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Vol. 3,

MAY, 1892.

No. 5.

NEBRASKA BEEKEEPER



Official Organ of the Nebraska State BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION, STILSON & SONS, Editors and Publishers,
York, Nebraska.

IT IS NOW READY! WHAT? BUCKSKIN APIARY.

My - New - Catalogue,

(Fully Illustrated) And

APRIL 1892

-FOR 1892.-

Send for it and see how cheap I can supply you with Bee Hives and Apiary Goods. It is free.

S. C. GORHAM, York, Nebraska.

Six Months For Only Fifteen Cents.

We will send the WHITE MOUNTAIN APIARIST to any address Six Months for only 15 cents, on trial.

If you are a progressive bee keeper you cannot afford to be without the APIARIST.

White Mountain Apiarist,
Groveton, N. H.

-- O. G. COLLIER, --

Wholesale and Retail,

**Bee
Supplies**

FAIRBURY, NEB.

Send for Illustrated Price List.

PATENT WIRED COMB FOUNDATION.

HAS NO SAG IN BROOD FRAMES.

Thin Flat Bottom Foundation.

Has no Fish-bone in Surplus Honey.

Being the cleanest is usually worked the quickest of any Foundation made. The talk about wiring frames seems absurd. We furnish a Wired Foundation that is *better*, just as *cheap* and not half the trouble to use. Circulars and samples free.

J. VAN DEUSEN & SON,
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Seed Seed Seed

Is what is needed to plant a garden. We have all kinds, and sell very cheap.

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YORK, NEB.

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DEALER IN

BEEES, QUEENS AND SUPPLIES

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Send for my new, 1892 Catalogue. It is sent free, and tells all about my bees queens, supplies, etc.

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CELEBRATED

ORGANS AND PIANOS.

For Catalogue, address

Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, N. J.

TEXAS TO THE FRONT.

Friends, I have a fine lot of Three Banded, Tested, Italian Queens, that I will make you at \$1.25 each during March and April. I make this offer to get the queens out of my 4frame nuclei. Untested queens, either three or five banded races, at \$1.00 each, in March April or May. After, 75cts each, \$4.20 for six or \$8. per dozen. Contracts made with dealers for certain number weekly. A few fine Breeders, either race. 3 Banded \$4. 5 Banded \$5. Safe arrival and satisfaction guaranteed. I have moved from Farmersville to Floyd Texas. Money Order office, Greenville. JENNIE ATCHLEY, Floyd, Hunt Co., Texas.

Nebraska Bee-Keeper.

STILSON & SONS, Editors and Publishers,
York, Nebraska.

Vol. 3,

MAY, 1892.

No. 5.

Bounty on Honey.

This subject has been pretty well discussed in *Gleanings* and some other bee-periodicals. Mr. Baldrige also had an article on the subject on page 220 of the *American Bee Journal*. The idea was started at the Northwestern Convention last November, but it was so absurd that we then paid no attention to it in the A. B. J.

Instead of asking Uncle Sam to pay a bounty of 2 cents per pound on honey, we should join others in demanding that the bounty on sugar be repealed. It will surely be done in the near future. The figures are enormous as will be seen by the following from the daily press:

The U.S. Treasury issued a statement to March first, showing that 2,523 claims for bounty have been received, amounting to about \$7,000,000. Of these, 925 claims have been paid, involving about \$3,000,000—\$2,700,000 of which was on cane sugar alone.

Seven millions of dollars taken from the pockets of the poor and given to the rich! There is neither right nor justice in it! It is oppressive and burdensome, because at a time when there is a deficit in the public revenues, it will take ten millions annually from the already burdened tax-payers, and give it to the rich sugar-producers. It

is also contrary to the Constitution, and violates every principle of our Government. Those who enacted it knew this and therefore made a permanent appropriation for the payment of this sugar bounty for 14 years. But few of such instances are on record, and let us hope that there will be no more of them.

