest, then hold them until the proper time to apply them. They hav’nt the time to sit down and do a lot of work ahead. Again, even from the readers point of view, it is just as well to have somewhat unseasonable articles, at least from September to April or May; for he too, especially at this time of year, has the problems of the PAST season fresh in mind, and can bring a keener interest to their consideration, than when nearly a year has elapsed since he last thought of of them, and by laying the foundation of next year’s work now he will have a longer time to digest the subject thoroughly, and make such modifications in his proposed plans from time to time as mature consideration may suggest.

One such subject is touched on page 493 of Gleanings. Dr. Miller

removes his comb honey supers when most of the sections are completed, and puts the unfinished sections thus accumulating in separate supers, which are replaced on the hives to be finished. He calls such sections “go-backs”; I have been calling them “put-backs,” and I contend that my designation is the more accurate one—for alas! those sections don’t go back of themselves—far from it—they have to be put back—laborously, just when your labor is worth most; and from what is hinted, Dr. Miller may have a hundred of such supers at once. That means handling at least 2400 sections, and assorting them besides, for of course Dr. Miller must put those nearest completion at the outside of the super, and the lightest ones in the center, if he does as I have been doing. I must have handled over a hundred such supers this season, and have been thinking seriously of a plan to avoid this work. For every hour is precious at that time of year, and the time saved could be used to very good advantage elsewhere. The reason Dr. Miller thinks it has to be done is not given, but I infer that his bees act like mine, i. e. are very slow to finish the outside rows of sections; and if the sections are left on long enough for that purpose, they will lose their whiteness. Others will doubtless say “why not use section-holders or wide frames, and rearrange them when the cen-

tral ones are finished?" That would be handling four sections at a time instead of one, to be sure. I did some of that work, too, this season, and conclude that while it is about as good, it isn't enough better, if any, to be a satisfactory solution. It still takes a lot of time, doubtless because ALL the section-holders (with the bees) in a super have to be handled, which makes it take nearly or quite as long as handling a PART of the sections, without the bees, by Dr. Miller's plan. I think that no one will deny that if we could get the bees to finish a super of sections evenly all over, the outside rows as soon as the center ones, that would be a much more satisfactory solution of the problem than any fussing with sections or section-holders.

Now comes up an interesting point. Mr. Pettit, of Canada, claims he has a system of management which will do that very thing, and enable us to save valuable time by handling supers instead of sections until the end of the season. He uses perforated followers, with bee-spaces behind them, between the two outside rows of sections and the side rows of the super; and also compels the bees to crawl up the sides of the hive when they come in from the fields, instead of on the combs, by using tapering strips, wide at the front end, under the sides of the hive, instead of the usual bee-space strips; claiming that both features are essential to his system. Now, Dr. Miller must know of the Pettit system and its claims. He does not practice it, but follows his old plan, though the Pettit plan could easily be tried. Therefore he as good as says "The Pettit plan is not worth trying." If any satisfaction were to be got out of Dr. Miller by asking him a

direct question, I would ask him how he came to that conclusion. But I suppose he would only respond with "It's shorter" or some equally inconsequential quibble. So we can only guess and wonder—or, better, try something ourselves, and then we will know. I have not tried the Pettit system, but have frequently noticed that the row of sections next the wedge-board of a super is almost always further along than the outside row on the other side of the super; and am told by an Arkansas valley bee-keeper that he adopts the other feature of the Pettit system, that of making the home-returning field bees crawl up the side of the hive by using tapering strips beneath, and that he is SUCCESSFUL in having his outside rows finished as soon as the center ones. For these two reasons I feel like investigating the Pettit plan, or something like it, in spite of Dr. Miller's cold stare. Mr. Doolittle criticised the Pettit idea by saying the field bees don't store the honey in the super anyway, but hand it over to the young bees to store, so it makes no difference where they are forced to alight. The bee-keeper I referred to, when I mentioned this, replied that constitutes no objection to the theory, for if the old bees do hand over the nectar to the first young bees they come to, if that transaction takes place on the sides of the hive, it amounts to exactly the same as if they had stored it themselves; for then the YOUNG bees store it in the first available cells, i. e. nearest the sides of the hive. One may mildly wonder why Mr. Doolittle, with his lofty contempt for theorizing of any sort, should thus employ it himself, instead of testing the matter in practice on a sufficiently large scale to determine it; but it's no use to wonder now, for he knows when to stop.

and like the gentleman in "Our Mutual Friend," has doubtless long since put the subject and all its implications forever behind him with a comprehensive gesture.

Being very short of time this summer, and sometimes of material, I used a number of last year's sections, with more or less honey in them, for the outside rows in a number of supers in one yard, and noticed that in those supers the bees as a rule COMMENCED work on the new sections in the rows next the outside ones. They did not finish them sooner than the center ones, but as soon, so that I was almost always enabled to handle supers instead of sections in that yard, in such cases. Of course, such a means of arriving at the result would hardly pay in ordinary circumstances—it makes more supers of new sections to handle, for one thing. But it suggests an idea that may be worth while, that if two VERY THIN permanent combs, one on each side, were allowed to remain in each super throughout the season, the bees in ordinarily strong colonies would likely finish the outside rows soon enough to enable one to handle supers instead of sections, just as well as if the combs were thick, and the expense of the honey thus permanently invested, as it were, would be slight. I have thought of laying a sheet of foundation on an ordinary separator, warming it sufficiently to attach it to the wood, then cleating it with five half-inch cleats and placing it outside of each outside row in T-supers made slightly wider than usual. This would give two permanent 1-6 inch combs (after once being built out) next the outside of each super, and have the same effect as if the two outside rows were honey-combs. I have never tried it.

However, the failure of fence

separators should caution us not to expect too much from merely mechanical devices. There is another way to approach the problem. Mr. H. Ranchfuss in his home yards has little trouble with unfinished sections during the flow. His bees don't finish a lot of sections in the center long before they finish the outside ones, but work evenly, as a rule. Out of one lot of 100 supers taken off at one time this summer, he only put back enough sections to fill four supers. I tell him he has peculiar bees, which he is inclined to dispute, but I think I am right, for the bees in his furthest yard don't act that way, and Dr. Miller's bees evidently don't act that way, and the bees at Montrose never did, except here and there a coolny; and my bees in the yard nearest to his, which were largely bought in that neighborhood, build more evenly than my other bees, eighteen miles away. So, then, it may largely be controlled by breeding. I have never seen this point mentioned among those which should characterize a good queen, and suggest that it receive serious consideration.

The editor of the American Bee Journal casually informs his readers, on page 456 of that paper, that F. L. Thompson thinks the letter of Prof. Gillette about the wax-moth question, and the words introducing it. (reviewed in the June PROGRESSIVE,) might be misleading, etc. Now, who is F. L. Thompson, I wonder, and what is his think worth? It was the editor who used the words "the moth that infests comb-honey there," and what the editor now thinks is not said—presumably the same as before. An injustice has been, and is, done to Colorado bee-keepers by allowing those words to stand without retraction. That sort of shuffling won't do any more good than for an

ostrich to hide its head in the sand and think its body invisible, as was formerly believed. The title of the last paragraph on the subject is "Colorado and Wax-Moths." Like pulling teeth to give up, isn't it?

"Carniolans look about like blacks. . . . As both races of bees came from Germany, it may be assured that there are many crosses between the two. It is very difficult therefore, to get pure Carniolans."—Gleanings, page 644.

So the mountainous province of Carniola, or Krain, is a part of Germany, and therefore black bees are all mixed in with the Carniolans? I assert, and that calmly, that for electrifying statements no periodical quite equals Gleanings; none. The Emperor Franz Josef should have a care lest his heterogeneous empire be eventually all partitioned and given away to the other powers through the enterprise of one little American journal. I have heard that another mountainous province, Kaernten, which has a variety of bees much resembling the Carniolans, and said to equal them in working qualities, often ships its bees for Carniolans; but how in thunder the Carniolan peasants, without any knowledge of modern queen-breeding, could keep Carniolan bees for centuries in Germany with blacks all around them, and have any pure Carniolans at all—well, only Gleanings can solve the mystery. But there is a still more awe-inspiring discovery in that little paragraph—nothing less than a new system of reasoning; Bacon and Locke, hide your diminished heads!—"It may be ASSURED that so and so is true. Such and such an influence therefore is true"—oh that I could have wielded such a weapon in the debating society! This throws a blaze of light on former conclusions reached by Gleanings; as thus: "It

may be ASSURED that the bees of a strong colony do better work in comb-building by being as unimpeded as possible in their movements from one part of the super to the other. Fence separators, therefore, ARE of great value in producing well-filled sections." Truly, the human mind is great.

