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## The busy bee. Vol 9, No 9 September, 1898

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September, 1898.

# THE BUSY BEE

A Monthly Journal Devoted to

FARM BEEKEEPING,

And the Other Minor Interests of Modern and Progressive Agriculture.

PUBLISHED THE FIFTEENTH OF EACH MONTH BY

EMERSON TAYLOR ABBOTT,

ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

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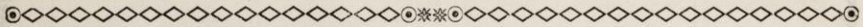
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W. H. EAGERTY.  
 Corning, Cal., July 14th, 1896.

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Please mention The Busy Bee. **T. F. BINGHAM, Farwell, Mich.**

# THE BUSY BEE.

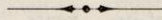
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Vol. IX.

SEPTEMBER, 1898.

No. 9.

## FARM BEEKEEPING.



### The Fall Flow of Honey.

By C. P. DADANT.

In the Mississippi and Missouri River valleys we usually have a fall flow of honey from the knotweed, commonly called heartsease, Spanish needles, golden rod, boneset, etc., beginning in August and continuing through September until frost. In proximity to the streams, in the low lands which are usually overflowed during the spring months, the honey flow is sometimes so plentiful as to cause the bees to swarm, and we often have seen natural swarms, harvested in August, gathering a very sufficient supply of stores for winter. The old adage:

A swarm in May is worth a load of hay,

A swarm in June is worth a silver spoon.

But a swarm in July  
Is hardly worth a fly,

does not apply to later months, for a swarm in August, under the circumstances I mention, is certainly worth a great deal more than one which issues during the dearth of July.

The honey produced by the blossoms above mentioned is darker and stronger than the honey from clover. It is usually of a bright yellow color, and there is only one kind of bloom, to my knowledge that yields light colored honey at this season. It is the aster, the latest of all the fall blossoms.

During the last month of harvest, the

apiarist should carefully watch his colonies, for if any of them happen to be queenless this is their last chance of rearing a queen.

In a poor honey season, when the strongest colonies harvest but little surplus, it is well to look after the weaker ones, who might not get a sufficient supply for winter unless helped out of the product of their luckier sisters. A comb of brood and honey given to a weak colony early in September may be the means of saving it from death during the winter, by supplying it with a sufficient number of bees and increasing its stores to place it beyond want. We should remember that it is far better for a colony to have five pounds more than needed for the winter months than to be short a pound or two. Bees never waste their food and if they are over-supplied the surplus is carefully saved. A plentiful amount of stores means a strong colony at all times.

Yet the supply may be over-done. If the hive is so filled with honey that there is no room left in the lower department for the breeding of bees, the colonies might easily dwindle down to nothing. It is therefore well to examine the hives at the end of the harvest, and if the combs are too full, extract a certain amount, especially unsealed honey, which is likely to gather moisture and become watery during the winter months. Twenty-five pounds of honey is the amount which most writ-

ers name as absolutely necessary for a colony to be successfully carried through to the next season's crop. But it is better to have rather more than less than this amount. With large hives and strong colonies even forty pounds is not too great a quantity. Usually the apiarist judges of the stores rather by sight than by weight. A colony with honey in half the depth of its combs is generally considered in proper shape for the winter. The lower half of the combs is used by the bees to cluster in and a sufficient amount of brood is reared, until November, to keep up the strength of the colony. After that date and sometimes for several weeks previous to it, the queen discontinues her laying. The bees fly less and therefore less of them are lost than in the busy season. Usually breeding does not begin until after the first warm days of January or February.

The fall crop of honey ought to be removed as soon as the flow is over, usually in the last days of September, and especially if extracting is resorted to, for after the cool weather has set in the honey is much thicker and much more difficult to remove.

The entrances of the hives should be reduced to the space absolutely needed for their flight, and robbing should be prevented, by not leaving the hives open or exposing honey in reach of pilferers who will be found more eager and more numerous at this season than at any other time.

Hamilton, Ill.

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### Handling Bees.

By L. W. LIGHTY.

A great many people tell me "if the bees could not sting or if they would not be so cross, I would keep bees, too." This is a mistaken idea. Bees, like many plants, animals, and other insects, have a weapon of defense, and

naturally make use of it if occasion demands; but it is a fact that I have learned by rather painful experience that, as a rule, if a person gets stung in handling bees, it is the manipulators fault. During the first six months of my bee keeping experience I received more stings than I have gotten all the time since—more than twice as many years. It is a rare thing for me to get stung now. I wear no veil, no gloves, nor any protection, and work among the bees as composedly as I would about any domestic animals. A good smoker in good trim, well filled with fuel, is an absolute necessity at all times but often I don't use it for half an hour, and then for only a few puffs.

At some seasons of the year bees are more easily irritated than others. For instance, if after a good honey flow, the honey should suddenly become very scarce and you must work at the bees, you can be prepared for a warm reception, and you want a steady nerve and plenty of smoke. But while the honey is coming in rather plentifully they will not be disturbed much by manipulation, and will proceed with their work unless you are a bungler and smash a lot of bees and injure others. Such treatment is always resented, and, in justice, it should be.

Let all your movements be quiet and deliberate, have confidence and don't become fidgety. Know just what you want before you open a hive, and when you have it open proceed to do it expeditiously and shut the hive up again. In opening a hive, "take things by the smooth handle," and don't yank the cover off as though a bolt of lightning had struck it, for as sure as you do you will get into trouble. Imagine yourself busily engaged at work in your office, when some one in a big hurry comes rushing against your door not even taking time to turn the latch, but bursts in. Do you think that would

have any tendency to sweeten your temper?

Colonies differ very much, some being quiet and tractable at all times, while others have a temperament a little like a rattlesnake's. If any colonies make themselves conspicuous by their bad temper better destroy the queen that produces such stock, and introduce another one, bred from stock known to be gentle.

The pure Italians generally are very gentle, and it is a pleasure to manipulate them, while some other races or their crosses are perfect terrors, and make a nuisance of themselves wherever they are. I will not tolerate them in my apiary—American Gardening.

