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## **The White Mountain apiarist : the circle at home and the honey bee. June 1892**

Groveton, N.H.: Aked D. Ellingwood, June 1892

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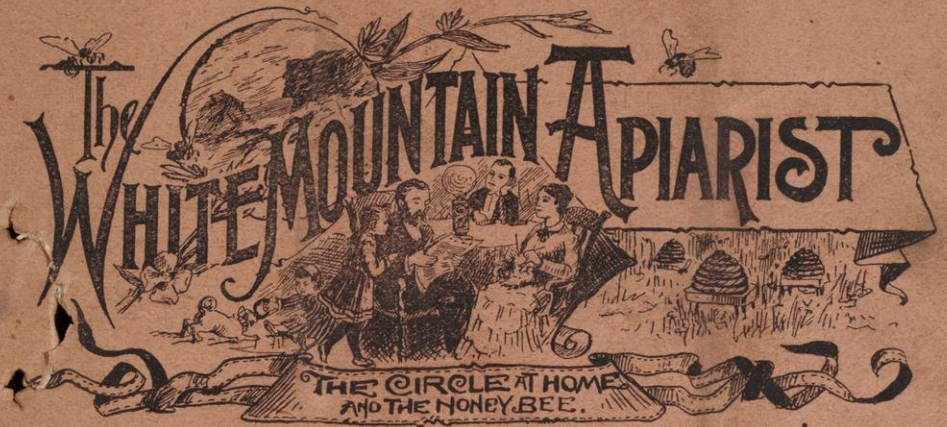
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JUNE

1892.



PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AT

50 CENTS PER YEAR,

By A. D. Ellingwood,

Groveton, N. H.

### BEATTY'S ORGANS

Are the best. Write for Catalogue.  
Dan C. F. Beatty, Washington, N. J.

### BEATTY'S PIANOS.

In use everywhere. Write for  
Catalogue.

Dan C. F. Beatty, Washington, N. J.

**FREE HOMES** At the rate they have been going the Public Domains will all be gone in 5 years. Now is the time to secure as Rich Land as the Sun shines on at **\$1.25 per acre.** What better could be left for Children? Where these Lands are; how to get them, as well as for information of all States and Territories, send **10 cents** and receive the beautiful *Illustrated* "Pictorial" Panorama of the United States. Address **THE WESTERN W. B. CO., Chicago, Ill.**

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Perfection Cold Blast Smokers, Square Glass Honey jars, etc. Send ten cents for "Practical Hints to Bee-Keepers."

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Cincinnati, Ohio.

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To plant any Bulbs, such as Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocus, Lilies, &c., or any Roses, Small-fruits or Shrubs, write for my Price-list.

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for winter blooming, large plants, 35 cts., 50 cts. and 75 cts. each, or \$3.50, \$5.00 and \$7.50 per doz.

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N. D. WEST'S SPIRAL WIRE QUEEN CELL PROTECTORS AND CAGES.

N. D. West's Spiral Wire Queen-Cell Protectors will do it, and you can RE-QUEEN your apiary during the swarming season. Pronounced the Best by such men as CAPT. J. E. HETHERINGTON, Cherry Valley, N. Y.; P. H. ELWOOD, Starkville,



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**N. D. WEST, MIDDLEBURGH, SCHENARIE CO., N. Y.**  
*Mention the Apiarist.*

### FOR SALE. Warranted Pure Bred Punic Queens,

No other bees near. Price, \$1.50 each. No queens sent out before June 10th. Virgin queens 75¢ each or 2 for \$1.00.

Write for Prices  
**FRANK H. HOWARD,**  
Box 55, Garden City, Kan.  
*Mention the Apiarist.*

<b>B</b>	YELLOW Italian Queens for sale in June at Chenango Valley Apiary.	<b>E</b>	XTRA Tested \$1.50; untested \$1.00 Order Early.	<b>E</b>	XCEL-LENT 2-frame nucleus with Queen \$2 Don't pass by.

Send for Circular.

**Mrs. Oliver Cole,**  
-Sherburne, Chenango Co., N. Y.  
*Mention the Apiarist.*

### ITALIAN

**TESTED** I will sell tested Italian queens 90 cents each, per 1/2 doz. \$5.00. Untested Italian queens at 75 cents each, 6 for \$4.00, per doz. \$7.50. Reared from imported stock or select stock. Can mail promptly on receipt of order.