A bad mistake occurs in the September PROGRESSIVE, page 260, column 1, line 2 from the bottom. "By taking a Porter escape-board, and leaving the escape off" it should read, not "on". It would make a pretty kettle of fish to leave the escape on. I will take the opportunity to sum up the central idea again, for if it is not understood, the whole thing is nonsense. Conditions: Beginning of the flow, fair prospects, strong colonies, intense desire of the apiarist to be able to stay away days at a time from the apiary any time he wants to. Necessary implements: Extra hives with starters, queen-excluders, supers and sections, and boards fitting the hives and supers with bee-space rims, having a small hole in the rim in front, a larger hole in the center of the board, and a simple channel, made of pieces of lath, connecting the small hole in the rim with the entrance of the hive. Method: Take the old hive off its bottom-board, set to one side, put the new hive with starters in its place, shake off the bees of the old hive in front of the new one, looking out for the queen, but taking no extra time for that purpose. If the queen is seen, let her alone, and put the comb she is on in the new hive, if a brood comb. If the queen is not seen, be sure to shake off everything in front of the new hive, and put one comb of brood in it. Replace the combs in the old hive, replacing the one left out by an empty comb or a sheet of foundation. Put a queen-

excluder on, put a section super on that (I would recommend full sheets of foundation in the sections,) put the board referred to above on top of the super, place the old hive on top of the board, put the cover on, and attach the channel to the front of the pile by a single nail so as to cover the hole in the rim of the board, and terminate at the entrance. As the channel should be made with but three sides, the fronts of the hives and super serving for the fourth side, it is obvious that when the lower end rests on the alighting-board, the bees can only get out of it by passing into the entrance of the hive below, and no bees can get into it from the outside. Results: Enough bees go up in the old hive through the center hole of the board to attend to the brood, enough bees remain with the queen to start a new brood-nest below (and their number is daily increased as the brood takes less attention in the hive above,) and work in the super is promptly begun, especially if there are full sheets there, and carried on with energy, and the super combs are not darkened by the old combs above, because there is a board between, and there is no swarming, because the bees have virtually been made to swarm. Next, if increase is not desired, stop up the central hole in the board in four or five days. This forces all flying bees above to join the force below, through the outside channel, and weakens the old colony so that there will be no after-swarming when the young queens hatch. When the young queen goes out to mate, she too will probably join the force below on her return, and what becomes of her, or of the old queen, i. e. which survives, you will probably not care—at least I don't—unless the colony had previously made no preparations to swarm, and

had started no cells until after the operation was performed, so that the young queen would likely be inferior. In that case a ripe queen-cell from good stock might be slipped in above. If increase is desired, then no channel at all is necessary, and by removing the old colony to a new stand one week after the operation, the job is done, of course making sure that it has good queen-cells, as above. In this way swarming is prevented without taking extra time to look for queens or cut queen-cells. There may be some colonies in the yard not strong enough to stand that treatment, and yet likely to swarm if not watched; but they will be so few that the apiarist can easily inform himself of their condition before leaving, and cut out the queen-cells necessary.

There is some repetition in the above; but after reading what I had written on page 262 and 261, I concluded that no one but a specialist would wade through it, and that it was especially vulnerable to Mr. Steeburg's criticisms, so thought best to make it as plain as possible for beginners.

Another important point is raised by this. I made a good many artificial swarms this year, by another plan, and there was considerable trouble from absconding, though I gave the swarms frames of young brood. Now the question is, will swarms made by the method I have outlined above ever abscond? Because if they do, the plan is a failure. They did not in the instances in which I applied the plan last summer, but they were not numerous enough to be decisive. But, from theoretical considerations, I am encouraged to hope that absconding will not occur. Why should it? During the first few days, the only time absconding may occur, the bees below are not strong enough. It is

almost always, if not always, a STRONG swarm that absconds. The bees above will hardly be impelled to do so, for they are queenless, and weakened beside. There seems to be no reason why this plan does not put the bees contentedly at work from the start; but if for any reason it will turn out differently, I will report it.

Well, Somnambulist, now for you (p. 266). "Punishment sometimes applied to those who are totally innocent." Very true; but what of it? Why such a highly irrelevant remark? "Say was it by a slip of the pen that 'Mr. Hutchinson is undoubtedly right in preferring excellent original work to comments on the same, etc.' found its way into print?" Why, no, Somnambulist. Not that I know of. Isn't it true, as a general principle? If any inuendo had been intended (but it wasn't) I would have hit myself as hard as anybody. "To tell the whole truth, I would not have passed you by so often." I don't know what to make of that; but at any rate, I hope always to be passed by if I don't bring up points of value enough to be discussed on their intrinsic merits, and would rather not be noticed at all out of mere politeness, so-called.

Denver, Colo.

Concerning Plain and Fence Separators, etc.

S. P. CULLEY.

In October PROGRESSIVE, page 259, Mr. F. L. Thompson referring to a former article of mine says: "Hi, thinks I to myself" etc., to "and I continue to be skeptical."

The object of my article was to give the bottom facts about plain and fence separators. To intimate that it was based on "unscientific testimonials" is also to intimate that

it was unscientific. It was based on our own experience, primarily, but it certainly would have been unscientific to have entirely ignored the experience of other bee-keepers with the same fixture. If there is a royal road to truth it is the highway of the consistent. If there is such a thing as proceeding scientifically, then to look ALL the facts fairly in the face and reach a conclusion accounting for and harmonizing all the facts is scientific. Science is theory gone to seed; theory is science in embryo. In the present instance, to illustrate: We had fences in fast flows of '99 and in slow flows in both '98 and '99 and found them good in '99 and of no apparent benefit, but rather detrimental in '98. Dr. Miller had reported an experiment with them in '98 during a slow flow. Other reliable data was available. (We think as little of testimonials as Mr. Thompson thinks of them). Now, an unscientific testimonial writer would have testified on the '99 fast flow experience favorably, or on the '98 and '99 slow flow experience unfavorably according to the whim possessing him; but we interpreted all our own experiences and reached the conclusion that fences were a detriment in slow flows, or with weak colonies and an advantage in fast flows with strong colonies. And, incidentally, we showed that this explained the experience of Dr. Miller and other scientific bee-keepers.

We respectfully cite Mr. Thompson to our Aug. '99 PROGRESSIVE article for our ideas of conducting and reporting experiments; wherein we showed how, by overlooking conditions, flows, seasons, colony strength, etc., experiments in different years might indicate that nail-kegs were the best bee-hives on earth.

But to Mr. Thompson's questions,

which are pertinent and proper enough, have I tried fences? Certainly I have. Think of a man, a bee-keeper. (whom Mr. Leahy says is one of the largest in Mo.) and a writer—think of him going outside of his own experience altogether and sitting down and perpetrating articles by compiling from “testimonials”. And picture him not only counting testimonials for something to write, but as also being so indiscriminating as to use or rely upon “indefinite, irresponsible and unscientific” testimonials!

“To what extent” have we used fences? Not very extensively but have made some pretty thorough and careful tests.

The conditions and data of our experiments have been briefly as follows:—and these perhaps should have been given when we stated (or “asserted”) the conclusions we had reached. We first used fences in '98, which was a very poor year having only one fair flow, no fast flow. They were used side by side with plain separators and T supers unseparated.

Colonies with plain separators would be found chiseling away slowly in the middle of the supers, while of apparently equal strength with fences would do nothing in the supers. Some colonies with plain separators kept pegging away till the supers were about full and all was fairly well finished except the outside rows of sections, while others of apparently equal strength provided with fences would perhaps finish the two or three central rows of sections fairly well, but all the rest of super would be poorly finished, not fastened solidly to the wood, perhaps the bottom not touching the wood at all. To sum up the experience of '98: we thought then that plain sections were ahead of fences and unseparated T supers ahead

of both. In '99 we used fences and plain separators pretty much the same as in '98. We had two fast flows that year. During the fast flows the bees entered the fenced supers more promptly and gave better finished work. Instead of sections wherein the honey would not touch the bottom, we had it fastened solid and the bottom rows of cells actually bulged slightly and were sealed to the wood all round.

During '99 we conducted six experiments with individual colonies—too long to detail, but conducted as impartially as we knew how with nothing in view except to get at the bottom facts.

We are not contending for nor against fences; not writing testimonials for any make of separators. We do not approve of “booming” any hive, device, fixture or what not, for the purpose of making sales irrespective of the articles offered. We regret any injustice which may be promoted by those in position to largely dictate the trend supplies shall take. And we are optimistic enough to believe that the tendency is now away from that sort of thing.