Honey-producers would spurn the idea of such an enactment—of such a questionable transaction! They want no bounty—only a fair field, a good crop, and the stoppage of adulteration. Then there would be a good market for all that can be produced, and at fair prices.

We fully agree with the decision of the Supreme Court of the U. S., given by Justice Miller, that "to lay with one hand the power of the Government on the property of the citizen, and with the other to bestow it upon favored individuals, to aid private enterprise, and build up private fortunes, is none the less robbery because it is done under forms of law, and is called taxation.

It is altogether wrong, and as bee-keepers, we only desire what is right.—*American Bee Journal*.

The following, from Volney White, of Findley's Lake, N. Y., published on page 82 of *Gleanings*, states the matter very clearly, and we endorse it most fully.

"Again, I ask, by what principle of justice can the government put its strong hand into MY pocket and take my money and GIVE to somebody else because he is engaged in another kind of business? I make some butter, as well as produce some honey; and as prices have been for a number of years I have not netted 2 per cent on the capital invested, with labor thrown in; please tell me why I should not have a bounty of 5 cents per pound on my butter; and then the men who produce pork, beef, wheat, oats, potatoes, and in fact, every product of labor, should have a bounty; for the producers all say, and truly, that they cannot make reasonable profits on their business. A man who desires the government to take other people's money and give to him, for no equivalent, is either very selfish, or else he has not looked the matter over carefully; for it indisputably would be a violation of every principle of justice. Let us use our efforts to get stringent laws passed in all of the States against the adulteration of honey, and then get if we can, executive officers elected who will not neglect their enforcement; and that is the best we can do."

What it Means.

"Sugar beet meetings are being held in every county in Nebraska by the sugar trust which wants to keep the tariff and bounty on sugar. The published object of these meetings is to figure out how beet raising can be made most profitable. The only way that beet raising can be made profitable in Nebraska is for the factories to pay a price that will make it profitable. It has been demonstrated that it is profitable to manufacture sugar and if the manufacturers will pay a profitable price for the beets the question is solved. But this is not the object of the meetings. The object is to create a sentiment in the minds of the people that the industry must be protected by

government subsidy and the sentiment will be used by the sugar trust to keep the tariff and bounty on sugar. The idea that the people can make themselves prosperous by taxing themselves to pay a tribute to further enrich capitalists is a humbug that one would naturally suppose the mortgaged cursed people of Nebraska were aware of. Still the bounty advocates proclaim openly that they will elect a legislature next fall that will put the bounty back and compel the people to pay a tribute to capital on the plea of universal prosperity. Time will tell whether or not the bounty advocates are right in this measure of the intelligence of the people.—*Grand Island (Neb.) Democrat.*

"MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND."

Naryland, Its Soil and Honey Resources.

M. H. DEWITT.

This is a grand and lovely country for the farmer and the bee-keeper. The soil is very rich and black and will bring any kind of grain that is sown or planted, although the country in some places is quite hilly and rough, but it is only so in now and then a place. Our neighbors or farmers sow oats wheat, buckwheat, and corn generally as a field crop. There is an abundance of fine fish in our streams of water, mostly bass and trout, it is a very easy matter to catch a nice lot of fish whenever our appetite craves them.

This is a grand honey country, the rich hill-sides are almost a wilderness of basswood trees and maple sugar, etc. besides there is a large amount of buckwheat sown here which gives us a good fall crop of honey, also golden rod, and other fall flowers which furnish us a good fall crop and puts our bees in fine order for winter. It is no unusual thing for a colony of bees to make from 175 to 200 pounds of honey during basswood bloom, the basswoods generally begin to bloom here about June 25, and continue to yield honey for about two

weeks. The maples begin to bloom about April 15th, which furnish our bees with plenty of pollen for brood rearing this puts our bees in fine order for the basswood harvest, and have them boiling over with bees just when we need them.