**QUEENS.**

**W. A. Compton.**  
Lynnville, Tenn.

## Exchanges.

Wanted to exchange advertising space in the  
APIARIST for supplies or bees,

A. D. Ellingwood,  
Groveton, N. H.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE. 15 Chau-  
tauqua hives with thick top bars and tin roofs two  
story, painted white, and as good as new, made  
by W. T. Falconer, Jamestown, N. Y. Will  
take a few colonies of black bees in box hives as  
part pay, also want a copy of *Mysteries of Bee-  
keeping Explained*. Quimby's first edition pub-  
lished.

F. H. Towne, Montpelier, Vt.

## White Mountain Apiarist.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

ALFRED D. ELLINGWOOD,

AT FIFTY CENTS A YEAR.

GROVETON, N. H.

ADVERTISING RATES are 10 cents per line  
for one insertion; for two or more insertions  
the rates will be as follows: 1 inch, 75 cents;  
2 inches, \$1.25; one half column, \$2.00;  
one column, \$3.50; one page, \$6.00.

## Editorials.

Happy and content is a home with "The Ro-  
chester," a lamp with the light of the morning.  
*For catalogue, write Rochester Lamp Co. New York.*

Since the *Apiarist* has been publish-  
ed in Groveton the press work has  
been done on a job press, two pages  
being printed at a time. The work  
has proved to be too tedious, necessi-  
tating long unsatisfactory delays in  
getting the journal out. We realized  
that the delays were a draw back to  
our success, and for a long time have  
been trying to make some arrange-  
ment by which the evil could be re-  
moved.

We have now purchased a Camp-  
bell Printing Press, size 27½ x 41 inch-

es. The press has all the modern im-  
provement and is everything that can  
be desired in our office; it will be run  
by steam and has a capacity for run-  
ning off 10,000 *Apiarists* in a day.

We now have five persons at work  
in the *Apiarist* office including the  
editor, and in view of these facts we  
think that we can promise that after  
next month the *Apiarist* will be out  
on time. Our new press is an expen-  
sive affair and we extend an invita-  
tion to every reader of the *Apiarist* to  
help us out by sending in their own  
subscription and if possible obtaining  
another from among their friends.

We have made a hard fight for suc-  
cess and it seems that we are now in  
a fair way to achieve it. The *Apiari-  
st* already has many warm, true friends  
and we hope in the years to come to  
make many more. The editor does  
not lay any claims to being a man  
above mistakes; he knows only too  
well how liable he is to make them,  
but he loves the pursuit, and has a  
fair amount of persistency and has  
an ambition to place the *Apiarist* high  
up in the the Apicultural world.

Who says his efforts shall not be  
crowned with success?

WE HAVE recently got out 25,000  
circulars describing and advertising  
the APIARIST, we want to distribute  
these among the bee-keepers of the  
United States, and in order to do this  
we make the following offer. To any  
one who will distribute or mail to  
their bee-keeping friends 100 of these  
circulars we will give a six months  
trial subscription to the APIARIST; to  
any one who will mail to their friends  
or distribute among bee-keepers in  
their locality 300 of the circulars we  
will give one years subscription to the  
APIARIST.

We send the circulars postpaid.  
They can be taken to fairs or other

places where farmers and bee-keepers can be reached and carefully distributed; then send a letter stating they have been distributed and we will then enter your name on our subscription list. This is an easy way to get a good Apicultural Journal free.

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER have seen fit to give Mr. Jacob T. Timpe of Grand Ledge, Mich., what I presume they intended to be his death blow so far as the queen rearing business is concerned. We are of the opinion that Mr. Timpe is an honest although an unfortunate man. We have in the past purchased many queens of him and had other business relations and he has in every instance acted the part of an honest man. It seems to us to be rather like pronouncing judgement, and also taking rather an unfair advantage of man to attack a him in the manner that the AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER did Mr. Timpe. His past life has certainly been an exemplary one, and simple misfortune should not subject a man to such harsh censure. It would be far better to try to help him onto his feet again than to try to push him lower down. A prosperous concern like the W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co., do not and probably cannot realize how hard a blow misfortune can strike a man when once he is in its power. Only those who have been really unfortunate know how to deeply and truly sympathize with those who are in trouble.

Send 50c. for the *Apiarist* 1 year, and Vandruff's "How to Manage Bees."

### News Column.

this column will in the future be devoted to news, gossip, etc. We especially invite all our friends to help make, this one of the most interesting departments of the *Apiarist*.

