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Vol. 2, No. 5.

The WESTERN BEE JOURNAL



MARCH

PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE
INTEREST OF THE
BEEKEEPERS.

1905

P. F. ADELSBACH,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
KINGSBURG, CALIFORNIA

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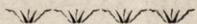
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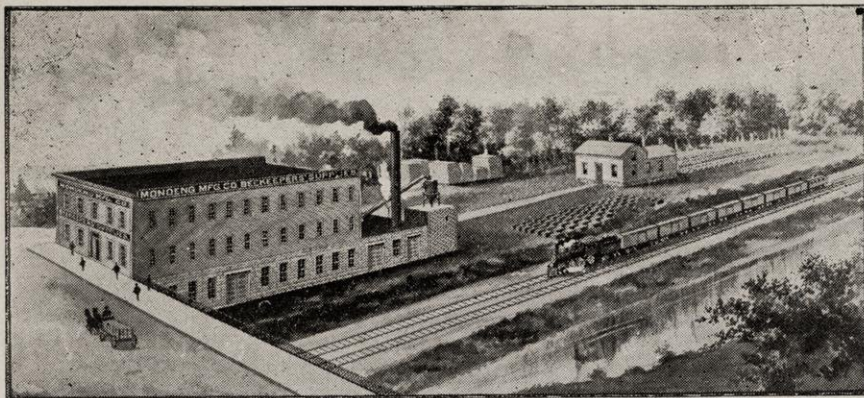
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Published Monthly in the Interest of Bee Keepers.

VOL. 2.

KINGSBURG, CAL., MARCH 1905.

No 5.

Bees On Stands.

BY E. J. ATCHLEY, BEEVILLE, TEX.

There has been quite a lot of discussion lately along the line of putting bees up on stands, or allowing them to sit on the ground, in south Texas. When I first came to south Texas, about ten years ago, I decided that bees placed right on the ground was best, and I set out my apiaries, and placed the bottom boards flat on the ground, and for a few seasons I still thought it the very best thing to do; but, when a rainy season came along and rotted all the bottom boards I thought I would allow my hives to sit right on the ground without bottom boards, and they would do as well. This was also all right till Mr. Skunk found out that my hives were without bottoms, and under he went and ate many colonies, and those that were not killed outright were so reduced that they did not give much returns. Now, what was to be done? I went to work and prepared stands for the hives, by placing down blocks about eighteen inches long, and on these 1x3 boards, nailed down fast to the blocks, and two rows of blocks, and two scantlings, stayed with cross connections, and the blocks four feet apart. I set hives right over each pair of blocks, and face one hive one

way and the next the other, in long rows, or as long as my natural shades would allow.

This made a distance of eight feet between entrances which were facing the same direction, and gave room enough to work the bees with ease, as one can sit on the railings of the stands and work between the hives all right. By this arrangement I find that during a heavy honey flow there are some bees that fall to the ground, and have to rest before they can reach the alighting board, and time is lost, but I do not think that this is as much loss as having the hives robbed by skunks, toads, frogs, coons, and other pests, then to take into consideration the saving of the bottom boards, and the ease of access to the hives by the operator, as it takes no stooping and the supers are up nearer a level, and the lifting is less labor. We may be able to overcome in a large measure the loss of time by bees falling to the ground by placing on shingles or some light material for extra alighting boards, which would not cost much nor be in the way, and I will try it this season and think I will do away with the heavy loaded bees dropping down. Of course I would not like to argue that my hive stands are the best, but I have given the plan and my reasons as a sug-

gestion, and I will keep my Texas bees up on stands until I find something better. During dry seasons bottom boards will stay as sound placed on the ground as if hives were on stands, but when the rains do come our hive bottoms rot very fast, as it seems that there is a small wood louse that eats them up as soon as the wood becomes soft from moisture. Another good point about having hives on stands, and that is, during wet seasons the weeds grow very fast here, and it takes great labor to keep them down, and this would certainly be a job where one keeps several yards. The hives up twenty inches above ground, the weeds seldom get above the entrances, and if they do, in exceptional cases, the tops can be pinched off with the hand at one grab, and the time hardly missed.