A neighbor of mine tried an experiment the past season, with a swarm which was hived on the 1st day of July and was supplied with plenty of room, this swarm made 180 pounds of basswood honey besides enough to winter on. There is one great drawback to successful bee-keeping in this neighborhood, and that is foul brood, this country is full of it, and our box hive bee-keepers who know nothing about bee-keeping, will not treat their bees, if you ask them to do so, or ask them if their bees have the foul brood, their reply will be, I don't know, or they will begin by saying that they were raised among the bees and they know all about them, and they have often seen the king bee, and that it is a mistake that the drones do not lay eggs, etc. Some will pretend to know all about bees and if you offer them a bee paper, they will say, oh, I have no use for them, and they cure the foul brood by drying sassafras bark and making a powder and feeding it to the bees in syrup, and if you examine their bees you will find them rotten with the foul brood.

Sang Run, Md., Apr. 1.

From Gleanings.

EXTRACTED HONEY.

What Injures Its Sales; Shiftlessness of Bee-Keepers, etc.

On page 121 for Feb. 15, (*Gleanings*) Mr. Geo. F. Robbins relates the observations and experience of his grocer who deals in honey. The grocer said that there would be nothing in offering premiums at fairs for honey extracted on the ground, seeing honey-extractors in operation, and that the way in which liquid honey was obtained would do

nothing to remove the generally prevailing opinion that extracted honey is manufactured or adulterated. This is far from a reasonable conclusion to warrant belief. To see and to understand is to believe. All manner of people are convinced in this way. Within two miles of our place there is a city of 16,000 people; and as there is a pretty driveway from the city through our place, many people stop with "the man who keeps the fire-bugs," for honey. We always show these city folks the extractor, explaining how used; and if there is honey to extract, some is thrown out, that they may see the *how*. Some remark, "We have often heard of this way of taking honey, but had little or no faith in the story; but one must believe when he sees." These people become our best customers.

When the grocer stated to Mr. R. that "the only way to get the confidence of the people is to produce and put on the market honey of first class quality," he was preaching logical doctrine. Here the man displays knowledge gained by experience. He is not the only person who has learned this lesson. The wise profit by this experience; but foolish, short-sighted men go on from year to year producing and putting on the market honey of an inferior quality, made so by lack of experience, want of judgement, or thoughtlessness. At one time the honey is extracted while thin, only in the condition of rank-flavored nectar, and often in this state, no effort to place it where it might be improved upon by evaporation. Again, it is stored in shaded or damp rooms where both the comb and extracted honey rapidly deteriorate. Who has not seen beautiful white combs gradually taking on that watery, unsightly—yes, sickly appearance? Honey left to the care of the bees never gets so, unless the hives are located in a damp, shaded place.

Extracted honey that is thin from any cause, should never be stored in

any other than shallow, open-mouthed vessels, then kept in a warm, dry, well ventilated place; and the same theory holds good with comb honey.

No doubt the majority of bee-keepers take great pains to excel in the matter of producing and placing on the market honey of a first class quality; but it is a fact, deplorable and injurious as it is, that many who are engaged in producing honey are careless and indifferent as to the quality of their product. The injury this class are doing to the industry is very great. It may sound harsh but I must say they are a nuisance to the fraternity.

As we buy from producers and dealers in honey each season not less than 100,000 lbs. for our retail trade, we get some sorry experience. I'll give a sample or two. A party wrote us last fall that he could ship us 20 barrels of pure orange bloom honey, mailing at the time a sample of it. When received, four barrels of the lot was about all palmetto honey, dark and ill flavored. A gain samples of mesquite honey were sent; and to this party an order was sent; but a few cans of this lot were alfalfa, of the meanest kind. Other orders were sent to the same parties, but more and more alfalfa, was put in each lot, the last being entirely alfalfa, dark and strong in flavor, and by no means, "fit to set before the king."

Another lot received from a producer had been extracted in the nectar state, and then stored in cans reeking with the fumes of kerosene oil. This stuff may do to feed bees, but not to sell for table use, if a regard for one's reputation is thought of.