Mr. Thompson continues:—“Then, aside from the apparently absent fact, I don't see into the theory that underlies those assertions. WHY should free communication across the supers with strong colonies give faster work and better finish when bees are everywhere anyway?”

It should require no argument to convince anyone that any and all box riggings are more or less unnatural. In a state of nature Mr. Bee ensconces himself in a hollow tree, builds his comb for both brood and honey, uses it for either, makes cells deep or shallow as he will or as his space permits. If the woods were full of supers filled with section boxes we doubt whether bees would take to them, but would, we

think, prefer an unobstructed cavity. But in storing comb-honey the bees find brood-combs $\frac{3}{8}$ inches thick over which they must crawl, then pass one stick, then crawl through a small hole in a zinc excluder, then pass two sticks and unload in a little 4x4 room in comb $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches thick. Is the building of such comb a natural thing for bees to do? Certainly not. Nor can we make it natural; but free communication makes it slightly less unnatural.

It may be said that in the brood chamber each comb is virtually a separator and there is no across; but comb is next to comb; it is not a comb and a board and a comb and then another board. Hive a swarm in a body with separators between the frames and see what the bees will do. I'll warrant they will not half like it. Apropos of what Mr. Thompson says on page 260, with us, putting the "old queens with her two combs of brood and some additional empty combs in an upper story with an excluder beneath, nine days before removing" results usually in the bees complacently starting a lot of queen cells below the excluder and contracting the swarming fever. With us bees usually start cells in any upper or lower story from which the queen is excluded for two days.

Higginsville, Mo.

cussion of specialty in bee-keeping. The intent was to draw out the truth as to whether bee-keeping could be made a SPECIAL business so one could engage in a livelihood and as a sole support; otherwise, to determine what other pursuits would best combine with it. It occurs to me that a few more thoughts along that line would be appropriate following the discussion on organization in the preceding chapter.

Perhaps those who read the Review when that matter was discussed will remember that I took the ground that it was a wise thing to be "well up" in some particular branch, almost if not altogether an expert, but for the greatest safety and the most enjoyment in life, we should not confine ourselves to ONE NARROW TRACK. To become absorbed in one thing to the utter exclusion of every other line, is wronging ourselves and others. The average man has enough faculties developed or capable of development to allow of engaging to some extent in several things, and with a reasonable degree of success. Why learn to handle bees and know nothing about poultry, fruit, gardening general farming, mechanical work, literary social and political affairs, etc.? A man need not sacrifice a general knowledge and the pleasure that comes with that knowledge, in order to succeed in high degree in one special line. Read, observe, think and hunt for knowledge. When wearied with your specialty turn aside to something else, and rest.

Specialty is all right; by it, we obtain results that cannot be had otherwise. My specialty is honey production, yet I have studied somewhat general farming, fruit, gardening, poultry, building, mining and several other things. By the side issues I get pleasure for myself, am

EXPERIENCE AND ITS LESSONS.

R. C. Aikin.

(Continued from Oct. PROGRESSIVE.)

CHAPTER XXXII.

Specialty in Bee-Keeping.—Stick to One Thing

Some years ago the Bee-Keepers' Review devoted an issue to the dis-

better able to give pleasure to others, and to fill the place and duties of a citizen. Strive to know many things, but to excel in one or more lines. It is just about as easy to pick up a general knowledge along with our specialty, as to get the specialty without the other. The diversified attainments do not take from the special; they are so much extra, with little or no diminution of the other. Now to apply the thought.

While my specialty is honey production, I am ever studying the distribution of the product. I might stick to the producing part and have great crops to sell, but if I know not the first principles of marketing, what am I to do? Some shark can euchre me out of my earnings, and finding me a pretty good hand at supplying that which brings him a goodly income I get the chance to continue the process so long as I will.

No, people who handle our produce are not all rascals by any means; just as there are rascally producers, there is the same display of depraved humanity in the other lines. A middle-man, go-between, agent, or whatever you call him, is a necessity. I try to be above the common producer, yet at the same time I try hard to know within a reasonable degree what is necessary in the disposal of my produce. We should know that he who handles our produce is willing and will do the fair thing by us, and above all we should set the example by fair dealing on our part.

Now make the application to our business. Learn well to produce, know what you need in the way of a market, but not being expert in the marketing, have some one to do that part who can and will do it well. It is all the better for the producer to know something about

marketing, and likewise better for the marketing or selling agent to know something about producing. If there was a little more diversified knowledge there would not be so much misunderstanding and accusing others with whom we deal directly or indirectly.

When one makes a specialty of one thing, sticks to that thing year by year, and is ever alert to know what will lead to success, he learns to discount all amateurs—even discounts himself. The man who tries bee-keeping a few years, and then changes off to some other business, then again finding the next choice unprofitable, tries still a third line, and so on, will be a lifetime learning new businesses, and yet never reaches that degree of perfection in any that he can make a success.

Environments may cause one to cease a business and reluctantly choose something else; such are excusable, of course; but to keep changing because there seems a better chance in some other business, usually leads to failure. This is illustrated by the ever changing tide to and from apiculture. There comes a year or two of good crops; possibly with it fair prices. 'Tis then there is a grand rush, and a lot of green hands undertake the production of honey, only to find that this, too, does not bring in the desired wealth. I have many times told would-be competitors that they could not possibly compete with me; it was out of the question to think they could, without previous experience, do what my years of experience would enable me to do. A very common fault is to carelessly estimate the profits of another man's business, get out of whatever we may be at, and try the new. No man can succeed against a more experienced one under equal conditions.

Combination of capital has the effect to facilitate the conduct of business, and the great combinations usually continue in business for many years. Think of the absurdity of a railway company, or any great business that requires hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars, together with years of time to put the system to completion and get it fully established, deciding that they will change to something else for profit. The way to make a railway pay is to build and equip it, then push it and just make it pay. The way to make the bee business a success is to stay by it long enough and push it hard enough to make it succeed.

It seems to be a fact that specialists in the exclusive sense are almost surely a set of cranks. Cranky cranks that cannot even do a decent job of turning save in just the one thing, are not companionable nor pleasant to be with, except when discussing the one thing they know. Who would expect a bee crank always grinding bees to enjoy a visit from a brickmaker, a machinist, a wheat, hog or cattle-grower? A diversified mental make-up was never intended to be neglected and used only in part. While one is making bees a specialty, he can keep posted on politics and other social and civil matters, grow garden, fruit, poultry and other things. Someone has truly said we can be specialists and yet not confine ourselves to one thing.

There is almost a necessity that a poor man, one with little or no capital to push a business in a special and wholesale way, should engage in several lines. Competition is sharp, and the man who has hundreds of colonies of bees, and an equipment in proportion with all the facilities to handle them, can produce cheaper than the man with

a few colonies. A man with ten colonies of bees, a few dozen hens, two or three pigs, a cow, horse, fruit and a vegetable garden, and above all OWNING THESE THINGS, can live and be comfortable in a modest way, but cannot well lay up money. The man with his hundreds of colonies, and selling at a given price, will make more money per colony from his apiaries than will the man with the few. Then with the garden, fruit and other things in a small way he has advantage of the man with limited means.

But what will the poor man do if he cannot compete with his more well-to-do neighbor? Select some one thing that he will push as a specialty, keep that thing growing as he is able, and all the while hold fast to the other side issues and helps that go far toward supporting the family. Do the specialty well, push to the front, and let no one excel you in it, and keep the other things going in good shape, too, even though limited.

The poor man has a hard row to hoe at best (I wish it were not so), yet most of our well-to-do people push up from little things to the greater, and largely by hard economy at first. Persevering and indomitable industry is the price of an honest competency. Let no man try to get up by dishonest methods.

Remember that mere might and brute force will not succeed these days; it takes careful calculation and counting the cost. Think and reason. It is much more easy to think and reason on a matter than to undertake a thing without the reasoning and, after a failure, to do the thinking. If there was more solid scientific reading and thinking, instead of the trashy novels that are ever present, much better conditions would exist.

Loveland, Colo.

Recapitulation by G. M. Doolittle.

"Specialty In Bee-Keeping."—This is the way Bro. A. heads his article, (in part), but on reading it through I find very little in it about bees, and still less about making bee-keeping, pure and simple, a real specialty. Bro. A. thinks that we bee-keepers should combine politics, pig raising, small fruit, poultry raising, and a hundred and one other things with our bee-keeping, and at the same time be a *specialist at bee-keeping*. Can this be done? I wait with bated breath for the answer. And if it can, may it not turn out after a little, that the politics or the poultry raising, or the small fruit, will be the specialty, instead of the bee-keeping?