There have been many kinds of stands pointed out, through the bee papers from time to time, but of course any kind of stands that would keep the hives up above the easy reach of pests would be good, such as common empty goods boxes, or stands made of comparatively worn out lumber about the place, or of any cheap material, would answer the purpose. I do not like hives on low stands, such as bricks, boards, or any thing that only elevates the hives a few inches, even if this did preserve the bottoms, as the dangerous snakes that are found so thick here in springtime can coil up so snugly out of sight and bite the operator without notice. I have found large rattlers many times coiled up under hives that were on low stands.

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About Foundations.

OTTO LUHDORFF, VISALIA, CAL.

The Columbus foundation, made of metal and invented by Julius Steigel, of Austria, was not a success.

Now L. Dreifuss of Manheim, Germany, has patented a foundation made of gelatine, hardened with formaldehyde. It is said the bees accept it readily. It will be tried extensively this year. But why use such material, as long as we have good beeswax, which fills the bill perfectly?

About four years ago there were many cases of poisoning by arsenic in England. Investigations proved that a certain beer, used mostly in that country, contained the poison, and that the same originated from the glucose used in the manufacture of the beer. The *Revue Eclectique*, which brings this article, says: "Do not buy any cheap honey, which in many cases is only a mixture of honey and glucose. If you want good honey go to a reliable bee man."

Dr. Garetti, who keeps his bees in Oncino (Piemont), some 3500 feet above the ocean, reports in the *Agricoltore* that he can keep his honey liquid by filling it in cans or glass jars and exposing it in a solar extractor to the sun's rays for five or six days.

The honey keeps well and does not lose any aroma. The extractors are provided with a reflector which develops a temperature of 180 to 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

Some beekeepers in Germany are now using hives made of paper, and claim that they are warmer than those made of wood, and keep the inside dryer.

Bees An Orchard Adjunct.

(This address was made by Legh. R. Freeman, editor northwest Farm and Home, at the Yakima County Horticultural Institute, Jan. 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th.)

The Washington State Beekeepers' Association assigned to me the task of addressing you on the subject of Bees in the Orchard and the Proper Time to Cut Alfalfa.

I imagine there is not a fruitgrower in the house who is not fully aware of the great benefits to be derived by the presence of the bees in the orchard. Ofttimes when the weather is unpropitious, and especially when prevailing winds blow from one direction, not more than half the blossoms will be fertilized if the bees are absent. I have heard from the lips of Professor Van Dieman, the predecessor of Col. Brackett, the present chief pomologist of the Government, that where a forty-acre orchard of Ben Davis apples was planted at a distance of several miles from any other varieties of apples, the trees bore no crop. Not all the varieties of our apples, pears and other fruits are double-sexed, and it is not safe to rely upon the wind and insects, other than the bee, to cross pollenize.

No orchardist should ever for a moment think of planting an orchard without first placing an apiary in one corner of that orchard, and have it within a separate enclosure so as to prevent such livestock as he may find it advantageous to place in the orchard, from interfering with the hives.

The honey, fruit and poultry business should always go together. I went through the orchard of Lord

Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada, which is situated at the head of Okanogan Lake, B. C. It is said to be the best orchard in Canada. It is situated at an altitude of 2500 feet above the sea and is irrigated from Coldstream Creek. It is cultivated as clean as a hopyard. He keeps 500 Barred Plymouth Rock chickens in the orchard in portable houses, the wheels being made from blocks sawed off the end of a log. He considers the chickens invaluable, as they destroy the harmful insects. As the ground is continually cultivated up to July the 25th, the chickens get access to the bugs and worms so necessary for egg production.

He prizes his apiary very highly, not only for the honey yield, but for the benefits derived by the bees fertilizing the blossoms.

There are only one or two men in the New Northwest who understand how to properly prepare the honey for the market. One of these men is Mr. Pennington, Ontario, Oregon, who candies his honey and then cuts it into bricks of ten pounds each and ships it to Portland in carloads. To serve it at the table it is cut with a knife and applied to the bread as we do butter. In shipping it, the carton enclosing the brick is a beautiful wrapper of light tinted paper with appropriate printing in gold. It is paraffine paper. This makes a dainty package of nature's sweets that catches the eye of every person and makes it sell like hot cakes and at a fancy price, too. This method is supplanting the old way of marketing comb honey in pound sections or in liquid form from the extractor; and there is no suspicion of adulteration, as is