### Practical Beekeeping.

By a PENNSYLVANIA FARMER.

The honey-making or hive bees, have been objects of wonder and admiration in all ages. Other species of wild bees are able to make honey. The humble bee or "bumble bee" as it is usually called, makes a small quantity of honey, white, clear, rather thin, but very sweet. Their nests are usually found in meadows or grain fields, sometimes in small excavation, or under a sod, and the comb is enveloped in a covering of fine, dried grass resembling a large mouse nest. In Cashmere and Northern India there are several kinds of wild bees which have been domesticated, and though not equal to our honey bees have been found useful to the inhabitants.

Thirty years ago half the farmers, and some mechanics in Northern Pennsylvania, kept bees, and they were the most profitable stock to be found on the farm. The writer bought his first swarm in the spring, and in the fall had four strong swarms—an increase of three from one. His investment of five dollars had produced fifteen, and he had not spent eight hours altogether in

making hives and hiving the bees. This was better than grain raising, or sheep raising with a tariff on wool, and a bounty on mutton. The business continued prosperous and profitable for fifteen years or more, and the number of swarms continued to increase until the pasturage was overstocked. The bees had to fly farther and farther from their hives to find flowers which had not been culled, and finally take material which other bees had rejected, and which was not satisfactory to themselves, or palatable to their owners. Bees, like other workers, must have materials to work upon. They cannot make brick without straw, any more than the children of Israel in Egypt. When the supply becomes restricted, and they have to forage over a large territory to obtain a scanty supply, their "hard times" come on; they probably get discouraged and fail to do their best in gathering honey or increasing their population.

More bees can be kept in a region where buckwheat is raised on every farm, as the fragrant flowers of the plants when in bloom furnish the industrious little workers an abundant supply of the choicest nectar.

I have seen large fields alive with bees culling honey from the beautiful white topped plants. The buckwheat flowers come at a time when the wild flowers of the fields and woods are perishing, and gives the bees a chance to fill their hives, if not already full. Were it not that bees are free commoners, and forage where they please, regardless of farm boundaries, or private rights, it would pay bee-keepers to sow buckwheat at intervals from May 1st to August 1st, so as to have a regular succession of flowers for their bees to work upon. The earliest sown would not produce so large a yield of grain, but would compensate the sower by giving an increased quantity of honey in the hive. Other causes besides overstock-

ing the pasturage may have had something to do with the decline of bee-keeping in this region. It may be that the bee-keepers grew careless and did not give them the necessary oversight and care. It is not merely knowledge, but enthusiasm that is needed to insure success in any kind of business. When people get a new breed of cattle or hogs they are likely to give them better care for a time, and consequently they do well so long as the better care is continued. Let the better care be neglected, and the improved stock will begin to deteriorate. Eternal vigilance is the price of success in all enterprises. This is particularly the case in keeping bees.—The Wisconsin Agriculturist.

I cannot agree with the writer that buckwheat furnishes "the choicest nectar," but the honey produced from it is fairly good, and I have been led to wonder why farmers do not raise more of it, as there is always a demand for the seed at a paying price. It is too late now for this year, but every reader of The Busy-Bee who lives on a farm should resolve to sow a field of it next year.—Editor.

### **Are the Bees Responsible?**

This spring a large colony of bees was placed under a clingstone peach tree. The fruit trees bloomed very full and the bees were busy every favorable day. Now, when the peaches ripened, much to our surprise, we find them freestones. I do not think a clingstone peach was found on the tree. Also the next tree, some thirty feet from this one, is free. Having only the two cling trees we used the fruit for pickling. Who can say if the bees were responsible, as we have a large number of freestone trees?

Our bees have made no surplus honey, although there was one week of alfalfa flow with which a new swarm filled a large cracker box. I prepared

for another fruitful flow by adding another story but no honey did they carry into it. The swarms are all strong, and they all seem busy early in the morning carrying in pollen.

Mrs. V. W. Griblin.

Here is a new problem for some of our readers to solve. Who will be the first to explain the matter for us? I prefer not to express any opinion at present.—Editor.

### **Where Noah Kept His Bees.**

Dr. James K. Hosmer, while recently visiting in Boston, had occasion to visit the new public library. As he went up the steps he met Edward Everett Hale, who asked the doctor's errand.

"To consult the archives," was the reply.

"By the way, Hosmer," said Dr. Hale, "do you know where Noah kept his bees?"

"No," answered the doctor.

"In the ark hives," said the venerable preacher as he passed out of earshot.—Ladies' Home Journal.

### **General Advice to Beekeepers.**

(An address delivered by the editor at the annual meeting of the United States Beekeepers' Union at Omaha.)

I do not know how Secretary Mason came to assign me this topic, for it was none of my choosing. In fact, I did not have any idea that I was to be on the program until I received notice that I must be on hand with a paper on the above subject. As I make it a point to obey the orders of my superiors, I could not do better than prepare the paper. The truth of the matter is, however, that Brother M. has struck me just right, for if there is anything on which I am strong, and at my best, it is in giving advice. True, I am compelled many times to say, in the language of the traditional preacher, "Do

as I say, and not as I do." However, let this be as it may, I am immense on advice. I am by advice as the doctor said he was with fits when reminded that the drug he was using was likely to produce them. He responded, using a word which is usually written with an h, a dash and an l, that he was that on fits and that was all right. He was safe if he could only throw his patient into fits, for he could cure them. Now, that is the way I am on advice.

Perhaps it was a little oversight in the Maker of all things that I was not brought into being early in the history of mankind and made a sort of "director general of advice." Possibly I might have saved some people a good deal of trouble, even though it should have been at the risk of getting myself into worse trouble. For, I want to tell you, that giving advice is not always the safest thing in the world. Many times those who need advice the most are inclined to resent it, and get "hot," as we say, if it is given to them, and a "hot" man or woman either, for that matter, is not always an agreeable person to deal with.