ALLEY'S PERFECTION SELF HIVER, seems to be meeting with good success.

REV. L. L. LANGSTROTH, has been making the Roots quite an extended visit at Medina, Ohio.

MR. CHARLES JUDD, of Pittsburg, N. H., has several colonies which are in a flourishing condition.

Bro. Alley has made hives and cages a long thorough study, and he has concentrated all of his past experiments in the new Perfection Hiver.

MR. W. Z. HUTCHINSON, of the *Ecoview*, will occasionally drop the special topic feature of that most excellent journal and use miscellaneous matter.

MR. E. O. YOUNG, formally foreman of the D. A. Jones Co., and for the last few months Supt. of the W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co., has resigned his position at the latter institution and returned to Canada.

MRS. F. A. DAYTON, Bradford, Iowa, writes as follows: "Bee-keepers who had their apiaries in good condition in the spring will do well here this season as the rains have brought the clover up in enormous quantities and the bees are booming about as they generally do when basswood comes; such harvests will again heighten the bee-keepers prospects. I shall not be overburdened with honey as I have only a few colonies that will gather any surplus."

SOME OF THE APIARIST advertisers may find it to their advantage to send their catalogues to Alvin A. Vinal, Mt. Blue, Mass; Mr. Vinal now has 4 swarms of bees in box hives, but hopes this season to largely increase them.

W. D. SOPER, Jackson, Mich., sends us one of his new Feeders, they are a very sensible feeder, probably being the best one yet put on the market.

J. L. SHAW, Cabot, Vt., writes us that he prefers the Black Bees.

MR. H. C. FARNUM, of Transit Bridge, and Miss Jessie B. Davis, of Aristotle, N. Y., were united in marriage April 12th. Mr. Farnum is well and favorably known to the *Apiarist* readers, and the entire *Apiarist* family will no doubt join us in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Farnum a long and prosperous future.

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### Central Missouri.

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Since "Misery Likes Company" it may be of interest to the readers of the "White Mountain Apiarist" to know that their brethren here in central Missouri, are experiencing the worst Spring for bee-keeping ever experienced; it runs away back previous to the knowledge of the "*Oldest Inhabitant*" (liar).

In the first place the elm bloomed out very promising in Feb. one day's work for our pets then it turned cold and no more work for five weeks. Then my plum trees were in bloom for ten days, but the bees got to work on them for only three afternoons, and up to date they have not made a living and are not as strong as they were March 1st. I fed them today to save them from starvation. There will be no surplus from white honey unless to gather the nectar. Judging

from the reports in the daily papers the weather appears much the same all over the U.S. Hence I say misery loves company seeing we are similarly afflicted. There are many bees kept here. I furnish you a list of the most prominent. The 8 and 10 frame Langstroth hive most generally in use. We have a pretty good location.

Respectfully yours,

D. R. PHELPS.

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Harrowsmith, Ont., June 22, 1892.

A. D. ELLINGWOOD;

Dear Sir:— Sample copy of the *Apiarist* received and am pleased with it. Enclosed find 15¢ for six months subscription. In the April number in your editorials you invite subscribers to write you their ideas in regard to what can be done to make the *Apiarist* more interesting and instructive. In reply to your suggestion I would say, why not devote some of your columns to the interest of beekeepers handling the box hive? While the modern system of handling frames is the most popular, and likely to always remain so, still I think both styles have their own special advantages and disadvantages. Many apiarians having years of experience with the box hive and other business interests demanding their time and attention are not inclined to master the fine art of successful bee-keeping by the manipulating of frames.

Others may prefer them from other reasons, one thing is certain they still have their admirers, and their interests do not receive the attention they do in the *Bee Journals* to day. In the May number of the *Bee-Keeper's Review* in the editorial column appears the following note. W. C. Frazier, so he writes me, thinks that a wholly new system of apiculture could be invented, differing entirely from the present system as regards hives

manipulation and wintering. He says "this bee business has been once around the circle and we are now about back to box hives." I would like to hear the views of others on this subject.

WILMOT SIGSWORTH.

### Prefers the Italians.

Mr. A. D. Ellingwood,

Groveton, N. H.

Dear Sir;—I beg to acknowledge receipt of sample copy of *The White Mountain Apiarist*, and in evidence of my appreciation of same, I herewith enclose postal note for fifty cents, in payment of subscription for one year.