"Stick To One Thing."—This is the other part of the heading of Bro. A's. article, and yet after reading the article I find he advises right the opposite to this, and says they which do such things are always apt to be cranky, yes more than that, the crankiest kind of cranky, hardly fit to treat his brother of another profession decent, with no sociability or anything which goes towards making the world or those about him feel happy and pleasant in his company, unless they turn the same crank he does. If Bro. A's. ideas of the specialist are conceded to be right, God deliver the world from the real true specialist, whether he be a bee-keeper, hog admirer, a poultry fancier, or a *politician*. By the way, some of the people are now being annoyed by a few of those of the latter profession. I am willing to accept Bro. A's. views of the "*cranky crank*" when his specialty is the booming of his candidate for president, governor, sheriff or constable. It is evident that the *candidate* has become the *specialty* at the present time in this country, and *wise and just principles of government* are relegated to the back-ground. And along this political line I believe Bro. A. hits the nail on the

head with his ideas about the *cranky* specialists. But when it comes to bee-keepers, poultry raisers, etc., I cannot think otherwise than that he has got "soured" in some way.

"An Expert."—This is what Bro. A. thinks every bee-keeper should be, and right here, and at this very point, is where those within hearing distance of where my type-writer sits, heard a loud *amen*. No man should undertake to become even a hod-carrier, unless, with that undertaking, comes the strong desire from the start, to become an expert at it. And the man or woman who has no idea of a business, further than to watch the sun to see how soon the days work will be done, or how soon the dinner hour will arrive, will never become an expert, a specialist or a success in the world. Such drudge away all their lives, being of little use to the world, and never find any real enjoyment in life, beyond a full stomach after dinner.

"An Expert. How?"—But Bro. A. "sort of" carries the idea that a man or woman can be an expert at different things at the same time. Someway I have my doubts about this. I think a person becomes an expert by taking one thing at a time and studying and *loving* that very thing at the time being, only. Pardon a personal illustration. When I was a boy all grass was cut with a scythe. My ambition was to become an expert mower. But father said I was too young and slender to think of mowing. On my way home from school one day I went into the lot where a good-natured old man was cutting grass and told him how I wanted to be a good mower. He asked me if I had ever "swung a scythe?" I told him I had not. He then put the scythe into my hands, saying the secret of being a good mower was to keep the "heel" of the scythe close to the ground, and standing behind, with his hands on mine, guided the scythe, while I(?) *did*

the mowing, very much as the *child drives* when papa sits behind holding the reins. He said my father was right in thinking I was too young and slender to do *much* mowing, but if I would call now and then on my way from school he would let me mow a little so as to learn how. Without drawing out the story, suffice it to say that when father first gave me a scythe and said I could try my hand at mowing, he said, after watching me for a little, "Son, you are a better mower than Mr. — who considers himself an expert." Next I tried the "grain cradle," then shearing sheep, husking corn, quarrying stone, cutting hair or barbering etc., becoming that efficient in all of these things, that the demand for myself was greater than I could fill. Then lastly I tried bee-keeping, and "scribbling away" for the bee-papers, regarding which I will not stop to explain, only to say that every one of these things have been taken up one at a time and added to the preceding one, till the total sum makes me what I am today. And what have I today? A comfortable living in this world, with no desire to be rich, other than in making those about me happier and better; and in the world to come, "life everlasting," through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; that being *riches* of far greater value than comes to the one who does not trust in Christ for salvation, even though he counts his dollars by the million.

The Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss.

—If the reader did not read carefully what Bro. A. says about changing business often, I wish he or she would go over it again and again, till what he says is thoroughly impressed upon the mind, for in this being dissatisfied with the business we are in, and turning to something which looks more profitable every little while, lies the "rock" on which thousands and millions have been shipwrecked financially. There are "ups and downs" in all business affairs, and the man who cannot stay

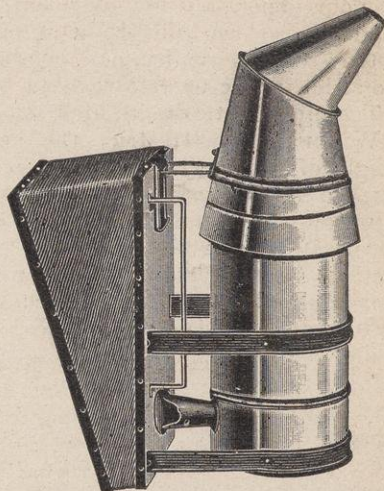
with his business when it has its downs is to be pitied, and nine out of ten of the ever changing ones, cannot. Herein lies the trouble. This change most always takes place when *our* business has its *downs* and the other fellow's business has its ups; so we sell out ours while at its lowest ebb, thereby being obliged to sacrifice very much, and buy the other fellow's business at "high tide," which obliges us to pay exorbitant prices. We now follow our new and profitable (?) business from the *up* part, all along its way downward, and when it gets into the down part, we sell out again and buy with the *ups*, and so on to the end of life. And as Bro. A. well says, such a course "leads to failure" and if he had put *always* before the word "leads" he would have told it exactly. It is the man that sells at high tide and buys at the ebb, that makes the profitable change. But the man who sticks to his business all through the ups and downs, is the "happy man," even should he not have so many dollars at his death.

"The Poor Man Has a Hard Row to Hoe."—This is what Bro. A. tells us, then adds by way of parenthesis, he wished it were not so. I also wish it were not so, and as nearly all bee-keepers are *poor* men and women, and as "Experience and its Lessons" together with my recapitulations, have not held very closely to bee-keeping of late, I wish to say in closing, that our present economical system is *all* against the poor, but honest toiler, and in favor of the man who does little if anything towards the producing of wealth, but lives off the wealth produced by the honest toiler, whom he is enabled to rob through the unjust system of the present. And the *main* "spoke in the wheel" of our unjust economical system, is the *private* ownership and monopoly of *land*. The land was given by a *kind father* as a *common* heritage to the *children of men*, and in the first cry uttered by the new born babe, that babe *inher-*

its enough of the land for his comfort and necessities, just as much, and in as true a sense, as he inherits enough of the water, air and light, for the same purpose. But our unjust system says he cannot have his portion of the land, no, not even enough of it on which to set a hive of bees, unless he has the money to buy, buy that which by right is his. And so thousands and millions of our people are struggling in poverty because they cannot have access to their rightful inheritance, because some baron or lord in the old world, or some monopolist in the new, holds a spurious written title, to enough of the acres of the United States, to give these millions a comfortable support, were they not shut off their acres by these title deeds. Give man access to the land as an all-wise father intended, and "strikes" would be an unheard of thing, and the millions of exports (above our imports) from this country, which makes this country so prosperous [?] of late, would not go over to add to the unearned riches of foreign land holders. No mine owner could cut the wages of the miner so that he would be caused to "strike," because what he received in wages would not feed and cloth him and his family, if the miner could have free access to his rightful part of the land, from which he could produce this food and clothing. Give one man the title deed to the whole world, and he could make the other 1,500,000,000 subject to him, is something which does not need demonstrating. And in proportion as the few secure what belongs to the many, just in that proportion the many are oppressed, and in the Bible, God's woe is plainly announced against the oppressor. All trusts and monopolies, whether in land or otherwise, are based on special privileges, and these special privileges, granted in the United States, come through our representative form of government, or government by party. Had Bro. F. L. Thompson been an expert [like Bro. Aikin would have us all

become] at digging till he found the fundamental principles underlying our political and economical structure, he never would have thrown "assumption," "assertion" and "demagogue" at me, as he did on page 262 of the September PROGRESSIVE. To prevent being accused of pointing out an evil without giving a remedy, I wish to say that the remedy for the evils in our political and economic system lies in direct legislation, through the "initiative and referendum." I have not time to enlarge on this matter, nor is this the place, even though it is a matter which directly concerns every keeper of bees. However, these things are well worth looking into, even to the becoming an expert in these matters, for on them hang the life or death of our republic, yea, more, the future happiness or misery of the world.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, Borodino, N. Y.



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ESTABLISHED 1860

Grading of Honey.

PEYCKEBROS.

Referring to your request for an expression on grades of honey, will state that in our estimation the grading rules of the Colorado State Bee-Keepers' Association, as printed in your paper, are not sufficiently explicit nor sharp enough, in as far as they refer to quality, and, again, too strict in reference to weight.

Taking the latter point up first:—

WEIGHT: You restrict the net weight of No. 1 comb on 24-section cases to 22 lbs. average, or no case to weigh less than 21 lbs. This is not necessary, for you may have 24 sections running only 20 lbs. net that in all other respects would come up to the requirements of the No. 1 grade, and, in fact, we are of the opinion that it is not altogether an easy matter to average 22 lbs. where separators are used; and we advocate the use of these, as the average bee-keeper will obtain better results with their help, and will not suffer by such a heavy proportion of seconds and culls. Several carloads of the very best comb honey that we sold during the last season averaged but little over 20 lbs., but the honey was perfect otherwise and no objection was made by dealers, since they are

buying altogether by weight and arrange their selling-price accordingly.