the case with liquid honey. All pure honey candies quickly as cold weather comes on. On a recent trip through Idaho I noticed that all the comb honey on the market sold readily at 25 cents per pound, and some of our local honey producers who are shipping to Montana know that it commands that price in that state. At the mouth of Lawyer Canyon of the Clearwater, Idaho, is the apiary of James Carlisle, comprising fifty colonies, which give him a net yield of 100 pounds per hive. This is sold at his door without taking it to market at all, at 25 cents per pound, which gives him a gain of \$1250 almost as cheaply as if he had found it; for the skilled apiarist gives his bees but little attention at any time except during the hot season of a few weeks, when he goes through to cut out queen cells to prevent swarming and when he uses his extractor. He uses a ten-frame Langstroth simplicity hive and never takes any honey from the lower story, which always insures an ample supply during the winter. Bees consume no honey during the winter in a climate where it is steadily cold. This I have ascertained by weighing the hives in the fall and again in the spring. There would be a slight diminution in weight, which is accounted for by evaporation and by the death of bees, for bees are always dying as is the case with any other animal. In a climate where the cold weather is uniform a bee hibernates as much as does a hornet or wasp.

Ten years ago I organized the Bee Keepers' Association of the State of Washington, with headquarters at North Yakima. Rev. John P. Berg

was elected president and myself secretary. Ever since that time we have undertaken to keep in touch with all the apiarists of this state and with those of the neighboring states through our department of Orchard and Bees maintained in Northwest Farm and Home.

At the last state fair a meeting was held and since that time we have held monthly meetings at our office and at the city hall. The present president of the association is Jessie W. Thornton and the secretary is Mrs. Ben J. Cole, who with her husband and his father keep nearly one thousand colonies in Yakima county, scattered from the Wenas to Toppenish. At the January meeting an important bill was drafted and presented to our legislators for the protection and encouragement of the industry. I was made chairman of the committee to secure space and make an exhibit of honey, bees, and the by-products of the apiary at the Portland exposition. We expect to enlist the services of an artist in creating wax figures of beeswax, modeled after mythological characters, and especially those used in the Grange, such as Flora, Ceres, and Pomona. We shall maintain a booth at which honey will be served with hot waffles and in other ways most tempting to the taste, to all the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the world's fair.

We shall distribute literature showing the food value of honey as compared with butter, sugar, eggs, beefsteak, peas, beans, etc., and it will be our aim to give the industry such a boom as it has never before had. Most of the people of the world

are not honey eaters. Only a little while ago most of the population of the globe had never tasted of a good apple, but since the Apple Eaters' League of America has insisted that apples shall be kept on every public table, and that members of the league will not eat at any hotel or restaurant where the Ben Davis is kept; and through the influence of such unions as those at Hood river and Yakima, and the work of the State and Northwestern Horticultural Associations, we have so increased the demand for apples that the market is now worldwide; and any local union that proceeds by the methods in vogue at Hood River, nets from \$1 to \$2 per box for Spitzenbergs and Newtowns, even to the ends of the earth.

But you must remember that a perfect apple cannot be produced without the aid of the honey bee in cross-pollenizing the bloom.

We propose to make honey worth more than butter, as its food value is greater, the flavor is more palatable, and its medicinal properties are a cure and a preventive of many kinds of disease; and in order to do this, we shall not only make the exhibit at Portland and distribute the literature to people from all parts of the world, but the members of the Association will do as the members of the apple league do, in making our demands. We shall call for honey and hot cakes at every public house, and insist that no member of our association will patronize any hotel or restaurant where hot cakes are served with the common syrups of today, which are corn starch boiled in sulphuric acid. Glucose syrups are doubtless one of the causes of appendicitis.

On the 8th, 9th, and 10th of next month the Washington State Beekeepers' Association will hold a three days' session in this city, ending in a farmers' dinner at twelve o'clock noon, and at that meal honey will be served in many tempting forms. We not only want to see all of the bee-keepers of this state in attendance, but we desire to especially invit all the bridegrooms to bring with them their new queens and spend their honeymoons right here.

Now as to the proper time to cut alfalfa. The experiment stations of Utah and Colorado have sent us bulletins showing a gain of nearly one-half in the feed value of that plant if cut after it is in full bloom.

Of course the stalks should not be allowed to harden, nor the bloom remain too long. If the farmers of Yakima valley would cut their alfalfa when it is in full bloom, they would not only find that the feed value is nearly one-half more than if cut earlier, but they will get hundreds of tons of honey, and they will do the greatest kindness to the bee, which is the best friend of the fruit-grower.