I bought my first colony of bees in July, 1891. At the opening of the orange blossom season, in March 1892, I had eight colonies. I took over five hundred lbs. of the finest honey I ever tasted, besides increasing my stock at present count to 27 colonies, besides several nucleus hives for queen rearing. How is this for an amateur? My bees are mostly Italians and I intend to Italianize them all. I like them best for their gentleness, their beauty, their ability to protect themselves from the moth worm, besides their honey-gathering qualities. I have been successful in transferring, dividing, rearing Queens, introducing cells cut from other frames, introducing queens, changing queens, etc. I work with my bees mostly without smoke open hive, take out frames, examine, catch the queen and her retinue for caging, with seldom a sting. I use a deeper hive than the Langstroth, thick top-bars, and fixed distances. My hive is 12 in. deep, 12 in. wide, and 13 $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long. It holds 8 frames, with room for follower, and the supers hold 18 section boxes, regular size. This in

my opinion is the hive for the South, furnishing sufficient room for brood-rearing, and dispensing with surplus room for winter-stores that are not needed in this mild climate. Of course it can be enlarged to ten frames if desired. Its advantage is the depth. The shallow hive is bound to go, in the process of time. It is too cold in winter, and too hot in summer. It breaks the natural circle of the brood, forcing it to flatten out, against the top and bottom bars, and this interference with natural law, must produce some loss of economic force. I believe further that the Queen is more apt to go above from these shallow frames. But I think I have said enough for a beginner, perhaps too much. Old bee men will no doubt smile at what they will term my conceit, but who can tell in the next score of years how many old theories will yield to the new.

Yours truly,

James K. Duke

### Introducing Queens.

BY PROF. C. L. STRICKLAND.

As the season is close at hand when the introducing of queens is practiced more or less, I will give my plan of doing the job.

When I have a colony which I wish to requeen, I go to said colony and hunt out the queen about three days before I expect the new comer. At the expiration of seventy-two hours I reopen the hive (if the new queen is at hand), carefully go over every frame, and destroy every sign of a queen cell. After this, I take the new queen in the same cage she came in; if the cage contains plenty of candy in the feed chamber, all right; if not, put more in. Place the cage on top of the brood frames, with the wire side up. Re-

member to leave the cork in the feed end of cage, for the first twenty-four hours. Then gently left the hive cover; if the bees are seen gently moving around and over the cage, pull out the cork and in twenty-four hours more you can calculate that her majesty is at or very near liberty.

I have yet to lose a queen by this plan. Of course there are times and conditions that influence the bees, when the introducing of a queen would be a critical task. You should know by experience when the conditions exist naturally, and take advantage of them, or substitute the conditions artificially if your queen should be of great value. There are many ways to do this work of giving new queens, but every one's plan will not work with everyone else. If any one has a better and surer plan, please let me hear of it through the *Apiarist*, that prince of little bee journals. Among the many journals of apiculture, there is not one that gives me more delight while it lasts than that little pink covered gem, sensible and practical, first and last. Long may it live.

Peabody, Kan.

### A Call on H. C. Farnum.

BY A. D. FREEMAN.

The reader can imagine my surprise while passing through a place known as Transit Bridge, to see a sign out bearing the name of H. C. Farnum, and immediately calling to mind the H. C. Farnum of the *Apiarist* I stopped to inquire of the whereof of the firm. I saw a young man about twenty-two or twenty-three years, about six feet tall, with light hair and blue eyes, a good natured "chap" who I took to be the clerk. I inquired for Mr. Farnum. He politely referred to

himself, and inquired my business. "My business, sir," said I, "is to see Mr. Farnum, and insist on seeing him at once." His reply was, "I am the only Farnum to my knowledge who has H. C. attached to his name, and if you have any business to do with him you will have to do it with me."

I soon had my horse hitched and we were looking at supplies and bees and talking every moment. I found Mr. Farnum to be a very jolly sort of "lad" and well posted in bee business. I also learned that he was just married, but to my great disappointment his wife had gone home on a short visit, so I did not have the pleasure of meeting her.

Mr. Farnum [is in a very good location for bees, as there are not many in the immediate neighborhood; it is also a good place for the mercantile business, as it is about three miles from Angelica and four or five miles from Belfast.

Marsh, N. Y.

### The Carniolans not Robbers.

BY M—.

From what I have read in books and papers I conclude that robbing is one of the great trials incident to the bee-keeper. Before I saw a honey-bee, while I was studying up the subject in the pages of "A. B. C.," I regarded Mr. Root's remarks and cautions with something akin to fear and trembling.