It is surprising how many there are who for the spake of a little temporary gain, violate with impunity the principles of honor and fairness, forgetting that their betrayal of trust must eventually fall on their own heads with crushing weight.

ADULTERATED HONEY.

As we sell honey in every town and

city within quite a distance of us, we see much of the honey markets. Within the last two years many city packing houses have gone into the business of putting honey in tumblers and bottles. Some of this we find to be good pure honey; but for the most part it is a glucose mixture surrounding a small piece of comb honey. Does this honey, or stuff detract any from our sales of choice honey? We think not: in fact, we are of the opinion that we sell more honey because of this adulterated stuff.

We call on a family to see whether they will buy honey. The question is asked "Is it the strained honey?" Answering, we say "Yes, we have either liquid or comb."

"Well," they say, "we don't want any stained honey. We got some at the store, and that's a fraud.

Now, we bring them a sample of just what we will bring them. Then to see them lift the frown and say, "Oh, that's different; that is bee honey. If you bring us that kind you can depend on us for good customers.

Our reply is "Yes, if when delivered you do not find it equally as fine as the sample, you need not give us your money."

In this way we add another to our list of thousands of permanent customers who will buy no honey put up by packing houses.

But, Mr. Editor, I would not discourage your efforts to bring to justice these robbers who are engaged in the nefarious scheme of bottling glucose with the lie "Pure Honey" pasted on the packages.

J. A. Buchanan.

Hollidays Cove, W. Va., Mar. 8.

A Special Offer.

Friends, I will give to the person who will send me the largest number of subscribers to the Nebraska Bee-Keeper by June 1st, one Select Tested, Golden Italian queen. This queen will be a fine breeder and worth \$5.00. Subscription price, 50 cts. per year. Stamps taken. Jennie Atchley, Floyd, Hunt Co. Texas

Good Enough.

Replying to request for postal card reports from the bee keeping bretheren I say, here goes for me. 150 colonies, wintered finely. Mortality, none. Queenless, five. Bees began carrying pollen first week in Feb.; brood rearing somewhat retarded by the cold snap in March. Weather exceedingly fine now. We would never know anything about spring dwindling, were it not for the journals, also, the same can be said of foul brood. I have never known of a case in this state. This 4th of Apr. Queens go to 12 states from my apiary.

Fine queens, central location, and square dealing get the trade,

W. H. Laws, Lavaca, Ark.

How Our Bees Have Wintered.

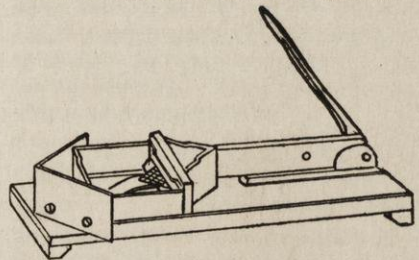
Mrs. A. L. Hallenback.

In compliance with request "that readers should send a report of the condition of bees," I will send my mite. In spite of the cold, unfavorable weather, which has prevailed since the beginning of March until the present time, I am happy to say my bees are in good condition. They were wintered in ten frame L. hives, outside frame removed and tight fitting division board put in their place, leaving eight frames in the brood nest. All not in chaff hives were placed in a shed or house, and covered on top and three sides with straw, which also comes well down over the front of the hive, but leaves the entrance open. The front of the shed is so arranged that it can be opened and let down in front of the hives on warm sunshiny days and closed at night or when it is stormy. The bees appear to enjoy the arrangement very much as they can fly out a little way and alight in a warm dry place and sun themselves, then return to the hive if they wish, without falling in the snow or on the frosty ground to be chilled to death.

All have sufficient stores to carry them through. March 25th the strongest colony began carrying pollen, and it

is a regular picnic to watch them work it the artificial pollen, corn meal and flour mixed, which I place in sunny places where there is no wind, when it is so cold that they cannot go far from the hives. At present the only bad luck I can report, is the loss of one queen, which will be replaced soon I hope by one from the south. So some one else will have to do the complaining this time, perhaps it will be my turn next.—Millard, Neb.