Allow me to suggest that it will rebound greatly to your interests for every fruit grower to constitute himself a committee of one to educate his neighbors to a proper understanding of the necessity of allowing alfalfa to come into full bloom before harvesting. Any one who has any doubts upon this question should write to the directors of the experiment stations at Fort Collins, Colorado, and Logan, Utah, for the bulletins issued, treating on this matter. After carefully reading the series of experiments made, we are satisfied that the doubt will be

fully convinced.

An erroneous impression seems to have obtained in Yakima county, by reason of the local papers having reported that no one could become a member of the Washington State Beekeepers' Association, unless he owned twenty-five colonies. I desire to say that article 4 of the Constitution prescribes that on application and payment of \$1 and on a two-thirds vote of the association anyone interested in beekeeping may become a member.

Every member is supplied with a copy of the constitution and by-laws; and further I will add that all who make applications will be welcome. The associations has monthly meetings in the City Hall; and no farmers institute has ever been held in this state which is more heartily enjoyed and where the discussions are more generally participated in by the plain common people, than are the monthly beekeepers meetings.

Orchardists, remember that the apiary is the most valuable adjunct of your business. Let us fruitgrowers and beekeepers work together in harmony as one band of brothers.

At the Lewis & Clark Exposition we want to see a grand display of the products of the bee. We suggest that persons of ingenuity be employed to study what kind of statuary may be created of bees wax, such as the figures found in mythology and those represented in the Grange, as for instance Pomona and Ceres. It might be appreciated to have a life-size of Martha Washington expatiating on the merits of honey and accompanying it with a legend, telling the Father of his Country of the food and medicinal values of pure honey. It should be re-

membered that honey is the most complete article of human food and that it is a corrective of many ailments. A lesson of great benefit may be taught at that exposition which will redound a hundred fold to the interests of the apiarists and to mankind generally. Abundant literature should be handed out to all comers, giving information on these subjects and soeducating the masses to the importance of this article of diet, that it will come into common use by universal demand and supplant the cheap and unwholesome acid-glucose adulterations known as cheap syrups. We should have elaborate displays of bees at work in many kinds of glass cases and in the old fashioned straw hives as well as in the bee gums of our fathers prior to the invention of the Langstroth simplicity hive. We suggest that a booth be provided at which hot cakes and honey, waffles and honey, and other such delicious dishes shall be served at a nominal cost to the great throng that will be attracted to the bee and honey exhibit. We ask on the part of the apiarists of the Pacific Coast that the Exposition management shall take especial pains to secure complete exhibits from California as well as from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia. We believe that such such a display will prove to be one of the most attractive drawing cards for the complete success of the exposition. Had the children of Israil crossed the Rockies in their pilgrimage in search of the land "flowing with milk and honey" they would have found here on the Pacific Coast the quintessence of their ideal.— Northwest Farm and Home.

American Honey Bee.

Not many years ago the imported Italian honey bee was an absolute necessity to the progressive honey producer of America and thousands of the yellow insects found ready sale in all parts of the country. Today the finest queen bees produced in the world can be purchased from many breeders in the United States, excelling in beauty strength and prolificness their ancestors which were reared in Italy. Many of the old school bee keepers are inclined to doubt the value of the Italian bee, but such belong to that great body of non-progressive people, who are satisfied with any kind of stock. A pure strain of bees is as valuable to the honey producer as the best of poultry and cattle are to the farmer. The time is not distant when the yellow Italian bee will be the "American bee," so successful has its introduction become. Larger and stronger, more aggressive and vigorous, she forces her tongue into the flowers the smaller and weaker black bee cannot penetrate.

Why so few people are interested in the mysteries of the hive is indeed a mystery. In every household should be found some good standard book treating on the honey bee. In every backyard should be found a few hives, not any old soap-box, but the best hive to be obtained and the best Italian queen should be mistress of the household. Besides the pleasure to be derived from a study of this little worker, she is a dividend producer. There is no city so densely populated that bees may not successfully be owned, and in smaller towns a shade from a grapevine or shrub makes an

excellent spot for a bee city. The hive has well been compared to a city with fifty to seventy thousand workers, its solitary queen as despot and ruler, its bevy of noisy, lazy loafers, the drones, and the myriad of imperfectly developed female workers, in this colony. The subdivision of labor among the different ages of the workers, the care of the young by the nurses, the building of the comb, the gathering of honey by some, of pollen by others, the production of the queen or drone from a worker egg—changing the sex by changing the feed—her growth to maturity, her mating, which is consummated in the air, her return to the hive, the destruction of her rivals, should any exist, her supremacy established, her ceaseless production of eggs—thousands a day—and final departure with the newly hatched young the following season. Do you not think the American honey bee is an interesting subject to investigate?—Farm and Floral World.