"After the season begins to fail you may expect that every colony in your apiary will be tried." "If this is true," thought I, "bee-keeping must be beset with difficulties." But I determined to accept his advice, use every precaution against it, and then go on, not troubling trouble until it should trouble me.



I bought my Carniolans and went to work with them, and I must say with sincerity that after four years experience I have seen but one instance of robbing, and then I thoughtlessly placed the temptation before them.

One warm day in May I put some combs containing honey in an empty hive, and carefully closed the entrance. Two or three hours later I went that way, and my attention was attracted by unusually loud humming and activity. To my dismay I found that the cover of that particular hive had not been put on as it should have been. I had left it so that there was an opening, perhaps half an inch wide, on one side, and through this the bees were passing in and out, and carrying off the prize I had carelessly placed in their reach. To stop the fun was only the work of a minute, but I had further reason to regret my carelessness before the day was over.

In another hive the bees had nearly all died; but it had a good queen, and I decided to leave them there, and let them build up. Well, of course, that little fraction of a colony was attacked and "cleaned out" without delay. I felt nervous and apprehensive.

"What next?" Was my question. "If they will, they *will*, and that is the end of it." I felt myself powerless to remedy the evil.

How anxiously I watched them during the days that followed. How many times I imagined there was an unusual number of bees passing in and out of some hive, and certainly robbing it. I sprinkled flour on them and watched until I saw where they went. I took off covers and peered in, to satisfy myself that no honey had been stolen. But time passed and there was really nothing to assure me that my fears were well founded. The most delightful peace reigned in my little apiary.

That was the only "robbing scare" I ever had, and during my four years with bees I have certainly violated all the laws of precaution which I at first so carefully respected. I have always opened my hives, fed them, or done any kind of work inside, at all times of the day, and all seasons of the year. Often, when the honey season was entirely over, I had small colonies which were raising a queen. Sometimes colonies were for some time queenless. It did not matter. "Those blessed bees," one and all, went about their own particular business, without one thought, apparently, of what was going on in the homes of their neighbors. No envy, no covetousness. I credited them, as Byron did his faithful dog, with possessing "all the virtues of man, with none of his vices."

Windsor, Vt.

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### Advantages of the Movable Frame Hive, Compared with the Old Box Hive.

BY G. W. DEMAREE.

Honey bees were handled in box hives for thousands of years by the more intelligent men of the ages without acquiring any practical knowledge of their natural history and habits. A few persevering naturalists by dissecting the brood nests of bees gained some interesting knowledge of the natural history of bees, but the knowledge thus obtained was not sufficiently practical to be put to any practical purpose in their management. But after all the years of the ages, and but a little more than a quarter of a century ago, the Rev. L. L. Langstroth introduced his movable comb system, thereby making it possible to examine the internal working

of the home of the bees. Men's eyes were opened and all things were made plain to them, and the economy of the bee's nest became an "open book."

The writer of this article kept bees in the best form of box hives for many years before he ever saw inside of a normal working bee's nest, and well do I remember the light that broke into my mind when I first began to manipulate the movable frames of combs of a strong colony of bees. In a short time I learned to know the queen and to discover her functions—the proud mother of a commonwealth—worthy to be called a "queen." The drones or male bees became familiar, and their office was discovered. The worker bees—diminished females,—the brood from the eggs to the imago or adult bees in all their stages of development and growth became familiarized to my expanding mind. It was the opening of a new natural world to my now stimulated thirst for knowledge. What an argument in favor of the utility of the movable frame hive! It had done for me in way of knowledge, in a short time, what years had not accomplished.

Some bee-keepers advance the idea that they can make bees profitable in box hives as well as in movable frame hives; that is, they can produce comb honey over or on top of box hives. We may admit this, if the box hive is made to suit properly made section cases, as a mere matter of storing honey cannot differ much. Bee-hives do not gather honey; the bees must do this. The movable frame hive is made for the convenience of the apiarist, not exclusively for the bees. The person who would change from his box hives to the movable frame hives under the impression that his bees would gather more honey, has not caught the true idea of bee culture. The movable frame hive is superior to the box