But, as the preacher would say, "to return to my subject." The first advice I have to give is not to wait until you get into some trouble with your neighbors, and want some one to help you out before you think of joining the United States Beekeepers' Union. For if you do, you may not always get the help you need. "In time of peace, prepare for war," for sometimes being "prepared for war" will enable you to keep the peace better than anything else. Having joined the Union, never ask its general manager to do anything for you which you can just as well do for yourself. Before you ask for help at all, read the constitution of the Union carefully and be sure you understand its aim and purpose fully. Remember that it is no part of the Union's business to meddle with neighborhood

or family difficulties, even though there may be something about bees mixed up with them. Do not ask the Union to aid you against your neighbor simply because you have a purely personal spite at him, and you think this will afford you an opportunity to "bring him to time." Nearly all of these personal difficulties can, and should be, settled without any help from the Union.

Do not expect too much of the Union at the start, or because you have paid your dollar for a few years, and not needed or gotten any help, conclude that you will save your money and not continue your membership. Fire comes when you least expect it, and for that reason a wise business man keeps his property insured all the time, and considers that the feeling of security which he has is abundant pay, even though the fire may never come.

You should remember also that a strong Union is a benefit to the industry as a whole, and even though you may never want direct personal aid, yet you will indirectly be benefited, for whatever benefits the whole works more or less benefit to each individual part.

Do not get the notion that the Union is a sort of trust to force up the prices of honey, for when one man gets more for a thing, several men generally have to pay more for it. One trust is just as wicked as another. If it is wrong to corner wheat, flour, rails, oil, lumber, etc., it is just as wrong to form a pool on honey. It is all right to open new markets, create new demands, in various ways, or to aid in diverting the crop to other and more profitable markets, but no union should form itself into a trust to regulate the price of food products. This should be left to demand and supply, whether the food be honey or something else. Those who attempt anything of the kind are enemies of society. Do not join in the general hue and cry about the useless middle man,



swear he lives off of other people's labor. Remember that whoever satisfies a desire is a producer, and that the man who opens a market is as much entitled to pay for his labor as the man who helps the bees produce a crate of honey. There will be tradesmen as long as the world stands, and according to the theory of the evolutionist, that which survives is the fittest.

Do not conclude that it is because something is out of joint politically that you get such a low price for your honey, or have such a hard time in the world. There has been something out of joint in this direction as long as I can remember. The "outs" have always laid all of the trials and tribulations of the people to the "ins," and the "outs" have wanted in, and the "ins" have wanted them to stay out.

I presume this will be true until the "blowing of the last trumpet," if one ever blows, and then we will all want to get in, I presume. Some may be left out even then. I cannot say how that will be.

If you are a beginner in the bee business, do not think you need everything you see advertised. Things are made to sell in this business just the same as in others, and sometimes the people who buy them get sold. The more experience you have with bees, the more you will discover that there are a lot of things you do not want. Go slow on the new things, and let the other fellow do the experimenting.

If you take a bee journal, and you should if you ever want to find out how wise some of the fellows are who write for them, do not sit down and write the editor a long letter, the first time you see anything in the paper you like, and tell him what a smart fellow he is, and what a splendid paper he is making out of the "Ap's Dissectum." He may say some things you do not like in the next issue, and then you will want to take it

all back, but you can't. What is done is frequently harder to undo than it was to do. Then, if you give a testimonial to every pillmaker, you may run out of new material in time.

Do not try to run the paper for the fellow who owns it. He may have had more experience than you have. If he has not, and you are real anxious to show what you can do, you would better start a paper of your own. "Always room at the top," they say, but I have noticed that some things are real shaky at the top, a tree, for illustration. It would be better to go a little slow until you get your hand in, and your nerves a little steady. Be very mild and gentle, especially with editors and cross bees. Do not provoke them to use their posterior extremities too much, as it might prove injurious to them, and uncomfortable to you. It is apt to create a sudden sensation of heat.

If you have a little success, don't brag or tell what big things you have done. It may bring you more competitors than will be good for the business. Let the supply dealers and the factory people do the bragging. They can tell of tons and tons of stuff they have sold and how they started with a ten cent knife and an old shoe box, and have grown and grown, until now they cover acres, if they wish. It is true this may induce more fellows to try the factory business, but that will not hurt you. "Competition is the life of trade," but some fellows seem mighty dead at times who get too much of it.

Do not tell all you know, for if you do the other fellow will know just as much as you do, and it is not well to know too much. It makes one's head tired to carry so much wisdom, and then, if people find out a fellow knows a lot, they are all the time wanting to have him tell it, and he cannot find time to do anything else.

In conclusion, I would say, be con-

tented with you lot, but not too contented—no progress in that. Be enthusiastic, but not too much so. One feels so bad, when he gets all the enthusiasm knocked out of him, as he does at times. Be honest, but do not say too much about it. People may think you are “off,” if you do. Be kind to the bees, for if you don’t, you may wish you had.

If you have not joined the Union, do not discuss this paper, for only members can vote. Better give the secretary a dollar and make him promise never again to ask me to give “General Advice to Beekeepers.”

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## Home Interests.

Conducted by  
EMMA INGOLDSBY ABBOTT

This page is open to all readers of the paper. Anyone who has found anything helpful is invited to give others the benefit of it through these columns.

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### Canning Fruit.

The process of canning fruit is so simple that any one who will exercise ordinary care can make a success of it, but notwithstanding the ease and simplicity with which it may be done, many housekeepers are puzzled to know why their fruit does not keep well.

The one principle upon which the keeping of canned fruit and vegetables depends is in keeping it in air-tight receptacles. Cooking it expels a part of the air in the fruit and sterilizes that which remains. If put into cans that are sealed absolutely air tight while still hot, it will keep fresh and sweet a hundred years as well as a month. If a can shows signs of “working” in a few days after it has been filled it is certain that there is some chance for air to enter. This may be due to a defect in the rubber, a bent place in the metal cover, an air hole in the wax, if sealed

in that way, or there may be a small piece of glass chipped off that has escaped observation. Or if the can has not been filled to the brim with hot fruit and liquid enough added to fill all the spaces between the solid parts, there may be enough unsterilized air sealed in the can to make mischief.