Section Closer and Foundation Fastener.



Among the new appliances for the apiary this year, is the *section closer, foundation cutter and fastener*, illustrated above. It is the invention of Mr. Charles White, of Farmers Valley, Neb., and is manufactured and introduced by him this season for the first. It is a very easy working machine. By a single operation it cuts and fastens in place large or small starters as desired. Mr. White is a mechanic, as well as a *bee master*, and has also another section press, for taking the flat grooved section, and without manipulation, closing it, by closing the machine, at the rate of over 1,000 pr. hour.

Plattsmouth, Neb., April 19, 1892.

The bees are dwindling.

Have you any bad, disagreeable weather where you are? Oh, no, we have none here only snow every few days.

Some two or three colonies have already swarmed and gone, well we don't know where unless into other hives as they generally do.

We have a big lot of sections that

we want to clean up, ready for cases, just when a day or two of warm sunshine comes, so that the bees can lick the honey out of them and clean them up a little.

The packing in our hives still remains just where we put it last fall, and is likely to remain there until May comes. It confines the heat in rearing young bees. It is needed now nearly as bad as along during the winter months.

The less the bees are disturbed during this month the better, for when they are opened and the frames taken out and handled they (the bees) are more than likely to swarm out the very next warm day. Beginners want to be careful now, for if you dont your number of colonies will come down faster than you think for.

A little feed now every warm day will not hurt your bees, and will be big money in your pocket when the harvest comes, even if your colonies have plenty of honey, the more the better, at this time of the year. When we first started in the business they used to tell us that some of the honey had to be taken out, and that they had too much—well what do you suppose we think about it now, why such ideas as that will not work in bee-keeping of nowadays. We never saw a colony in all our experience that had too much honey, but nine times out of ten didn't have enough.

♦ ♦
J. M. Young.

My bees are not wintered yet.

♦ ♦
Charles White.

“Two boys having a bee, one got honey, and the other got stung. The first called it a honey bee, and the other, a stinging bee.”

There is more knowledge acquired from the practical study of one swarm of bees, than from the reading of many books.

“Genius finds its own road, and carries its own lamp.”

Read at the York Co. Bee-keeper's Convention,
Mar. 16th, '92. By M. Robbins.

Bee Culture and Fruit Raising.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of this society.—I have been requested to write a paper on the subject of “Bee Culture and Fruit Raising, combined. This subject is deep, and of vast importance to the orchardists and people of Nebraska, and I hardly feel that I am able to do the subject full justice. My experience in handling bees, and at the same time raising apples and small fruit, is, that the bees are essential in order to get a heavy production of fruit, of good flavor, and symetrical in form. I am almost certain, that I should not have had the bounteous crops of apples and small fruit, were it not for the bees in carrying pollen and at the same time fertilizing the blossoms of the different fruits. After fruit trees are in bloom, then comes the work of the honey bee. In their visit to the flower, they carry pollen from blossom to blossom, thus doing for the tree what it could not do for itself. This explains why the plant secretes nectar, and throws out other inducements to insects, especially bees, to pay it a visit. The importance of cross fertilization, is not to be underrated in discussing this question of the benefit of the bees to the plant. Mr. Darwin has shown by a long series of experiments, that self fertilized plants, that is, fertilized by their own pollen, are generally very much inferior in vigor and power of constitution to those that are cross fertilized.

So you see if we are to have healthy and fruitful plants and trees, we must avail ourselves of the work of the bees. I am well aware that the wind and other insects are a great aid to plants by way of securing cross fertilization, but at the same time it is quite plain that if it were not for the honey bee, many trees and plants would bear no fruit. Such fruit as cherries, apples, pears,

peaches, raspberries, and strawberries are almost entirely dependent on the bees for perfect pollenization.