hive because you can manipulate the frames in any necessary way; the latter you cannot. If I take honey with the honey extractor, I must have the combs in frames so I can manipulate the combs. Sometimes hives become queenless; I want a hive that I can open and look through it and find out the condition of the bees. Sometimes I want to take brood from strong colonies to strengthen weak ones, and I must have movable frames to accomplish this. Frequently one colony of bees has more honey than is necessary to winter them, while another is deficient in stores; the movable frame enables me to help out one colony by taking stores from another colony that has a surplus. With the best box hive we must simply guess at the condition of our bees; but with the movable frame hive, which admits of the thorough overhauling of our bees when we are in doubt about their condition, we can handle our bees intelligently and feel that deep interest in the pursuit that is peculiarly necessary to success in bee culture. Some occupations may, and do grind out money like a "treadmill," but bee culture is not one of them. Nothing less than a deep interest in bees will make an apiarist. The movable frame hive is essentially necessary to awaken this necessary interest.

The Lox hive system recorded a failure for thousands of years; the Langstroth system of movable frames has recorded a success in a quarter of a century. What a contrast! Let any intelligent man transfer his bees from his box hives to movable frame hives and then use his intelligence, and he will exclaim that "the half has not been told" him.

Christiansburg, Ky.

*American Bee-Keeper.*

## Management of Bees in the Spring.

BY I. L. SCOFIELD.

We have chosen for our subject, spring management of bees, and how to produce a crop of honey for the market. In working for comb honey, we must have plenty of bees in the hive when the honey season arrives, or a failure is almost certain, as those reared when the season is drawing to a close, will be consumers instead of producers.

But how shall we secure the bees? is frequently asked. The best way that we know of, after years of trial of nearly all the plans which have been recommended, is the following: When pollen becomes plenty, say, May 5 to 10, in this locality, we go to each hive, and if the bees will bear spreading a little more, or, in other words, if there appears to be more bees than are needed to cover the brood they already have on a cool morning, we take a frame of honey from the outside of the cluster and break the cappings by passing a knife flatwise over the comb, and place the comb in the center of the brood-nest.

In ten or twelve days we go over them again in the same way, always seeing that they have all the honey and bees that are needed to increase the brood to the greatest possible extent, and so we keep on doing until settled warm weather comes in June, when we go over them every four or five days, putting one frame in the center each time. If we find that the queen will fill this frame every four or five days, besides keeping all daily vacated by maturing broods, we stop.

By June 15 every available cell should be filled with brood, and the hive full of bees, if we are to expect

the best results from our field. By this time white clover is out in full bloom, and all the honey boxes should be on. A noted bee-keeper once remarked: "Set the bees out, and they will get the honey if there is any to be had." A more truthful sentence was never uttered. "Keep an eye to business, and do things at the right time if you wish success."

If we wait about putting on the honey boxes when our bees have arrived at the condition we have supposed them to be in on June 15, as many do, thinking that the putting on of the honey boxes retards swarming, and there should be but a few days of honey yield, we would get nothing. A day lost in the honey-flow cannot be recovered. It is no unusual thing to secure from six to ten pounds of comb honey from a colony per day, if the flow of honey is good, the weather right, and the hive is full of brood and bees, as I have said before.

Now, we will suppose that instead of working, as given above, we will let our bees take care of themselves, leaving weak colonies unprotected, and if any bees have died during the winter, we leave their stores for the other bees to carry away. After carrying off this, they will be apt to rob our weak colonies, and thus those which survive will have their combs full of honey instead of brood.

Two much stores in May and early June will just as surely spoil a colony for comb-honey, as it will keep their brood in check all the spring. There is no such thing as having the combs full of honey during the forepart of the season, and then having boxes filled with clover honey, for where would the bees come from to gather the honey?

We must never allow the bees to get in advance of the queen, for if we do the prosperity of the colony is

checked at the time. Honey cannot be obtained without bees. The ten Langstroth frames which we use in a hive during June give from 45,000 to 50,000 working bees every 21 days, and a queen that is good for anything, worked on the plan given in this article, will keep the frames filled with brood, after they are once full, until the honey season begins to draw to a close, provided the honey boxes are put on at the proper time.

If a hive contains 5,000 bees on April 10, with ten pounds of honey, they are what we call a good colony. With a young and prolific queen, managed on the above plan, if the season is right so there is honey in the flowers, we can expect a crop of comb honey. Thus, it will be seen, it is bees we want in our hives the forepart of the season, not honey.

If, by the process given, our bees should run short of honey, of course we must feed them, and money thus spent in feeding will return a large interest, if the season is anything like favorable. Honey is the best thing we know of to feed.