Colorado's Honey Production.

The Colorado State Bee Keepers' Association met in Denver recently. The meetings were presided over by James P. Harris, of Grand Junction, one of the most widely known bee experts in the country. Among the reports that were read was one showing that during the past year 2,000,000 pounds of honey were produced in the state. The total production for the United States was about 25,000,-

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Size of The Hive.

The question as to what is the best size of the hive to use brought out considerable discussion and differences of opinion at the Ontario bee keepers' convention. Some of the bee keepers favored an eight-frame hive and others favored hives of a larger number of frames, one bee keeper saying that he had just used a thirty-six frame hive and had his largest yields from it. The twelve-frame Langstroth hive was commended as a splendid honey hive, good for extracting honey. Another said that the eight-frame Langstroth had been the standard recommended by bee keepers' journals and bee supply men. A bee keeper of twenty-seven years' standing said that he had used an old-fashioned hive equal to an eleven-frame Langstroth, and if he were to change he would add one or two more frames.

A considerable number of bee keepers agreed with the man who said he believed that there was a rapid change in the direction of using a larger hive and that in five years a large percentage of large hives would be used. A man who had been in the business for over forty years said he favored the deep hive. "I like plenty of room, plenty of air at the bottom, coolness in the top, and a good broad chamber," he said. Another emphasized the fact that it was just as possible to have a large brood chamber in a small as a large hive.

One argument of the men who favored the small hive plan was that in the too large hive there would be a difficulty in getting much ripe honey. An apiarist who said that he had

eight, nine and some twelve, but was going to put the twelve out of business, said he could take more honey with the nine than with the twelve, and could get better profit in the way he managed and worked it. Another man thought that he should have several thousands of pounds less honey if he had larger hives, because his clover honey would not ripen.

The question of swarming was taken up and an advocate of the larger hives said he did not believe that a twelve-frame hive retarded swarming. In regard to extracting supers, he said that he would not put on two at once, not putting on a second until the first was at least two-thirds full. One man who had eight different styles of hives in the same yard, said that he thought that when bees got the swarming impulse they would swarm as quickly out of one as out of another, but he would sooner lift away an eight-frame than a sixteen-frame hive. And the next speaker said, "I think this is a question largely depending on the size of the colony of bees, the size of the man who manages the bees, and the size of the locality. They will swarm, other conditions being satisfactory. They will not swarm if conditions are favorable to their storing honey." Others said give plenty of room before they get the notion of swarming, plenty of room at the top and air at the bottom, and do not let them get ahead of you.—Farm and Floral World.

Subscribe for the Western Bee Journal—the only apicultural publication in the West. Sent a year for \$1.

From a Government Report.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Frank Benton, of Washington, D. C., in charge of apiculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture, we have received a copy of the report of the entomologist for 1904. This report is very interesting, and we herewith give space to some important items taken from the report. The first article that strikes us as worthy of special mention deals with the work in bee culture, and we clip the following from the report:

A great increase in correspondence on all topics relating to apiculture so far occupied the time of the single investigator in this line that original investigations had to be limited. This correspondence covered nearly every phase of the subject, and came from all parts of the country, indicating a very general increase in the interest in this branch, and often required special letters of some length to elucidate the information needed. Frequent assistance was rendered teachers connected with the public schools and normal institutes where the natural history of the honey bee and in some instances elementary instruction in the general methods of bee management, formed a part of the course. Advice was also given in some instances to agricultural colleges contemplating the institution of special courses in apiculture.