The addition of a small amount of sugar has nothing to do with the keeping of the fruit. That canned without sugar or any other seasoning will be just as fresh when opened as if sugar had been added. It is a matter of individual taste whether the sugar should be canned in with the fruit or added at the table.

Not long ago, in answer to a query from a correspondent in an agricultural paper as to the reason why her tomatoes did not keep well when canned, two experienced housekeepers recommended her to season the tomatoes well with salt before canning. When one thinks of the small amount of salt required to make tomatoes palatable, almost anyone ought to know that that could not have any effect in preserving them. Add to this the fact that the writer has canned tomatoes for more than twenty years without salt or any other seasoning and very rarely loses a can, and it seems as though there must be another cause for their spoiling.

My advice to her and other inquirers would be: Be sure that your fruit is thoroughly heated all through; fill your cans to the brim, leaving no air spaces; be sure that your rubbers and tops are in good order, screw down the caps as tight as possible, and there is no reason on earth why your fruit should not keep. As to putting up fruit in the best shape to make the most attractive appearance in the cans and on the table, that is another question, and requires both skill and experience, but no method can be successful which ignores this foundation principle in canning fruit.

Also be sure your tops are clean before you put them on. Cleanse them thoroughly with boiling water

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### Domestic Science.

According to the Rural New Yorker, Prof. Bowman of the Ohio State University, has the following to say on this subject:

"There can be no education too broad or too comprehensive for the preparation of home-life; yet the connecting link between the school and the family seems to have been lost, or better, perhaps, is just being forged. It is this link that domestic science seeks to put in place. It is believed that such a training for young women will not only make all life fuller and more useful, but will help to bridge the time between school and the serious assumption of responsibility. The return of a young woman from college ought not to be, as is now so often the case, the entrance into a strange realm: but the new environment ought to appeal to her at once, urging her to activity because she is already interested, not alone in political economy, but in domestic science—not alone in the history of the past, but in making the home history of the present and future. In these new surroundings, she will find problems as difficult of solution, and questions as vital, as any which have before claimed her attention. It is a psychological fact that we become interested in and learn to love that which we know most about; yet many young women of our generation are permitted, even expected, to know more of almost everything than of home and its duties and privileges. This may be so because many are sent away to school when very young; but those at home, in the stress of school life, with music or art to occupy every moment not actually required for recreation, have little energy or opportunity for home duties.

Such duties to daughters of the wealthy are often almost mythical; while to the poor these duties are so real as to be a terrible burden. In neither position is the young woman able to realize their true import. The small knowledge of the one is all theoretical, of the other all practical, and both breed dislike of home work—with the first because she has no conception of its importance or meaning, with the second because she has been wrongly worked and over-worked."

It would seem that all this talk about educating the boys and girls for the real work of life must result in some good. It has always been a mystery to the writer to know why the schools of the land have not thought it necessary to teach boys, and especially girls, something about the practical work of life. No one can have a thoroughly healthy mind unless said mind has its home in a fairly healthy body, and no body can be properly nourished and remain healthy where the cooking is done by the "rule of thumb." If we could only learn the fact that it is just as lady-like and honorable to do domestic work properly as it is to do anything else, we would have made great headway toward success, for one can not make a success of any work which is looked upon as mere drudgery.—Editor.

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### Our Own Standard.

Deny it as we will, few of us have the moral force to set up a standard of our own, based upon our own incomes and our own peculiar home environment. We commit the folly of regulating our expenses by the income of some one else. If the Browns across the street hang up expensive lace curtains we are discontented until lace curtains have gone up to our windows, no matter how much smaller our income may be than that of the Browns.

If the Smiths put down a velvet car-

pet, our neat, pretty ingrain becomes an eye-sore to us. We are interested in what our neighbors will think about many things that ought not to concern them in the least. We have no standards of our own. Our expenses, even our tables, must be regulated by the standards of others. We have not the courage nor the independence to be indifferent to the comment of our neighbors. This form of cowardice is causing many families to live beyond their incomes. They can face debt and forfeit their self respect easier than they can face the unfavorable comment of their friends and neighbors. The extent to which imitation of others is carried would be ludicrous did it not bring so much unhappiness in its train. It is frequently the direct cause of discord and discontent and debt that have driven happiness from many a family hearth stone, Let us have a standard of our own, based upon our own tastes, our own incomes, our own needs, and let us cheerfully and bravely adhere to this standard, heedless of that dreadful bugbear, "What will the neighbors say?"—*Harper's Bazar*.

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## Educational.

**G**IVE fools their gold, and knaves their power,  
 Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall,  
 Who plows a field, or trains a flower,  
 Or plants a tree is more than all;  
 For he who blesses most, is blest,  
 And God and man will own his worth  
 Who seeks to leave at his bequest  
 An added beauty to the earth.—Whittier.

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### Reading.

"The man who thinks he knows it all and has no time to read, Had better change his tactics or he will quickly go to seed."

**S**OME one has said that reading is like eating, and may be a very good, or a very bad thing. Unless there is wisdom in the choice of

both the material itself and the time and method of its using, neither reading nor eating is commendable or safe. It is true you may gain knowledge by reading, but you must separate the chaff from the wheat by thinking. It is not always the amount we read that impresses the mind, but it is improved by thinking and analyzing what we read. It is not the greatest eaters who are the strongest and healthiest. A man may indulge his appetite until he becomes a gormandizer, and eat until he is surfeited; so may one read until it becomes a kind of mania. Then he reads only to gratify that wanton desire to read. He had no aim, no purpose, no definite end in his reading, but still he reads everything he can lay his hands on. To be benefitted by reading one must have a purpose, and choose his reading to meet the demands of that purpose. We believe it was Coleridge who divided readers into four classes. The first he compared to an hour glass, their reading being as the sand. It runs in and then as easily runs out without leaving any impression behind. This is the gormandizing reader. He reads and never thinks and gains no wisdom by all he reads. The second class resembles a sponge; it imbibes everything and returns it in the same state only a little dirtier. The third class is like a jelly bag; it allows all that is pure to pass away and retain only the refuse and dregs. A fourth class is like the Golconda slave, who, casting aside all that is worthless, preserves only the pure gems. A pure and cultivated taste for reading, apart from its intellectual benefits, is one of the most refining as well as elevating earthly enjoyments. It provides a refuge from the harsh demands of the world. A good book has in it the power to save a man from degrading associations, and to

(Continued on page 209)

## THE BUSY BEE.

A monthly journal devoted to Farm Bee Keeping and other Minor Interests of Progressive Agriculture.