We now come to the question of vital importance. Do bees ever injure fruit? Some claim that they will injure fruit, especially the grape, by puncturing the skin, etc., by not having watched them closely, I ask permission to borrow a little evidence on this subject from one of Prof. McLean's reports. In one of these he says: "I have repeated my experiments of last year for testing the capacity of bees to injure fruit. I confined two colonies of Italians, two of Hybrids, two of Syrians, in a house and endeavored by heat, etc., to bring about all the conditions of a severe drouth. He says, the bees were repeatedly brought to the stages of hunger, thirst, and starvation. The test continuing forty days. He obtained thirteen varieties of choice grapes, and every inducement and opportunity was afforded the bees to appease their hunger and thirst by attacking the fruit which was placed before them,—mark this—some of the bunches of grapes were dipped in syrup and hung in the hives between the combs, some placed before the hives on plates, and grapes were suspended in clusters from the post and rafters. The bees lapped and sucked the syrup from the skins leaving the berries smooth. Now shall we take this man's evidence or shall we not. I would like to hear this subject discussed more fully by this society. As to bees puncturing grapes, I am not able to testify on that point: but I am willing to testify, that they have, at various times, punctured me from head to foot without the least provocation.

We were made happy by a pleasant call from R. V. Muir, of Brownville, the past week. He is one of the old pioneers of Nebraska, coming to the then territory in 1856. He is also one of the oldest and most successful bee-keepers of the state.

The Kranks not all dead yet.

There is a little town in south-eastern Nebraska, where the *City Council* have voted to have all bees removed from the city limits as they are a nuisance and a manace to the good order of the town, but the same city dads vote to let the saloons run wide open, as we suppose they think that is conducive to the good order of the town and the welfare of all its citizens.

Every beekeeper there should have joined the National Union, and then had a little help now in time of trial. Let the bee-keepers of this state do their share toward supporting the Union and send \$1 to Thos. G. Newman, Chicago, for membership.

The Paddock Pure Food Bill.

This bill has already passed the Senate and is on the House calender. having been reported by the House committee on Agriculture without opposition. The bill provides that every article of food and drug shall be properly branded—true to name, and that when an article is made in imitation of another, when it is mixed or compound, or when its strength has been extracted that it shall be labeled so as to indicate such condition.

This is a good bill and if it becomes a law, no class of producers will be more benefitted than the bee-keepers.

Mr. Thos. G. Newman, editor of the *American Bee Journal*, has been suffering from the effects of la grippe and over work, has been taking a much need rest and recreation, which will, we hope, give him the needed health and strength again.

Wisconsin appropriates \$500 to their Bee and Honey exhibit at the World's Fair.

We want enough more subscribers to make the 5,000. Will *you* help us to get them? Send 50 cents for one or \$2.00 for five yearly subscribers.

—THE—
Nebraska Beekeeper.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Subscription Price, 50 Cents per Year.

Conventions.

North American Bee Keepers Association. President, Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa. Secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.

National Bee Keepers Union. President, James Heddon, Dowigac, Mich. Secretary and Manager, T. G. Newman, Chicago.

Nebraska Bee Keepers Association. President, E. Whitcomb, Friend, Neb. Secretary, L. D. Stilson, York, Neb. Next meeting, Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 7-8, 1892.

To the bee-keeper, April has been a cold, wet, cheerless month, with less than eight days in which bees could work in artificial pollen, fewer bright warm days. April 6th our bees bro't first natural pollen, brood rearing very slow. Bees in chaff hives much the best and strongest. Mortality of queens 5 in 25, this however was largely our own fault, as those dying were in a lot purchased and two or more years old.

From the Commissioner Gen'l of the Neb. Columbian Commission, we learn that \$1,000 will be used in the Bee and Honey exhibit at Chicago. \$250 to be used previous to Mar. 1 '93. As yet no one has been appointed to take charge of the arrangements, and as the exhibit will be from this year's honey crop, we hope to see an appointment made soon so that there may be a unity of action between them and the committee of our state society. We want to have honey in various forms, shapes and sizes, as well as in lettering and for decorations. For this it takes the season. There will soon be a meeting of committee of the State Bee Keepers Association to make some arrangements, and those who will aid in this are requested to send us their names.