If the light weight were caused by imperfectly filled combs, or partly empty cells, the proposition would of course be different, and such stock would not come into consideration in the No. 1 grade, anyhow.

Now we do not want to be understood as advocating the reduction of the size of the section; the above remarks are only bearing on presently existing conditions.

GRADE. Only perfectly filled sections, straightly built and well capped, should be graded as No. 1.

Honey and comb must be white.

All sections must be scraped and cleaned.

Under No. 2, sections being slightly out of shape, lightly capped or showing an occasional empty cell may be packed, but this should not include sections that are only about half or two-thirds finished; such "culls" should be used altogether for extracting.

AMBER: Producers having large quantities of amber will do well to make a separate grade of their "No. 1 amber," which as a rule will be valued at only about one cent below No. 1 white, and therefore higher than the No. 2. If only small quantities it will be best to run it into No. 2.

CASES: Use none but 24-section, glass front cases. Wood slide is not so objectionable if the regular case is used so that glass may be substituted at point of destination if desired. Double deckers are not in favor in eastern markets. The cases should not weigh over 3½ lbs.

EXTRACTED: The trade in extracted honey is growing steadily from year to year, more so than seems to be realized by western producers. You cannot get better value out of your culls (unless your home trade should take them) than by running

them through the extractor, and we firmly believe that in the long run producers would benefit themselves immensely by never having any except strictly No. 1 COMB go into the market, and use all the rest for extracting.

Extracted honey should be put up in 5-gallon (60-lb.) screw-top tin cans, two cans in a case. This has now become the "standard" package, and is being called for, not only all over the United States, but by European markets as well.

Omaha, Neb.

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send 2c stamp for our booklet. It tells how to select, care and breed, with much other information.....

HAYWARD RABBITRY.
3250 Hayward Place,
Denver, Colo.

A Good Bee Veil.—An Old Friend Heard From.

S. E. MILLER.

Some time last spring I sent you for a Globe bee veil and in due time received it. After having used it sometime, and under severe circumstances, I desire to report its merits to your readers, as I believe a good thing should be enjoyed by all. We have an out-yard within about a mile of a bee-keeper, who some fifteen or twenty years ago was an enthusiast on bees and introduced Italians in his apiary, but has since

neglected to Italianize and hence has some very vicious hybrids. Some of our queens in this out-yard have evidently met with some of the squire's drones, and in spite of our often introducing gentler stock, we have in that yard, bees that I think would fight a buzz saw. It is among such bees that one enjoys the safety afforded by a Globe veil, for if properly put on no bee can get inside as is often the case with a veil that falls down over the shoulders. It is not as quickly adjusted as some of the other kinds, but when in place one feels sure that he will not have his eyes bunged up or his nose or lips swelled from the effect of stings.

In adjusting the veil I find it most convenient to place the frame over the head, and button the brass collar, then draw the veil over the frame and pull on the two ends of the drawing string, see that the face part of the veil comes in the proper place, wind the loose ends of the drawing strings around a shirt button and you are ready for the FIGHTENEST bees you ever saw, so far as protection to your face and head is concerned.

When first advertised I imagined they were a cumbersome, unwieldy affair. Later I began to think I would like to try one, then sent for one, and since using it would not like to do without one.

Bluffton, Mo.

The beauty of a lovely woman is like music.—George Eliot.

"Of course, Susan, if you intend to get married, that is your own business," said one of our good women to her cook, "but you musn't forget that marriage is a very serious matter." "Yas'm, I knows it is sometimes," was the reply, "but mebbe I'le hab better luck dan you did."

Churning Slumgum Under Boiling Water.....

W. L. PORTER.

Getting wax from old combs is certainly one of the most tedious parts of the work pertaining to the bee business. But the profits are sufficient to pay for the trouble, and pay well. For all white comb there is nothing quite equal to the solar wax-extractor; but for old black comb I have not found it profitable.

For rendering old combs I use a tank 15 inches deep and 19 inches square on top. I have it these dimensions so it is suitable for holding four square 5-gallon cans of honey for liquefying. This I place on a brick furnace with pipe sufficient to give a good draft, and fill two-thirds full of water. When boiling I put in old comb until the tank is full. I then have a screen made out of half-inch lumber, 5 inches wide, and the size just to fit the inside of the can; the lumber is put together in the form of a box. On this I fasten firmly screen wire (window-screen) with a brace through the middle. When the wax is boiling vigorously I place in this frame, with the screen up. The five-inch frame prevents the slumgum from coming up, and the wax will come through the screen.

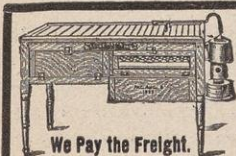
When the frame is pressed down I dip off this, and by agitating the frame it churns the refuse, the wax is liberated and comes on top. I then take out the frame and screen and stir vigorously, then put in the

screen and repeat the dipping off. I then weight down the screen with heavy weights, and leave over night. The heat of the brick and the coals under the furnace will keep the tank at the boiling point for a good many hours, and in the morning wax can be taken off in a cake. This leaves the slumgum quite free of wax.

Denver, Colo.

His Home Paper.

"It's strange," said a celebrated author recently, "and yet not strange, how these old associations cling to us. I was born in a rural district, and, forty years ago, the little country weekly was the only newspaper literature we had. It was printed every Saturday, and when it didn't come out 'on time,' everybody was in a flurry. Well, I have not visited my birthplace in 20 years, but during all that time I have been a subscriber to that little country weekly. I've crossed the seas and it has followed me faithfully to foreign capitals. I've taken it from my pocket in the clubs in London and Paris, and have read, with all the interest of old, how 'Colonel So-and-So is in our midst,' how 'John Jones Sundayed with us,' how 'our esteemed coroner sat on three dead men yesterday,' and how 'the editor is thankful for a mess of cabbage, but needs some bacon to boil it with,' etc. Yes, that little country weekly is a positive joy to me yet. And the editor doesn't have to dun me for my subscription, either."—Atlanta Constitution.



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SURE HATCH INCUBATOR COMPANY, CLAY CENTER, NEBRASKA.

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Please mention the "Progressive"

Good Things in the
Bee-Keeping Press.
Somnambulist



For some time, and it seems a very long time, the excuse for the non-appearance of editorials from R. B. Leahy has been that he was off on a "tower" business or otherwise, and the readers of the PROGRESSIVE patiently awaited his return, and were confident of being rewarded for their patient waiting by hearing of his travels, new ideas he was sure to have picked up and so forth, but judge of the degree of surprise as well as of disappointment when coolly informed, see Oct. PROGRESSIVE, that, "the future has so much other work in store for me that I will write little if anything at all, for these columns." Wonder if he styles that fair treatment, and, if there are no touchings of conscience? UGH! WHEW! a cold wet blanket that, and the reason assigned, "I feel that greater success awaits me in another direction," not altogether devoid of selfishness. But "judge not" comes into the mind and as he reminds us of the growth of the PROGRESSIVE under his manipulation, from six to third in circulation, our exasperated feelings are somewhat mollified.

In other words we accept the good he has done as a peace offering, and hope he may change his mind, and favor us, at least occasionally, with some of his ideas. As to Friend Mitchell, truly the readers of the

PROGRESSIVE are to be congratulated that the work has been relegated to such competent hands. Our feelings of regret over the loss of an old friend are not mixed with those akin to FEAR for the future of the PROGRESSIVE and this of itself is a blessing which I feel the PROGRESSIVE people duly appreciate.

There is no flattery in saying that our new editor is capable and highly worthy the position and I think I am safe in saying this is one of the few cases in which the position sought the man instead of, the man sought the position.

He has been tried and found "not wanting" and I with all other well-meaning people wish he may succeed in reaching the loftiest heights to which his ambition, of which he has ample, may direct.

I wonder what proportion of its readers appreciated the October number as I did? So many thoroughly practical, as well as thoroughly interesting articles. First, the warning to secure ventilation and to guard against surplus moisture in the use of double walled hives. The question of a general windbreak accomplishing the same results at a much reduced cost, which would do away with the handling of the cumbersome things as well, is well put, and is worthy of serious as well as practical consideration. Then comes one "Ritter," who will not be downed on the clover question; wants it white clover, too; in fact, insists. Nor is he the only man over whom WHITE CLOVER seems to hold somewhat bewitching spell or sway. Just hear the clamorings of the market, convince the prospective customer your offerings are from this source, and you've made a sale.