We often hear it said, if the bees cannot get a living after the first flowers come, they can die. No greater folly could possibly exist.—*Read at Farmers' Institute.*

Whitney's Point, N. Y.

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### Getting Bees to Work in the Sections.

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BY DR. C. C. MILLER.

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The following questions came from H. Hine, of Sedan, Ind.:

What is the reason that bees will not store honey in the surplus boxes (which were put on new), when swarms will fill the brood-frames in

less than three weeks? What can I do to build up a weak colony at this time of the year?

In reply, I would say that as long as there is plenty of room in the brood-chamber, bees do not care much to go off some distance from what is really their home, to store the provision that they expect to use in the brood-chamber.

You may, however, hold out sufficient inducement to get them to work in the surplus apartment much sooner than they otherwise would do so. If you put a bit of drone-brood, or even worker, in the surplus apartment, the bees will promptly go up to care for it, and then if they do not store surplus there, you may be pretty sure they have no surplus to store.

Generally it will be sufficient to put into the super a section that has been fully or partly worked out into comb, such sections being often left over from the previous year. After you have succeeded in getting one colony to working in the super, you will find it works very nicely to take partly-filled sections from the super where the bees are at work, bees and all, and put it in the super of a balky colony. See how soon they will go to work; always provided that they need the room to store.

There is no little difference in colonies about commencing work in the supers. Some will fill their supers nicely, leaving abundance of empty cells in the brood-combs while they are at work in the supers, while others will leave the supers unoccupied, and cram the brood-combs full, and build burr-combs in all directions.

To build up a weak colony at this time of the year requires no great skill. If they can get enough stores from the field to build upon, they only ask to be let alone. Possibly, how-

ever, you want to know how to make them build up faster. Well, you can give them help from the stronger colonies. But do not make the mistake of thinking that you can take from the strong and give to the weak, and thus increase your crop of honey, if that crop comes from anything as early as clover or linden. Better, in that case, take from the weak and give to the strong.

But if you want to have more colonies to work on a late crop, or if your object is to multiply colonies, without regard to the honey crop, then you may do well to help the weaklings. You may do it either by giving them young bees or brood.

Shake the bees off of a frame (or several frames) in front of a hive to be strengthened, and all bees young enough will remain with the colony where they are shaken.

On the whole, it may be more satisfactory to strengthen them with brood. Take from the strong colony a frame of brood which is nearly all sealed, and give to the weak one, but be sure that they have bees enough to care for it. When the weather is hot, a very few bees will care for several combs, for if the brood is all sealed, it will take care of itself pretty much. Look out for cold nights, though, and have all tucked up warm.—*American Bee Journal*.

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### What to do in May.

BY ASSISTANT.

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To the northern bee-keeper May is one of the anxious months as well as one of the busiest. The most important item, is to be sure that the bees have an *abundance* of honey as its equivalent. Don't think them

safe if they had pretty far enough last week. Remember that they use a great deal every day in May and they must have it or brood rearing will cease, and this means loss of workers for the honey harvest. *Don't* weaken the best colonies by taking brood from them to help build up the weak ones. It is far better to take the *brood* from those that have but two or three frames and give it to those classed as medium. Thus instead of keeping three grades, you will have but two, those strong, and nuclei.

It matters not what your object is, be it increase or honey, you will get better results by this plan, than by trying to keep all average and thus have none strong. This is the month in which to clip the queens' wings, if you practice that method, and I believe it to be by far the best. I prefer to handle the queen only by the wings; and to clip the lace part of the right wing diagonally. If the queen cannot be found by looking over twice, I close the entrance with a drone trap, or piece of perforated metal, queen excluding, and shake the bees all out in front. You will then easily find the queen trapped outside. Now is the time to put in foundation, and get every thing *ready* for swarming and the honey crop. Level the hives, clean the yard, hives and everything that should be done before swarming time. If you wish to tangle combs and bees from box to movable frame hives this is the month to do it, but I don't think it is the right way, I prefer the "Heddon plan."

I believe this is the best month in which to move bees; and in moving them I would use a moving box made on purpose for the work, although if you have only a few to move perhaps this would not be best, or rather cheapest. The frames must be fastened

securely. The item about Manum's "Leather Colored Queens," makes me think that you have never tried any of them. They are *pure Italian* and Mr. E. R. Root said when visiting Mr. Manum, "that his bees were like those which they had in their yard, bred from imported queens. Mr. Manum has spent much time in selecting and breeding his queens and I know that he has a superior strain of bees.