A small number of choice queens of the Cyprio-Carniolan cross, which has proven such an excellent one for the arid regions of the south and west, were sent out. The extremely dry season in southern California has given a severe test of the remarkable

energy shown in honey collecting by all crosses containing Cyprian blood; and while it has been necessary in many apiaries, in order to prevent starvation of the colonies, to feed a large proportion of the Italians and hybrids which are chiefly kept in that part of the country, reports have been sent in showing that 30 to 40 pounds of honey per colony have been found in the same apiaries in hives whose queens were largely of Cyprian blood. The comparative test between the Caucasians and other types of bees, including Cyprians, Carniolans, Italians, and various crosses between these types themselves, and also with accidental matings with black drones, has been continued. The conclusion was reached that the Caucasian race was by far the gentlest honey bee that has ever been brought to this country. Every manipulation necessary in the apiary can be performed with Caucasian colonies without the use of the bee veil, and only in rare instances has it been necessary to apply smoke to control them. Very small quantities were then employed. Under nearly all circumstances it would almost be believed by all observers that these bees were stingless. The test regarding their honey-producing qualities has not been as conclusive, as the past year was, in general, a poor one in this region. However, in so far as the comparisons extended, it was found that they held their own in honey gathering by the side of the Carniolan race, although not equalling in this respect the Cyprian crosses mentioned above.

The revival in various newspapers of stories relating to the manufacture and marketing of comb honey has call-

ed for repeated denials and a plain statement of the absurdity of the whole matter, as well as the great injury it was working in the apiarian industry of the country. The newspapers and other publications which had inadvertently been led to publish these inaccuracies have nearly always been very ready, upon a proper presentation of the case, to insert a correction. Particular attention has been drawn to the fact that it would cost far more, by any process whatever, to produce a wax, or imitation wax, comb, fill it with honey, or any mixture designed to resemble honey, and then seal it over ready for the market than it would to maintain and care for an apiary of the required number of colonies to produce through the agency of the bees themselves the same quantity of natural honey. This shows at once the absurdity of the claim that the greater part, or any part, of the comb honey on the market is an artificially manufactured product. This showing has also been followed by a statement of the fact that a reputable firm has for twenty years offered to forfeit \$1000 to any person who could produce artificially an imitation of comb honey which would deceive any person when compared with combs that are filled and sealed by the bees themselves.

Early in the fiscal year the apicultural investigator visited the arid regions of the southwest, making an extended inspection of apiaries over the whole of southern California, and further investigations in the central and northern parts of the state with a somewhat cursory view of the conditions of the industry in Oregon, Washington and Montana. The conclu-

sions resulting from this tour were to the effect that the introduction of various types of bees adapted in each instance to the respective climate and peculiarities of these regions, together with the introduction of certain honey plants from other portions of the world, which from similarity of climate, etc., would be certain to thrive in the portion of the country visited, would result in a very important increase in the honey production of the west. The execution of this work is therefore advisable in the near future.

What is Honey?

The American Bee Journal has been sending out questions bearing on bee culture, and among them was one calling for a correct and concise definition of honey. We append herewith a few of the answers received and published. It is interesting to note the various ways in which the question is answered, and also to note that all are practically of the same kind.

Wm. McEvoy (Ont.)—I don't know.

Jas. A. Stone (Ill.)—The best of all sweets.

S. T. Pettet (Ontario)—Nectar of flowers gathered by bees.

First the flowers and then the bees
No honey on earth except through these.

C. H. Dibbern (Ill.)—Nectar gathered by bees from the flowers.

R. C. Aikin (Colo.)—Vegetable and similar sweets gathered by bees.

N. E. France (Wis.)—Nectar of flowers and plants, gathered by bees and stored in honey comb.

Adrian Getaz (Tenn.)—The sweets from natural sources gathered and elaborated by the bees.

O. O. Poppleton (Fla.)—The nectar of flowers after having been gathered and manipulated by honey-bees.

Prof. A. J. Cook (Calif.)—A reducing sugar in solution stored in comb by the honey bee. This is the only possible definition. No one can know where the bee secures the nectar, which is changed by the bees to honey.

G. M. Doolittle (N. Y.)—Honey is the product of the bee from the saccharine matter as gathered from natural sources.

Dr. J. H. P. Brown (Ga.)—I would define honey: A saccharine matter secreted by flowers, gathered and manipulated by bees.

L. Stachelhausen (Tex.)—Honey is a saccharine matter of natural source gathered, modified and stored in the comb by honey bees.

Rev. M. Mahin (Ind.)—A sweet, thick fluid manufactured mainly from the nectar of flowers by the bees and deposited in waxen comb-cells usually in hives.

C. Davenport (Minn.)—Certainly nectar gathered by bees from flowers and plants. Perhaps it should be broader than this, and include any sweet liquid gathered by bees from flowers, plants and trees.

Arthur C. Miller (R. L.)—The nectar of flowers, converted, thickened and stored by the bees. Possibly it might be well to add "sealed," as often unsealed honey is little more than raw nectar.