"Has any bee-keeper ever got any pure, unmixed red clover honey?"

This query quite forcibly reminds

me of one of my earlier experiences. That first honey you ever "took," was'n't it just a little the nicest you ever saw? If you failed to experience that feeling, well that is a part of the best in life you've lost; I simply gloried in the first honey I ever extracted, being "HARD TO BEAT," and such being its character, of course it was none other than white clover.

Time brought a national convention around, and what more proper than to carry with me a jar of this exceptionally fine honey? Tenderly and lovingly was it enclosed in soft wrappings and placed among my effects securely, while I with much satisfaction, pondered upon the time when it should again be brought to light. It was expected to work little short of miracles. It would do honor to the state and particularly to the territory of its immediate owning. And be it said to my credit that a streak of sympathy pierced me at the thought of those poor mortals of less favored localities. Old Time waits for no man and the day and the hour at last arrive for the display of that precious jar of honey. Carefully did I polish the glass with my best silk handkerchief as with unquestioned pride I placed it on the table in company with the other exhibits. What! could it be? Yes, oh yes there was something wrong, for plainly to be seen there were several shades of color difference between my sample and the others, and THAT difference in THEIR FAVOR. I inwardly congratulated myself that modesty had prevented my putting my name before the public in connection with that selfsame jar of honey and tremblingly I slipped a note into the question box which read "do old or black combs have a tendency to darken honey?" The answer came, "No," and still I was in the dark.

I finally mustered up the courage to ask one of the "vets" as to his opinion in regard to that particular sample of "white clover honey?" "THAT white clover honey? oh no that is from red clover. Don't you see how red and how much darker it is than these others?"

Laugh who will at "what's in a name," none know better than those who sell honey. As I said before, the name of white clover is an open sesame to a sale; its reputation was made, and the universal understanding is "none better."

If, as Friend Ritter suggests, the plan of lengthening the white clover season and the scheme of shortening the red clover heads be equally easy of accomplishment, then is not the former the preferable?

An attentive perusal of the article on the cultivation and uses of alfalfa is to be recommended and in connection therewith I give a selection from Oct. 15th Farm and Home, headed "Grasp This Bonanza."

GRASP THIS BONANZA.

I live west of the 98th meridian and have been farming here since '87 and can assure you that the westerners have a bonanza if they will only utilize it. It lies in alfalfa and alfalfa without irrigation. Our alfalfa sown in '91 produced two crops of hay and one of seed in dry '94 and was green and thrifty when cottonwood trees 15 inches in diameter had taken on the "sere and yellow leaf," due to dry weather. This season farmers around here are threshing 6 bu alfalfa seed per acre on lands where the wells are 75 to 100 ft. deep, and this besides a crop of hay and some fall pasture, and all without irrigation. Alfalfa seed will bring not less than \$4 per bushel. The great question is to farm in such a way as to convert Nebraska and Kansas plains into alfalfa fields. Turn western grazing lands into alfalfa fields and you have the richest farming and stock lands in the U. S.—[W. S. Delano, Custer Co., Neb.

Naptown, Dreamland.

PLEASE don't neglect to mention the PROGRESSIVE BEE KEEPER when answering advertisers.

Convention Proceedings.

One of the most interesting parts of the 31st annual convention of the National Bee-Keepers' Ass'n., held at Chicago, Aug. 28-30, 1900, was the question box. It has been truly said, "Wise men ask questions." We herewith append some of these questions and the answers:

We have the question-box, of which Mr. R. L. Taylor has charge, and will introduce it now.

Mr. Taylor—Anyone who desires to disagree or to make any remark will have the privilege.

Ques.—Are the best imported Italian bees superior to home bred Italians for honey-gathering? Are the best American-Italian bees superior to imported stock for honey-gathering?

Mr. Taylor—No. Don't be afraid of offending me, if you have anything to say.

Ques.—What does the cocoon of a larvæ look like?

Mr. Taylor—It is a very fine, gauzy substance, shape of the cell. If you can get hold of it properly you can pull it out and it will retain its shape; it is a very fine, semi-transparent substance.

Ques.—Can not larvæ be transferred to cups with a quill tooth-pick successfully?

Mr. Taylor—I don't know how they transfer them. I never tried to transfer them; perhaps someone here has done it, but I should not think a tooth-pick would be apt to get the cocoons out in good shape.

W. H. Lawrence—I have transferred a good many larvæ with a quill, not a tooth-pick. The quill is formed somewhat like a tooth pick, a little bit duller, and narrow at the end, perhaps 1-16 or 1-32 of an inch; bend that over so it comes down about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; you can see the larvæ readily, and put this right under and take it out.

Mr. Taylor—That is the answer to the question. I think I read this wrong—at least I understood it wrongly. I took it that it was the transferring of the cocoon. The larvæ can be transferred very readily with a tooth-pick.

Ques.—Should the average honey-producer try to rear the bulk of his queens, or would it be better and cheaper for him to buy them when the price is lowest, in dozen lots, of good breeders?

Mr. Taylor—Rear your own queens; it doesn't pay to buy them, except per-

haps now and then one for breeding purposes when you know you can get a good one. You can rear just as good queens as you can buy—no question about it. I have bought \$6 queens, and queens that my bees have reared under the swarming-impulse were just as good.

Ques.—Should a large honey-producer engage in raising Belgain hares, poultry or fruit, or some other side line? If not, why not?

Mr. Taylor—He should if he wants to.

Ques.—Why do bees make honey when dark bees of the same stock make dark honey?

Mr. Taylor—Why, they don't.

Dr. Mason—I don't believe the one who askt the question askt it as he wisht to have it askt. I presume it is the one who askt me this morning: Why is it that one colony of bees owned by one person gathers white honey while another colony of bees owned by another person a block away gathers dark honey?

Mr. Taylor—They get the honey from different sources, that is all there is about it; bees don't make honey, they gather it.

Ques.—Can a bee-keeper afford to sit down while working over a hive?

Mr. Taylor—He can't afford to stand up; he can't, unless he has a cast-iron hinge in his back. If he has the hive raised up it would be all right to stand up; but I have found it dangerous to stand up if you have to stoop.

Ques.—Can gloves be worn to advantage by a practical bee-keeper in the handling of his bees?

Mr. Taylor—No; you can take the sting out quicker than you can put on your gloves.

Dr. Mason—I would like to say sometimes, especially in early spring and in the fall, they can be worn with practical benefit. The gloves are easily put on, and then there are no stings to take out.

Mr. Taylor—I am giving my opinion now.

Dr. Mason—I am giving what I know.

Ques.—In gathering pollen do bees use their tongues in connection with their legs?

Mr. Taylor—I don't think they do for gathering pollen. They may moisten the pollen to some extent by the use of the tongue, but if you watch a bee as it is getting pollen, say from the blossom of the willow, it gets right into it and scrapes it, and gets it on and pokes it back and works it together with its

legs. Of course, bees sometimes gather a little pollen with the tongue, but that generally gets into the honey, and I think that sometimes is the means of our bad wintering. I prophesy in a good many sections we will lose a good many bees the coming winter, for the reason that a good many fall flowers are yielding nectar, the bees are gathering a good deal of pollen from them, and a good deal of pollen will go into the honey, and the honey will not be very well evaporated.

HOW OFTEN TO EXAMINE COLONIES.

Ques.—How often should one examine the hives and bees?

Mr. Taylor—I understand the answer to that is, as often as they need it; but I suppose the questioner means how often do they need it. Well, I don't think they need it very often, if one has some experience in the handling of bees. A person who has kept bees and uses his powers of observation can tell by going thru the yard pretty nearly correct whether a hive needs any looking into. Some years I don't take out a frame from my hives to exceed one out of 20 hives; that is, at that rate, it would take me 20 years to have opened all my colonies and taken out the frames; but my hive has this advantage—it is in sections, and I can open the sections; can lift one end of one section and see what is in the center of the brood-nest without disturbing the frames. Sometimes, if your bees are not in good condition in the spring, it may be necessary to go over them two or three times, and examine those that are in bad condition, and see that they are helpt all that it is possible to help them.

Mrs. Gear—Does it do any harm to open a hive and look at the bees when they are gathering honey? Does it disturb them?

Mr. Taylor—No, I don't think it does any harm at all if the weather is sufficiently warm, if one handles them carefully. I think of the two, in the spring it is a slight advantage because it excites the bees, and they will deposit a little more honey while they are, being excited than they would otherwise.

Pres. Root—I was going to say there is an opportunity presented to ask questions. Mr. Taylor is right here to answer them.

TOO MUCH SMOKE AFFECTS HONEY.