"Dark seasons are never pleasant to us, but they are always good for us. A cloudless sky could never produce a rich and abundant harvest."

Owing to the heavy rain storm at the time of the last meeting of the York Co. Bee Keepers Association, there was only a small attendance at the home of David Wheeler. Those however who forded the mud, and heeded not the frowning sky to be present, were amply repaid for their trouble, as the host and hostess looked well to the comfort of their guests.

The next meeting of the society will be held at the home of Chas. White near the south-west corner of York Co. on Wednesday, May 25. Those wishing to go by rail, by notifying Mr. White in advance, as to what train, will be met at the station. Those going over the North-Western R. R. will stop at Henderson. Those over the K. C. & O.R.R. will stop at Lushton.

Mr. White is a practical Apiarist and we hope to see the largest meeting at his place the society has ever had. Bee keepers come out and see what Mr. White practices.

A child's definition of gossip; "It's when nobody don't know nothing, and somebody goes and tells of it."

Last season we placed, side by side, and making all conditions as near alike as possible, six nuclei colonies of bees, using for queens, two Carniolians, two Albino and two Italians, all untested. Little difference was to be seen in the body of the hive, all went into winter quarters strong and plenty, and more, of feed. In surplus, one Italian filled two 24 lb. supers, one Carniolian made none the other four filling one each. April 27th '92, two strong colonies of Italians and one of Albino, the rest, each hive three to five frames of honey, but the bees did not survive the gentle breezes of the Nebraska winter and spring.

The Home and Garden.

From American Garden.

Higher Education For Florists and Gardeners.

Lord Ashburton said. "We are fitting out man for the struggles of life; we are fitting up a storehouse for the use of a philosopher. Man goeth forth into the world as a soldier goeth forth into a campaign. His wants are boundless, his means of carriage are small, life is short, knowledge is infinite; what shall his pack of knowledge contain."

Horticulture ought to take its place as one of the leading professions. Every man who pursues horticultural work should try to elevate himself; by so doing he would advance this noble art. "But what shall his pack of knowledge be?" He should as a rule begin at the bottom of the ladder. Study nature, watch how she provides for the growth and maturity of fruits and flowers, how some are in sunshine, some in shade, some in the bog, some on dry ground. Study the soil, habit and situation of each flower, tree, or shrub that you see. Read all the works upon horticulture you can get. Keep a book and if you see or hear anything new, make a note of it. Have a scrap book, wherein to put items of importance cut from papers or books, for future reference. Get Cassell, Petter & Galpin's "Popular Educator;" there you will be able to learn, without a master, drawing and painting, designing, botany, geology, chemistry, modeling, and the use of the microscope. All of these things the gardener ought to learn. Use every spare moment you can in study; it will be a pleasure now, and a profit in the near future.

A good plan would be, where four or more florists and gardeners could meet together, to form a debating club on botany and kindred work. It might be the means of educating one another.

Idea would be expressed which would be valuable, and I feel sure that all nurserymen and florists would give practical assistance in forming such clubs.

G. M. Stratton.

May is a very good time to set out some nice strawberry plants or plant bulbs and flowers. If you do not happen to have a good supply of all you want, send to Storrs, Harrison, & Co., Painsville, O., or to M. Crawford, Cuyhoga Falls, O., who will send their catalogues from which you can pick out just what you need to beautify your grounds. Their goods are cheap and first class.

Our Summer Flowers and how to Raise Them
With Artistic Effect.

Selection from D. E. L., Buffalo, N. Y.

Success with flowers depends much upon the gardener. The expenses need not be great in order to have very beautiful ones, but there should be an earnestness and love which will defy all obstacles. The true flower lover, is the one who devotes time, study and consideration to their cultivation from a genuine and lasting love of the beautiful.