Eugene Secor (Iowa)—A sweet, watery fluid gathered by bees from various natural sources, chiefly from the nectaries of flowers, deposited by them in honey-comb cells, and ripened to the proper consistency.

P. H. Elwood (N. Y.)—Honey is that saccharine part of vegetation

stored by the honey bee—principally the nectar of flowers, with the large portion of the cane-sugar changed to grape sugar in the process of storage.

R. L. Taylor (Mich.)—Honey is a saccharine, viscid substance, made by bees, by evaporation and other manipulations, from sweetish liquids already gathered from different sources, but chiefly from the nectaries of flowers.

G. W. Demaree (Ky.)—Honey is the nectar of flowers (vegetable bloom) gathered, stored and evaporated to proper consistency by honey bees. All "scientific" talk about digested nectar" is undigested delusion, as I have proven to my own satisfaction by practical experiment.

Morgan Bros. (S. Dak.)—1. Nectar from flowers gathered by honey bees, manipulated by them, and stored in their combs and sealed. 2. A sweet liquid substance gathered from the blooms of plants by bees, manipulated by them only, and stored in combs and sealed as its final treatment.

C. P. Dadant (Ill.)—I hold that the only true way to look at this matter is from the standpoint of the honey-producer who harvests what the bees gather. Nothing fed artificially to bees can be properly called honey, unless it was honey when fed. But of the crops harvested naturally by the bee, we should be very careful to reject anything, even if it is of low quality.

Mrs. J. M. Null (Mo.)—Did not Dr. Miller, on page 89, offer to receive "sealed proposals for a satisfactory definition"? Why not unburden the problem upon his shoulders? more especially as he is considered authority, and since he has offered about all there is to offer, what right have we to show up our frailties? I must confess those words "correct, concise and comprehensive," just about corner me. How would "concentrated sweetness" do?

Jas. A. Green (Colo.)—Honey is he liquid gathered by bees from natural sources and stored in their combs. This may not be narrow enough to suit the chemist, but the bee-keeper cannot afford to have the line drawn any closer. If honey containing honey-dew, fruit-juices and the extra-floral secretions of plants is declared impure, there is not a bee-keeper in the land who might not at some time be brought before a court of justice on the charge of selling adulterated honey.

E. E. Hasty (Ohio)—A delicious, edible sweet, from flowers and other natural sources, gathered and elaborated by bees. This wording shuts off all unedible, poisonous and ill-tasting stuffs, even though bees were guilty of collecting them. It also cuts off the sweets resulting from feeding except when the substance fed is honey to begin with. It "splits the difference" on honey-dew, letting in the good and shutting out the bad. It would be better to let in everything that can claim to be honey than to try to rule out any pleasant tasting sweets that bees gather without feeding. A wrong definition of this kind would make us all evil-doers and law-breakers in spite of ourselves.

E. S. Lovesy (Utah)—Honey is a nectar gathered by the bees from the flowers, and the only thing that will produce nectar in the flowers is atmospheric conditions. Through the action of the dews this nectar becomes a watery substance, though sweet, and the honey-bee is so created that the liquid passes through what is known as the tongue into the stomach of the bee, where it is digested. Then it passes into the honey-sac and is carried to the hive and deposited in the cell, where it goes through the process of evaporation and is thoroughly ripened, after which it is hermetically sealed by the bees. In this state it will keep for an indefinite period.

Western Bee Journal.

Entered as second-class matter January 9, 1905, at the post office at Kingsburg, Cal., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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
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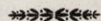
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A-Head of Shook-Swarming

The March Review is now in course of preparation and will be out about the middle of the month. One article in this issue will be by H. G. Sibbald, of Canada, and he will describe a new system of management that promises to be away ahead of shook-swarming. It has these advantages: No shaking of the bees; no handling of the brood; no possibility of the queen being in the wrong hive; no danger of after-swarming; no increase unless desired (but easy to secure if wanted); no queen cells to hunt up and destroy; yet the whole force of bees may be kept together the whole season, and each

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This is only a single article in one issue of the Review, but it is a fair sample of the information that you are losing if you don't read the Review, and of what you will gain if you do read it. Send \$1.00 for the Review for 1905; or, if you prefer, sends ten cents, and when the March issue is out, a copy will be sent you, and the ten cents may apply on any subscription sent in during the year.

W. Z. HUCHINSON, Flint, Michigan

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