REV. EMERSON TAYLOR ABBOTT,  
Editor and Publisher.

Price, 50 cents per year, payable in advance.

**OFFICE—118 S. Third Street.**

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### Editorial.

WE have only room enough to say that the Omaha meeting of the United States Beekeepers' Union was a grand success in every way.

\*\*\*

Everything comes to him who waits, but you must keep a sharp lookout so that when these things come you will not be asleep.—Boyce's Hustler.

\*\*\*

In speaking of bees a writer in the Wisconsin Agriculturist, says: "The feature which distinguishes them from almost all other insects is their distribution into three kinds, the male, the female and neutrals." What about wasps, ants, and aphides?

Now is the time to begin to get your bees ready for winter. We are having some fall flow here, and most of the colonies will be able to store enough in the brood chamber to carry them through the winter. Many bees will no doubt need feeding in order to winter safely, as the honey flow has been very poor in some localities. Where this is the case, the feeding should be done before the nights begin to get cold, so the bees can store the syrup in the combs and cap it over before winter. Bees should never be fed liquid food during cold weather.

\*\*\*

In some localities there is an abundance of fall flowers, and all strong colonies will be able to store some surplus honey. If you have not done it, you should see that they have plenty of room at once. It will pay now to use full sheets of foundation in the sections, as bees do not build comb as rapidly in the fall as they do during the summer. be careful and do not give them any more surplus now than they can occupy fully, if you want them to store honey rapidly. It is also a mistake to crowd them into too close quarters and cause them to swarm late in the season. Late swarms are very apt to die before spring unless they are in the hands of an experienced bee-keeper.

\*\*\*

A subscriber asks:

1. Why does one of my colonies produce some bees which look slick and shiny as though they had been dipped in grease or honey? When they approach the entrance the other bees begin to clean them off, and they themselves act as if they were trying to rid their bodies of something. There are no bands on their abdomens, being a clear black.

They are simply old bees which have worn themselves out by work. Some of the early writers thought them dif-

ferent from the other worker bees, but they are not. Any worker under the same conditions, and belong to the same variety of bees, would look the same. They are more noticeable among the Italians than any other variety of bees, or bees which have Italian blood in them. You will often see the workers carrying them out of the hive, which shows that they are bees that have ceased to be of any help to the colony; for utility, and not fellow-feeling, governs in a beehive.

2. What made one of my colonies fly out and cluster on a pail near the entrance of the hive? I examined the hive and found plenty of bees on the combs, but no queen cells, and by the time I had replaced the frames they all returned. I gave them an extra super and they have made no attempt to swarm since that time. This is one of my strongest colonies.

It may be that you overlooked a queen cell, and this was a natural swarm, but the queen failing to follow the bees out, as soon as they missed her they returned to the hive. Having found more room in the hive and the honey flow not continuing strong, they concluded not to swarm, and tore down the cell. Bees often do this when the honey flow stops short. They sometimes swarm out when no reason can be given for their actions especially by one who is not on the ground to examine all the conditions closely. All bees do not do the same thing under the same circumstances.

3. What is the length of time for the laying of the egg to the capping of the worker cell? The books say about eight days, and I guess this is nearly correct.

Another subscriber asks the following:

"1. Why is it that half of two of my colonies has three bands like pure Italians and half are solid black bees? It seems to me that they have two queens.

I ordered an Italian queen and introduced her to a black colony and in due time, 21 days, Italian bees were flying. This was two years ago and the old colony is made up of the two kinds. I had a large swarm out of this colony this year, and they are mixed in the same way."

This is clearly a case of "hybrids." It often occurs that when there is a mixture of black and Italian blood some of the bees will show no trace of the black blood, and others will show but little if any trace of the Italian blood. Such bees are just as good honey gatherers as the pure Italians. Some of them are equally as gentle. If one is not rearing queens for the market, it will not pay to bother too much, if any, about the purity of bees. Pure Italians are of more importance in the minds of the queer breeders than they are to the honey producer.

\* \* \*

The following clipping from the Live Stock Indicator furnishes some food for thought:

There has been a disposition on the part of some agricultural writers to advocate teaching agriculture in our common schools. While I believe agriculture to be the chief occupation in life, it is doubtful whether it is within the bounds of propriety to teach any of the trades and occupations in our schools. A general instruction is needed by the mass of citizens, no matter what avocation they may afterwards follow. I am informed that 90 per cent of the school children leave school at the age of fourteen, and it will be seen that study should be restricted to absolute essentials. Reading, writing and kindred branches should be thoroughly taught. These are the foundation studies that are alike valuable to everyone no matter whether he becomes a farmer or a mechanic. The better grounded the pupil is in these essentials the better for his future, no matter what

it may be.

The writer of the above calls himself a farmer, yet he does not seem to fully comprehend what the elementary principles of agriculture are. No one has ever suggested that any "trade" or "profession" be taught in the public school. What he calls the "foundation" studies can and will be learned by any child. They are both pure mechanism. What a child needs to learn at school is how to see and think—to see and think about the things of everyday life, and not about Greece and Rome.—Editor.

\* \* \*

To make money is not the greatest requisite for true success in business. But to gain a reputation for honorable business methods, to have the confidence of business men, and the respect of employes, coupled with successful business management, should be the aim of all young men who enter upon a business career. I believe that the majority of successful men are of this type, and that few ever succeed in making money who have no higher purpose than gain.—Success.