I have worked yards with no others and in yards of blacks and light colored Italians, or albinos, and I know whereof I write, when I say that I prefer the "leather colored" ones first but would take blacks rather than the light colored Italians, for honey gathering.

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### Washington Letter.

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WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL DURING THE MONTH, FOR THE FARMER, STOCK-RAISER, ETC.)

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The prediction made a month ago by the Weather Bureau that the Mississippi River would undergo a rapid and dangerous rise has been only too well verified, as our southern friends will acknowledge. The Bureau is not, however, responsible for the backward spring, whose injuries commenced in the partial ruination of the Vermont maple sugar crop, has had its bad effects all over the country, and at this writing is reported as having killed fully a half of the California grape crop. Let us hope and even pray for warmer and clearer weather in the near future.

The approaching campaign very strongly flavors everything done in Congress, and the result is that agricultural interests have suffered to some extent. Bills have been intro-

duced to provide for the refunding of taxes collected on raw cotton in event that the Supreme Court holds that the laws providing for such collection are unconstitutional; to extend to Alaska the benefits of laws encouraging agricultural interests elsewhere in this country; to establish a Government farm for raising Angora goats; to provide for an experimental forestry tree-culture reserve; and to authorize the House Ways and Means Committee to place all grades of sugar and agricultural implements on the free list. The tobacco men have petitioned for a repeal of the free leaf tobacco provision in the present tariff law, and from every quarter of the land come petitions for the encouragement of silk culture.

The binding twine bill which has passed the House puts on the free list "all binding twine manufactured in whole or in part fromistle Tampico fibre, jute, manilla, sisal grass, or sunn." This bill has not yet passed the Senate; and it is now thought that another measure will be presented which will include sugar with binding twine, so that, when it has passed the House, the Senate will be constrained to act favorably upon it. The Silver question which is occupying the minds of our Statesmen does not usually interest the farmer, although Congressmen are endeavoring so to word resolutions presented as to cater to the farmer vote next fall. For instance, Senator Call has introduced a resolution creating a "special committee of nine to consider and report to the Senate some legislation that will relieve the scarcity of money amongst the farmers in all parts of the country," and "whether it is not practicable to establish some agency, depository, subtreasury, or banking system, by which, with Government aid, money shall be kept in every community

within the need of the people, at low rates of interest," or "to devise some system by which the perpetual flow of money from all parts of the country to the business centers shall be limited and restrained." Another curious proposition is as follows: It proposes to take "nineteen specified articles raised on the farm, with brick, lead, pig iron, coal, copper, pork, and beef, jumble them together at current New York market quotations to make \$30 worth, divide the whole into 30 parts, and call each part a composite dollar."

### First Swarm of the Season.

May 14, 1892.

Friend Ellingwood:—

First swarm of the season came off this morning, and in answer to a telephone message I went home at noon and succeeded in getting them nicely into a new hive which I put on the old stand removing the parent hive to a new stand.

I looked over combs in old hive and can safely say that I never before saw such a fine lot of young brood, the hive being completely full of it in all stages. This is the hive that has the queen I got from you, and they have got considerable honey from cherry and maple bloom. The whole place here is a mass of flowers, apple trees are in full bloom, and fields are yellow with dandelion blossoms.

My black bees have built up to eight frames and think I shall have them in fine condition before clover bloom. I have not had to feed any this season although I had two old frames with some honey in that I set out for them to clear up.

Respectfully,

A. A. Brigg.

BEES GO SEVEN MILES TO PASTURE.

I live in the center of what is called the "Cross Timbers," Texas, a belt of timber that runs across Texas. Now, where I live it is about five miles on either side to the prairie.

I was the first one to get the yellow-banded bees in this part of the country, and, in fact, the only one; and the first year I got them I happened to be about two miles out on the prairie, where the horsemint was in bloom. On looking, I found it was covered with bees, and, to my surprise, I found about half of them were of the yellow-banded race.

It caused me to watch them, thinking I should find that some of my neighbors had the improved races of bees, but not so. By watching carefully I noticed that they would rise high in the air and make a direct line for my house.

I asked nearly all of my neighbors between there and here if they knew of any one who had the improved races of bees, and they said they did not, but that they knew that no one had them but myself. On this occasion my Italians must have flown seven miles for forage.—L. B. SMITH, in *Gleanings*.

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