Pleasure is combined with the work which is not hard, but beautiful, requiring regularity. It can not be done by fits and starts. If properly attended to, failure is almost impossible.

In selecting plants and seeds for the coming summer, choose those that are adapted for the making of bouquets as well as those used for other purposes. Among the vast variety are sweet peas which should be sown in trenches, pansies, golden calliopsis, ageratum, mignonne, sweet clover, and many kinds of geraniums and asters which come in the early fall.

In order to obtain a harmonious effect, study well the blending of colors for good results. Do your own gardening, and keep only what you have space for and give time to, for however small

your plot may be, if well arranged and well kept, it will be your "Eden" during the summer months.

Proper arrangements add much to the beauty of the garden. While some flowers show to advantage singly, others should be massed for fine effects. Sweet peas and pansies look well in this manner. Pansies sow themselves and should be picked freely while in bloom, which keeps them thrifty and the flowers large. They require a rich soil. The humblest home could be beautified with them and the fragrant sweet peas growing up beneath the window.

Well pleased are they who plant sweet clover in profusion, either for shrubbery or flowers, which are so sweet, even when dried. No special care need be given them. If a long narrow bed beside a walk or fence is to be filled, have white summer lillies, scarlet lychins, sweet clover, a variety of geraniums, mignonettes and other good growing kinds. Do not crowd them in, but leave sufficient space around each one so that their full beauty and outline can be seen as they sway in the breeze. This arrangement is sure to please and should be preferred to the expensive and artificial looking foliage beds, some of which look as if they were indeed "made by man." It would take a small cyclone to even rustle their leaves. While foliage plants are charming in themselves, singly or when placed with kinds, they are too brilliant to grow in masses.

The edges of the flower beds can be kept in shape by deep and frequent use of the spade, throwing what soil is gathered upon the top, thus giving the rounded appearance. Window boxes are very ornamental. Place in them the different kinds of nasturtions, heliotrope, fuchsias, mignonette, candy tuft and different running vines. As the soil in the box is liable to dry rapidly, be sure to keep them freely supplied

with water. A good garden vase can be made from a large sized sewer tile, sunk one half in the ground and filled with good soil, in which could be put silver white, and dusty miller, bright scarlet feramir, blue ageratum and a fuschia, while the edge can have a very pretty vine called thumbergia, which has bright yellow flowers with a dark centre, and is very much admired. The plant will soon completely cover the tile, and the whole will be a truly fine color combination which will give better satisfaction than the costly urns, many of which are so stiff and bare in order to show their structure that they are bereft of the drooping and clinging vines, which are just the true ornament they need. When buying plants it is well to select bushy ones, geraniums in particular, and then slip them, thus raising many from one. These cuttings grow rapidly in warm weather. As most all flowers grow well from seed, much expense is saved by gathering and keeping them for another summer. And what an abundance can sometimes be raised from a single variety! Oft times an exchange with other flower growers is pleasant, and satisfaction mutual.

To be successful then, in your work, is worth striving for: there is one trouble which is always hard to bear, and that is the inevitable Jack Frost, when he destroys them in their fullest beauty. So be prepared, and cull all the blossoms and have a feast of flowers and decorations indoors with bouquets, as a grand and fitting finale of your summers work.

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Spray as soon as the last blossoms fall, It is best to repeat the operation in a week, or even sooner if a very heavy rain should follow just after the first application. Apply the liquid forcibly in a very fine spray. Do the work thoroughly. When the foliage begins to drip, pass on to the next tree. Send to pump dealers for circulars and prices: or ask dealers in agricultural implements for them. Use a weak mixture. Both Paris green and London purple are good. Use a pound to 200 or 250 gallons of water. When applied in this strength and not needlessly thrown on the grass, stock can be pastured in the orchard. Keep the poison well stirred. So says *Amer. Garden.*

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