\* \* \*

It takes time to convince some folks. The world turns around, yet for ages people thought the sun moved around the world. Some advertisers are so hide bound that they think the original papers they started to advertise in are the only thing. They frown on all new comers.—Boyce's Hustler.

### **Honey and Supply Exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi.**

This exhibit has improved very materially during the last few weeks, and is now a very creditable one, notwithstanding the fact that the honey crop has been almost, if not entirely, a failure in many localities. No one who visits the exposition, and one cannot very well afford to stay away, should fail

to spend a few hours in the Apiary Building. Mr. Whitcomb has been untiring in his efforts to make this part of the exposition a success, and he deserves great credit for the display which he has been able to collect in spite of many difficulties which he has had to surmount. Mr. Hardt, who has had charge of the general work relating to concessions in all departments, has taken great interest in the apiary exhibit from the start, and the bee-keepers of the country can only wish that many sweet things may come to him for his uniformly courteous treatment and his kindnesses. In fact, as I have said before, all who are interested in the success of apiculture owe a vote of thanks to the entire management of the exposition for the recognition which our industry has received.

I may say in conclusion that the exposition is now an assured success. The displays in all the buildings are very creditable, the crowds are daily becoming larger, and those who come away are enthusiastic in their praise of what they have seen and enjoyed, so that I feel that no one can afford to let this monument of western enterprise and push become a matter of history without seeing it. One can learn more about the machinery of the government of the United States by spending a few hours in the Government Building than he could learn in six months by reading. It is worth the cost of a trip to Omaha to see this alone, if one does not live too far away. Farmers should go and take their sons and daughters and let them see what a grand and productive country is this in which we live. By all means visit the exposition before it closes.

Remember that we sell incubators, brooders, and all sorts of poultry supplies, and you can buy them as cheap of us as any place in the United States, and just as good.

### **Facing Comb Honey.**

There has been a great deal of discussion of the subject of facing comb honey in the different bee journals. Bro. York, of the American Bee Journal, sums the whole matter up by saying: "To face comb honey for market is wrong, every time and everywhere," and Bro. York is about right in the opinion of this editor. I clip an English opinion from another number of the American Bee Journal which comes about as near stating my opinion of the whole matter as anything I could write:

"If all sections are equal in quality throughout the crate, there is surely no harm in placing the sections best side out. Anyone with experience in working for comb honey knows that one side of a section is generally better or more evenly capped than the other side; and if the inside rows of sections are equal to the outside ones, no injustice is done, and no deception practiced. If, on the other hand, the outside row are superior as sections to the inside ones in the same crate, they are not a fair sample, and in my opinion there is fraudulent intention to deceive the purchaser on the part of the seller. Moreover, this method of doing business must in the long run recoil on the head of the man who practices it. I think that every bee-keeper who has honey to sell should take care that every section or jar of honey is equal to the sample, and sell those not up to the mark at a lower price, or at a fair value compared with the price charged for the first selection or quality."

## **Communications.**

Editor Busy Bee: Peoria, Ill.

I have a regular feeding place for my bees in the open air. Here I put sticky papers, boards, sections, odds and ends of honey, pans, or dishes

in fact everything that I want the honey cleaned off, and no robbing has ever followed this practice. Bees expect to find it here, and nowhere else.

If bees find a queenless colony and commence robbing, I let them have it. When they know they have it all, they return peaceably to their hives. When they are deprived of it they are angry, sting and try to enter other hives. I've known whole apiaries to be demoralized by stopping robbing. When they have all they will retire in good order.

Mrs. L. Harrison.

While Mrs. Harison's method seems to work well in her case, I confess I am not fully prepared at this writing to recommend it. I think I should prefer to put the things I wanted cleaned up in the top of a hive about dark.—Editor.

Buchanan County, Mo.,

August 25, 1898.

Editor Busy Bee: You say you could use more articles for your paper. I wonder how the experience of an old bungler would please you, or your readers.

Three years ago a swarm of bees lighted near my residence in the city, and I thought I would take them in. I never had hived a swarm of bees, but had seen my father do it often when I was a boy. I thought I must get them soon or they would fly away, so I got a half barrel, the only available thing I could find and proceeded to business, but as soon as I stirred them up to get them to run in my barrel they flew away. I followed them a couple of blocks and coaxed them to light in a small tree near the Maple Leaf depot. I climbed the tree and cut off a long limb and eased it down to the sidewalk, and, with a small piece of silver, persuaded a boy to take hold of the long end of the limb and help carry them to my woodshed. I then put the barrel



over them and left them in the yard and they soon went to work nicely.

If they were satisfied with their barrel I was not, for in my boyhood days I had persuaded my father to give up his "gums" for a board hive of my own manufacture, with an upper story that we could slide a box into to get nice white honey. So the next day I found my way to your store, and purchased a "St. Joe" hive, complete, comb foundation, and all, with full instructions how to get the bees in it.

My new bees were bright, yellow fellows, and very good natured, never offering to sting me, so I picked up the barrel and shook them out on the lighting board of my new hive, getting them nearly all out, and they seemed to be going in the hive nicely. The empty barrel I turned open end up and went to dinner. When I returned what was my surprise to find all my bees in the barrel again. This time I shook them out so effectively that they took flight again, but lighted on some vines close by, and I carried my hive down and sat it over them, but could not persuade them to go into the hive. So I went again to your store and persuaded you, Mr. Editor, to go and help me out of my difficulty, and with the aid of your smoker we soon persuaded the little ladies to crawl up in the hive. I carried it to the yard and they soon filled it and the super, so I felt awful proud of my find, but unfortunately they cast a swarm in July that got away, and the fall being dry they did not make much honey to winter on. I put them in the cave in the fall, but the winter was warm and the cave damp and in the spring I had no bees. So ended my first year of bee-keeping.

D. C. Anderson.

Faulkner County, Ark.,

July 25, 1898.