A. F. Morley—Does it do any harm to use much smoke? Does it injure the bees in any way, or the honey?

Mr. Taylor—If there is very much smoke used it may flavor the honey for the time, but I don't think there is any material danger in it.

Mr. Poppleton—The first year I went to Cuba I shipt a large quantity of honey—some 40,000 pounds—to Mr. Muth, of Cincinnati, for sale. It was extracted by Mr. Osborn. His method of extracting honey was to have the smoke pumped against the frame all the time, not to shake the bees, to brush them, and use an enormous quantity of smoke. Mr. Muth afterwards told me that all the honey tasted of smoke.

TOBACCO-SMOKE FOR INTRODUCING QUEENS.

Ques.—Has any one introduced queens by the use of tobacco-smoke? If so, with what success?

Mr. Taylor—I never tried it. Does any one here know anything about it? Has any one used tobacco-smoke for the purpose of introducing queens?

Dr. Mason—No one here who uses tobacco?

Mr. Taylor—Tobacco-smoke we are talking about.

Dr. Mason—It takes tobacco and a man to make tobacco-smoke.

UNITING COLONIES.

Ques.—I want to keep no more than 30 colonies. Could I cull out the poorest in excess of that by sulphuring this fall, and then keep the combs with the honey, and hive swarms on them next season?

Mr. Taylor—You could do so, but I would not.

Dr. Mason—What should be done?

Mr. Taylor—I would prefer to unite weak colonies, but would not make too strong colonies. I don't think it is best to have too strong a colony. In the fall I would manage to get rid of the old bees. Take the hive away when they are flying or when they are gathering honey, and leave them out in the cold and then unite the younger bees, and in that way you probably will have better colonies for standing the winter. Mr. Poppleton will have something to say on that. I see he shakes his head. I would not keep honey in combs for the purpose of giving them to swarms. Your honey will more or less deteriorate, will generally become more or less candied, and, more than that, it will be carried more or less into the sections or into the honey that is being gathered in the honey season the next year, which will probably have a bad effect upon it. Save what combs you need with honey to have your bees well sup-

plied with honey in the spring while they are breeding, before the honey season comes on, and extract the rest in the fall as soon as you can after you take it off the hive.

Reported by Dr. A. B. Mason, Sec'y, Toledo, Ohio.

(To be continued in our next).

Uncle Sam to Dewey.

Oh, good, gray sailor
From away down East,
Your Uncle Sam would like to say
A word or two at least.
Recall the famous sentence
From a dying hero's lip,
The last command that Lawrence gave,
And "don't give up the ship!"

They tell me you are weary
Of quarter-deck and spray,
And long to put your epaulets
And trusty blade away.
But hark! where straining hawsers
And lifted anchors drip,
Your Yankee tars in chorus sing:
"Oh, don't give up the ship!"

The civic wreath is bloodless,
The fruits of peace are sweet,
But yet Columbia can not spare
The Admiral of her fleet.
When roars the angry gaudling,
When deadly bullets "zip,"
We want to know that you are there,
So don't give up the ship.

Above the frowning turrets,
Above the ropes and spars,
Look up and see the dear old flag
Unfurl its glorious stars,
We want you still to guard it,
Your sword upon your hip,
Your gallant seamen at your back,
So don't give up the ship.

—Minna Irving in Leslie's Weekly.

EDITORIAL.

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G. M. DOOLITTLE, } Editors
WILL WARD MITCHELL, }

In his "concluding remarks" in the October PROGRESSIVE, Bro. Leahy announced that I would address you this month. Really, there is very little to be said, for to me, the readers of the PROGRESSIVE are all as old friends. But there is one feature in this change to which I would refer—the deep regret experienced in seeing Bro. Leahy lay

down his editorial pen after so ably wielding it in the past; and a vague foreboding of apprehension as to the "awful responsibilities" of assuming his place. No, not *his* place for that cannot be filled; his unique style, his forceful language and beautiful thoughts are not to be replaced; and to the neophyte (so far as editing a bee-journal is concerned) the one consoling reflection in my incertitude is the fact that Bro. Leahy will at all times be near to counsel and to aid. Just how greatly his personality leaves its imprint on all with which it comes in contact is impossible to estimate, and I shall look upon him as chief adviser and aide-de-camp in all my perplexities. The pleasant associations of nearly a decade are not to be disturbed, save that he will devote his time more particularly to other branches of his largely increasing business and while we regret that his name will not float at the mast-head, he will you may be sure remain the power behind the throne, the one to whom we go for counsel and maturer advice.

To the readers let me say, we want to keep the PROGRESSIVE up to the high standard to which it has attained under Bro. Leahy's able editorship, and solicit your subscriptions, your experiences, your good and your bad opinions; to our contributors we would say, help us to give the people a good journal, consider the PROGRESSIVE family circle a place where brothers dwell together in unity, discuss those things which shall enlighten the seeker after knowledge, avoid bickerings and wrangles, but consistently battle for what you are convinced is true, and right; while we do not go in for meaningless compliment, we shall have no quarrel to make with those who give credit where credit is due. It is very certain if we say no good of people while they are living, it will be useless to strew encomiums above their ashes; but between sincere praise and gushing

nonsensical exuberance is a great gulf fixed. We shall be glad to have articles from practical bee-keepers, in addition to our regular contributors, and we hope no one will feel that he cannot write something of benefit, for the editor can read anything from Sanskrit to the plainest of English; and from the pen of the timid venturer often come some of the best thoughts and ideas concerning his particular avocation. Asking your kindly assistance, your good will and your encouragement, I shall now submit the November PROGRESSIVE into your hands.

It is a matter of felicitation that for the present the PROGRESSIVE is to have at its helm for chief counsellor and adviser in the editorial line, that matchless bee-keeper of world wide fame, G. M. Doolittle, of Borodino, New York.

Doolittle in Gleanings has been telling Neighbor Jones or Neighbor Somebody of a colony of bees that made over 600 lbs. of honey in a single season. We know of one that with its increase made over 1600 lbs. in a single season I will cite the case this wise: Mr. John Krantz, of near Higginville, wanted the best colony of bees we had, regardless of price. This was after a very dry season and a severe winter. Bees were nearly all dead in this part of the country. Mr. Krantz had a large apple orchard. The weather was fair all through apple bloom and they actually stored honey in the sections untill they swarmed the 1st of May. Both colonies yet worked on the apple bloom and the 1st week in June they each swarmed again when white clover bloomed (it yielded heavy that year,) there was more honey gathered by that colony and its increase than Mr. Krantz knew what to do with. His report at our state convention that coming fall, at Mexico, Mo. had this paragraph in it:

"Brother Bee-Keepers, from that one colony of bees and its increase, I sold 1600 lbs of hon-

ey and had all my family could use, and I have a big family too. I have ten children and they all eat all the honey they want."

We know that Mr. Krantz's crop of honey from that one colony of bees and its increase was comb honey.

DEATH OF S. P. CULLEY.

Again death has invaded the PROGRESSIVE circle. The following taken from the St. Louis (Mo.) Republic of Nov. 2 explains itself:

"From dreams to instant death was the fate of S. P. Culley, of Higginville, Mo., who walked from a freight caboose at Venice yesterday morning while the train was slowing down to stop for orders.

The wheels of two trucks passed over his body and he was decapitated. Mr. Culley was an apiarist and senior member of the Higginville firm of S. P. Culley & Bro. He was 40 years old. The concern recently made a contract to export large quantities of honey bees to Havana, Cuba, and the senior partner was en route with a carload at the time of the accident. His family has been notified, and Coroner Bailey held an inquest last night.

Chicago and Alton train No. 60, eastbound from Kansas City to St. Louis, passed through Higginville Thursday night. After the car of bees had been attached, Mr. Culley entered the train's caboose and wrapped himself in a blanket. He was soon asleep. The train neared Venice in the early hours of the morning, and, as East St. Louis was the end of the run, Conductor Filson awoke Mr. Culley and told him where they were.

He arose dreamily and staggered toward the front platform, with his blanket and pillow in hand. The conductor climbed out on top of the caboose to make signals to his crew. Culley reached the platform and stepped between the bumpers. Filson, busy on top of the train, felt the jar of the passenger's body beneath the wheels. He called for brakes and a stop was made almost instantly. Hurrying down, he discovered the mangled corpse of the man he had aroused only a few moments before.

With the help of the train's crew the body was removed to the C. & A. depot. The operator wired the agent at Higginville, and at daylight the remains were taken in charge by Undertaker Krone, of Venice."—St. Louis Republic.

It is with sincere regret we chronicle the death of Mr. Culley, who was one of the best and most practical bee-keepers in the United States. He leaves a

wife and two children to mourn his loss.