Mr. E. T. Abbott—Dear Sir: I received the queens all o. k. Had no

trouble in introducing and I am well pleased with them. One of them came out with a very large swarm today, but I put them back in the old hive. Bees are doing fairly well at present, but expect lots of honey soon from the golden rod plant, as we have plenty of this here. Respectfully,

L. E. Halter.

Mascoutah, Ill.

August 26, 1898.

Editor Busy Bee: My bees are not prosperous, not having stored any surplus honey at all. They seem to be well supplied with bees but no stores. I sowed some two acres of buckwheat which is in full bloom now but yields very little nectar yet. I think the cause of this failure is the rainy weather, of which we are having a great deal this season, and also the dew, because they both cause the honey to dilute and drip out.

I have had a little experience with robbing this spring for the first time. Through some weakness the comb broke out of the frames and the comb with honey lay dripping. There was little time for thinking, for there were many robbers at hand. I immediately got a canvass and covered the whole hive with it. I did this because I had heard that bees kept in the dark would never be molested by robbers. It proved a perfect success. I was reminded of this by an article in the last number of the Busy Bee.

I have doubled the number of my colonies this year by artificial swarming and that is the only benefit I received from them.

I enjoy the reading of the articles "Agricultural Education in Public Schools." I think I could write something on that myself if time would permit. Yours respectfully,

G. H. Eidmann.

If Friend E. finds time, we will be glad to have him give his views on "Agricultural Education in Public Schools."—Editor.

**Reading.**

(Continued from page 203.)

lift him above the corroding cares and strifes of life into heaven of ideal peace, purity and beauty. Charles Lamb had such a high appreciation for a good book that he once affirmed that he "would sooner say grace for a good book than a good dinner." A taste for good books can be cultivated in childhood. Many lovers of pure literature, both prose and poetry have acquired that taste in childhood. The mother misses a great opportunity who fails to provide good books for her children, and of reading them aloud in her family. Thousands who have good literary tastes and pure minds have had the principle inculcated at their mother's knee while she read to them the best poetry, best prose and best stories. Try it once.—*Montana Fruit Grower.*

**Business.**

I desire to call the attention of our readers to the ad on the first page. If the book is like the paper, it is a very good one. If you have not seen a copy, send for a sample copy and mention the BUSY BEE.

Have you a good sewing machine? If not, write us and let us tell you all about ours. It will be money saved, and you will have just as good a machine for service as money can buy.

Farwell & Rhines have renewed the time of their series of ads which they have been running with us for a year. This speaks well for our paper, as they are extensive advertisers and know a good medium. The Editor desires to say in this connection that he has used their Gluten Flower for two years and we are greatly pleased with it.

**HATCH CHICKENS BY STEAM—**  
 With the **MODEL—**  
**Excelsior Incubator.**  
 Simple, Perfect, Self-Regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher. Lowest priced, first-class Hatcher made. **GEO. H. STAHL,**  
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 Sections, Extractors, Smokers, and every thing a bee-keeper wants. Honest goods at close honest prices. 64 page catalog free.  
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 In writing advertisers mention Busy Bee.

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**J. W. Kuhn,**  
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 Kansas.

You need a good bee book. Langstroth on the Honey Bee, latest edition, revised by Dadant, and the *Busy Bee* one year for \$1.25, post paid. This is the price of the book alone, so you practically get the paper for nothing.

The *Busy Bee* will be sent THREE MONTHS FREE to anyone who has never taken any bee paper who will send us his name and address on a postal card, and the names and addresses of three people who live on a farm and keep bees.

## Poultry.

### The Way to Feed.

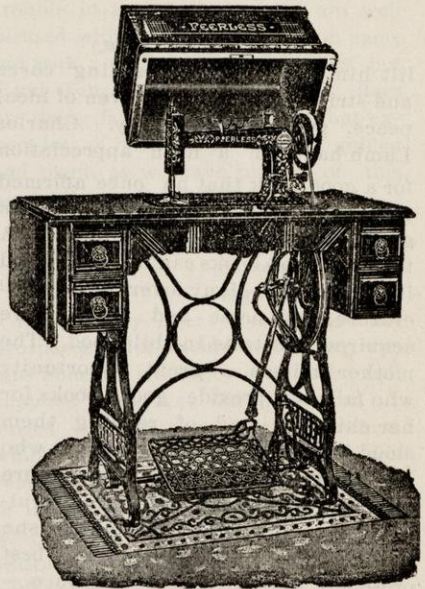
When poultry picks up its feed at large, a little here and a little there, the crop is filled very gradually and a large portion of what is picked up is digested as fast as it enters the crop.

This is the natural way for poultry to feed, and it is best for fowls to be kept busy the larger part of the day in getting enough to eat, for in so doing they take proper exercise and are kept in good health.

Where the feed is thrown down in a bunch the fowls pick it up rapidly and fill their crops in a few minutes, after which they sit around and accumulate fat which is detrimental to their well-being.

In feeding poultry the feed should always be scattered so as to prevent the fowls from finding it in too short a time. When there is long grass grain thrown among it will keep a flock of hens busy all day and they will enjoy hunting for it, and not care to scratch elsewhere as long as they can find a grain.

Where there is no grass convenient a good substitute is straw, and it is astonishing how persistently they will scratch in the hope of finding another grain of wheat or corn to reward their labor.



THE PEERLESS MACHINE.

The handsomest and finest proportioned sewing machine now manufactured. A strictly high grade machine, with all modern improvements; light running and noiseless. All the desirable features found in other modern machines will be found in the Peerless.

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#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of a proper character will be inserted at the following rates:

	One Month.	Three Months.	Six Months.	One Year.
1 Inch ....	\$ .70	\$ 1.75	\$ 3.25	\$ 6.50
2 Inches..	1.30	3.50	6.25	12.00
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1 Page ....	7.50	20.00	39.00	75.00

Reading notices, 10 cents per line each issue. Special Position one-fourth more than above rates.

The publisher cannot undertake to be responsible for the acts of any of the advertisers, but he will not knowingly admit any fraudulent advertisement, and will immediately drop the ad. of any person or firm failing to deal fairly with the public.

Poultry needs exercise to keep in good health and the crop should be filled gradually, and hiding the grain in something that will make them hunt for it is much better than allowing them to get their fill in a few minutes and loaf all the remainder of the day.—Farmers' Voice.

## Book Review.

(Any book mentioned in this column may be ordered of us.)

Note to Publishers.—You are invited to mail to the BUSY BEE copies of any books of interest to those who are engaged in rural pursuits. They will receive proper notice in this column.

All books received will be given notice in proportion to their importance. Please give the retail price of all books sent.

### Plants and Their Children.

(American Book Co., Publishers.)

I wish to say that this book belongs to a class of which there can not be too many, provided they are all as well written as this one. It seems to the writer that too much cannot be said in praise of Mrs. Dana's book, and he would gladly see it placed in the hands of every boy and girl in the land, and it is to be hoped that the time is not very far distant when it will be used as a reading book in every public school in the United States. A child should be given some useful information at the same time that it learns to read. The early school life of children should be such as will develop in them a capacity to see and think, especially to see and think about the natural objects by which they are surrounded. Mrs. Dana well says in the preface of her book: "The child's mind is peculiarly alive to the charm of nature when she is studied in detail, and through her it can be trained to observe accurately and to reason logically." To hold up before the mind of the child, in a way that will at once render it attractive and interesting, the plant life of nature is one of

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Wainwright Building,

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W. M. BARNUM, Editor.

## BEE-KEEPER'S REVIEW.

The foremost bee journal of the Country devoted to the interests of advanced apiculture. Its writers are the very best in the land, and for artistic make up it has no superior. Send 10 cents and get three sample numbers of different months and the 10 cents will be credited on your subscription, if you subscribe in '98.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.

"The home to fulfill its object must provide not simply food and shelter, but rest and happiness." Most women may with benefit to their families apply the foregoing as a sort of personal test ever now and then—*Selected*.

the purposes of this admirable book, while it at the same time furnishes an excellent text for ordinary reading lessons. The whole story of a plant's life is told with scientific accuracy, yet in language so simple that it can be comprehended by almost any child who is old enough to read. While the book is written with a view to having it used as a school reader, its use should by no means be confined to the school room, as the child does not need the help of a teacher in order to comprehend the lessons it teaches. It is just such a book as every parent should place within the reach of his children as soon as they are old enough to read. It is neatly bound in cloth, full of illustrations which explain the text, and contains about three hundred pages, so that it is by no means a dear book, as many books are even though they are sold at a low price.

If you have a family of young children, I would advise you to order a copy of Mrs Dana's book for them at once. The publisher of *The Busy Bee* will send it post paid on receipt of the price, 65 cents.

To make more clear what I have said about it, and to give a better idea of Mrs. Dana's most excellent method in treating her subject, I take the liberty to copy a part of a short chapter entitled, "The Story of the Bee":

One morning last May a bee set out among the flowers on a honey hunt.

Perhaps it would be more true to say that the bee set out to hunt for the sweet stuff of which honey is made; for while this sweet stuff is still in the flower cup it is not honey, any more than the wheat growing in the field is bread. The wheat becomes bread later, after it has been cut and gathered and thrashed and ground, and brought into the kitchen and there changed into bread; and the sweet stuff becomes honey only after the bees have carried it home and worked it.

As the bee left home this particular morning, it made up its mind that it would devote itself to the apple blossoms; for did you know that when a bee goes flower visiting, usually it gives all its attention to one kind of flower till it has finished that special round of visits?

So off the bee flew and in a few moments it saw hundreds of little pink and white handkerchiefs waving at it from the apple orchard.

What do you suppose these were, these gay little handkerchiefs? They were the flower leaves of the apple blossoms. I call them handkerchiefs, because, just as boys and girls sometimes wave their handkerchiefs when they wish to signal other boys and girls, so the apple tree uses its gay flower leaves to attract the attention of the bee, and persuade it to visit the flowers. Of course, really, they are not handkerchiefs at all.

When the bee saw so many bright handkerchiefs waving it welcome, along it hurried; for it knew this was a signal that material for honey making was at hand. Another minute, and it had settled upon a freshly opened flower, and was eagerly stealing the precious sweet.

Bees are quite as greedy as any boy or girl could be. So our friend dived right into the pretty flower, brushing rudely against the little dust boxes. These, being full to overflowing with golden dust, spilled their contents, and powered the bee quite yellow.

Having made sure that nothing more was to be found just there, off flew the busy bee to the next blossom. Into this it pushed its way and in so doing struck those pins which have no dust boxes; and upon their broad, flat tips fell some of the yellow dust grains with which its body was powdered.

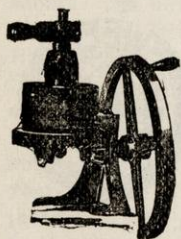
Now there began to happen a strange thing.

Soon after the yellow dust from the bee fell upon the flat tips of the pins

without dust boxes, the little green objects deep within the green cup became full of life, and began to get larger. And not only this: the green cup also seemed to feel this new life; for it too grew bigger and bigger and juicier and juicier, until it became the fine juicy apple we have before us this morning.

So now you understand a little of what happened to make the great apple take the place of the delicate blossom.

## Green Cut Bone.



There is nothing better than this to make HENS LAY.

MAN' BONE CUTTERS are as good as the best. I can sell you one, cheap.

Write for prices.  
E. T. ABBOTT,  
St. Joseph, Mo.

ENVELOPES AND LETTER HEADS.  
—The publisher of the Busy Bee can furnish you printed envelopes, letter heads, bills, etc., very cheap. Write for estimates.

## The United States Bee-Keepers' Union.

Organized to advance the pursuit of Apiculture; to promote the interests of bee-keepers; to protect its members; to prevent the adulteration of honey; and to prosecute the dishonest honey-commission men. Membership fee \$1 per annum.

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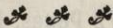

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