The PROGRESSIVE will miss him from its columns, and the editor joins with the hosts of bee-keepers in extending to his loved ones their sincerest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

See inside the front cover page for premiums that we offer with the PROGRESSIVE, for less than the cost price for the two, but with this issue we have the grandest offer of all to make to our readers. We have recently made a bargain with the publishers of The Gentlewoman for 1000 subscriptions. The price of The Gentlewoman is \$1 00 per year, but to new subscribers who pay 50c for the PROGRESSIVE in advance we will have sent to them the Gentlewoman one year free. This is giving you \$1.50 worth for 50c. We make this same offer to old subscribers, who pay up their past dues and a year in advance. The Gentlewoman is an illustrated home paper and is especially adapted to the ladies.

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A BIG OLD HOUSE LIKE GRANDPA'S HOUSE.

A big old house like grandpa's house, with windows quaint and old. With muslin curtains draping blinds that rarely downward rolled; A door with half a dozen steps led to the yard below. Where sugar-maples stood in front, a most majestic row.

A tall old poplar reared its head—we used to think it high. When childhood looked with trusting faith up to a flawless sky; And just beyond the kitchen stile the creaking well-sweep swung. Its oaken bucket green with moss. "when you and I were young."

The big old house, our grandpa's house, ah! lonely-walled today. It seems to sigh for childish forms who in it used to play. For all have gone and left it lone, and just across the hill. Our grandpa lies where marbles rise, where all, at peace, is still.

A narrow room beneath the mold, with others near his side. His best-beloved, his guiding-star, our grandma, grandpa's bride. Their children, too, are sleeping there, and children's children, too. Our cousins who, a happy band, our childhood pleasures knew.

And in the palace of the dust our memories recall. A sleeper sweet, dear dead Lucile, the best beloved of all. Ah, Lucy, sweet it is to know above the grassy sod. That hid your face, you wander now among the halls of God.

A big old house like grandpa's house, fast going to decay. A relic of an earlier time full soon to pass away; But could we see, when earth is done, among the mansions fair, A big old house like grandpa's house, 'twere joy beyond compare.

—Will Ward Mitchell.



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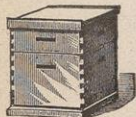
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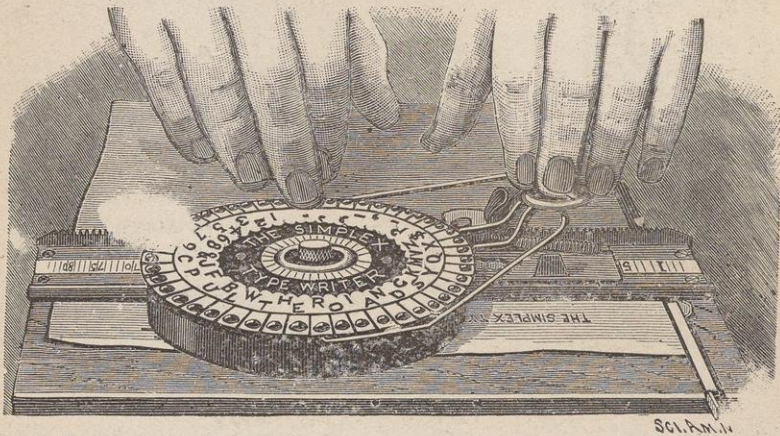
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"I received the typewriter one hour ago. You can judge my progress by this letter. It much better than I expected, and with practice I think I will be able to write very fast with it."—E. T. Flanagan, Belleville, Ill.

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LEAHY MANUFACTURING COMPANY, HIGGINSVILLE, MO

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and are prepared to fill orders promptly, and can save you freight.



Send all orders to

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Bee Supply House

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Catalogue free.

Foundation Mills For Sale



We have just taken in a second-hand foundation mill in exchange for goods. This mill has 2½-inch roll, the round bottom cell, of which the foundation comes off so easy, and from the looks of the mill, I do not think it has ever been used. The price of such a mill is \$30.00, and we will take \$18.00 for it on cars at Higginsville. This is very little over half price.

We also have one second-hand six-inch mill for making extra thin foundation, and one second-hand ten-inch mill for making medium or light brood. These are for sale cheap. Write for prices.

LEAHY MFG. CO.,
Higginsville, Mo.

ONE DIME! 10 CENTS!



THE FREESIA is one of the very best bulbs for window culture, and the grace and elegance of its pure white flowers have made it very popular with florists for cut flowers. Everyone can grow it as its culture is very simple and easy. Five bulbs are enough for a large pot, and will give an abundance of waxen blossoms of exquisite fragrance. For ten cents we will send postpaid to any address the

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New 20-page descriptive
price-list free.

Selection....

Selection has been the chief factor in the development and building up of our improved breeds of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. Men have devoted the best years of their lives to a single line or branch of this work—and not without their reward. In bee-keeping but little has been done in this direction. The development of a bright yellow bee has been the most noticeable thing that has been done in this line. This is the most easy of accomplishment, as results are so quickly and easily discernible. To breed for honey-gathering qualities is a much slower process. As soon as bees hatch out we can decide in regard to their color, and as to whether we wish to rear queens from their mother for the purpose of improving the color of our stock; to decide in regard to their working qualities requires months—perhaps years.

Every experienced bee-keeper must have noticed how much more surplus is stored by some stocks than by others. Time and time again, when visiting bee-keepers, have I been shown some particular colony, and heard the owner tell with pride how much honey it had stored year after year; always coming through the winter in good condition, or doing this or that that was so desirable. The strange thing is that bee-keepers so seldom seem to realize the value of such a colony, or queen, as a starting-point from which to improve the stock of their whole apiary. If they do realize it, they seldom take advantage of the knowledge. Suppose, by the introduction of improved stock, a man can increase his surplus, on the average, one year with another, ten pounds per colony, and that is not an extravagant estimate, on 100 colonies his crop would be increased 1,000 pounds. The cost for hives, grounds, labor, wintering, etc., is nearly the same with one kind of stock as with another, just as it costs as much to keep a scrub cow as it does to keep a Jersey, and a gain in surplus that comes from improvement in stock is the most profitable that can be secured. To improve your stock, get the VERY BEST that you can for breeding purposes, and with this stock your apiary; then watch carefully, and breed from the colonies that do the best. Continue this year after year, and you will be surprised at the results.

This matter of beginning with as good stock as you can get is all important. Don't lose years of time by commencing with common or inferior stock. Get the best; and thus be able to commence right where some other breeder left off.

As explained in previous advertisements, I am selling queens from stock upon the development of which a good man has spent twenty years; making crosses, and then each year selecting the best to breed from. I have several times tried this strain, and know it to be the best I have ever tried.

The price of these queens will be \$1.50 each. This may seem like a high price, but the man who pays it will make dollars where this breeder and myself make cents; and when you come to read the conditions under which they are sold, it will not seem so high. The queens sent out will all be young queens, just beginning to lay, but as there are no black bees in the vicinity, it is not likely that any will prove impurely mated. If any queen SHOULD prove to be impurely mated, another will be sent free of charge. Safe arrival in first-class condition will be guaranteed. Instructions for introducing will be sent to every purchaser, and if these instructions are followed, and the queen is lost, another will be sent free of charge. This is not all; if, at any time within two years, a purchaser, for any reason **WHATSOEVER**, is not satisfied with his bargain, he can return the queen, and his money will be refunded, and 50 cents extra sent to pay him for his trouble. It will be seen that the purchaser runs **NO RISK WHATSOEVER**. If a queen does not arrive in good condition, another is sent. If she loses her in introducing, another is sent. If she should prove impurely mated, another is sent. If the queen proves a poor layer, or the stock does not come up to the expectations, or there is **ANY** reason why the bargain is not satisfactory, the queen can be returned and the money will be refunded, and the customer fairly well paid for his trouble. I could not make this last promise if I did not **KNOW** that the stock is **REALLY SUPERIOR**.

I said that the price would be \$1.50 each. There is only one condition under which a queen will be sold for a less price, and that is in connection with an advance subscription to the **REVIEW**. Anyone sending me \$1.00 for the **REVIEW** for 1900, can have one queen for \$1.00; that is, I will send one queen and the **REVIEW** for 1900 for only \$2.00, and in addition I will send 12 back numbers of the **REVIEW** free. Just see what you can get for only \$2.00: 12 back numbers, the **REVIEW** for all of 1900, and one of those superior queens. I can now fill orders for these queens of Superior Stock by return mail. This is something that I have never before been able to do.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.

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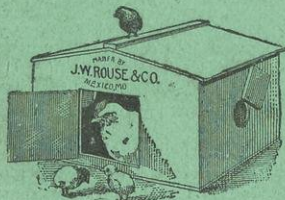
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