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The bee world. Vol. I, No. 5 July, 1891

Waynesburg, PA: Vandruff, W.S., July, 1891

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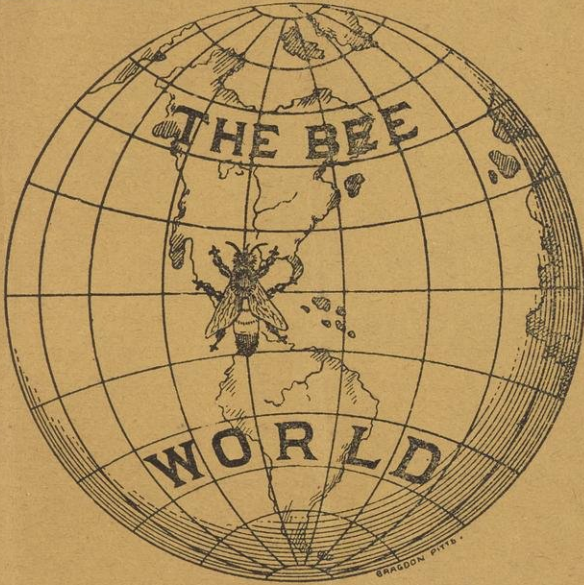
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JULY, 1891.

THE BEE



WORLD.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
W. S. VANDRUFF,
WAYNESBURG, PA.

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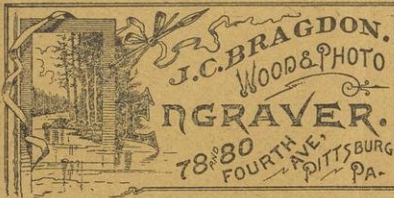
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All reared from imported stock. Warranted. 75cts. Tested \$1 each.

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The Bee World.

VOL. I.

WAYNESBURG, PA., JULY, 1891.

No. 5.

Texas or Southern Department.

Conducted by Mrs. Jennie Atchley.

AS NOW is extracting time, a few dots might help some readers of the BEE WORLD. Some large honey producers keep all the honey a colony gathers, on the hive till harvest is over and then extract. But it don't pay me to do so, as it is too much honey and space for the bees to look after; and more bees have got to stay at home to occupy these fille combs when they should be in the fields gathering honey. Then robbers bother some after harvest, and too much uncapping is to do. And then last but not least, if I am going to raise comb honey I will raise it and not be at the trouble of Extracting, and get a better price.

How to get bees off extracting combs: First get some Shucks and tear them in shreds or strips, then make you a handle about 6 or 8 inches long—notch and flatten one end and put enough of the shucks on to make a broom, and you have one of the best bee brushes extant at a little cost. It don't hurt the bees nor make them mad like those made from feathers and the like. Now lift out combs till the queen is found and put her by safely, then lift comb after comb brushing all bees off into the hive, and if your hive contains 8 frames, take 6 only, and leave two that has the most brood in them in the hive placing the queen back, or empty combs in their place, now you have

a start, and when you get through, give the six combs to your weakest colonies. Now this is for extracting out of the lower story or brood chamber. You need not look after the queen, if you take from the upper only, unless there is a brood in the frames. I most always commence extracting when my combs are about one-third capped over.

KEEPING QUEENS BELOW.—I see so much of late, about queen-excluders and so on. I want my queens to go where they please; and if a queen only keeps one story filled with brood she is very common; and if she can occupy two stories she is a good one; if three, she is very good; if four, she is extra indeed and is worth fifty dollars; and if the brood is not where I want it I simply put it there. Some may say, "Oh, this is too much 'fussing' with bees," but I am here to tell you that, if you expect to keep bees without "fussing" with them, as some call it, and you are depending on the bees for a living, you will soon be "fussing" for bread and butter: For what works today in the apiary may not work tomorrow.

In the South it pays better to raise extracted honey, for it is easier to keep here and less expense to get to market in good shape.

Bees are booming here on horse-mint now, they seem to be going hog wild, and if we do not use extractors, they would soon crowd the queen out of house and home. I can hang in a sheet of foundation in the center of the brood nest and tomorrow night it is drawn out fill-

ed with honey, even if they have a half dozen upper stories above them. So our plan is to take the honey from any part of the hives when there is a surplus, and run the bees for all they are worth, and make them as profitable as possible.

Some are asking if I can send bees by the pound through the mails. Why! bless goodness, No! There is no live thing allowed to go through the mails except a queen bee and a very few attendants, a dozen or so. Bees by the pound go by express, only.

Friends give us your support and help us with our Southern department. Let's review bee-keeping in Texas: There are tons of honey going to waste for want of bees to gather it.

Farmersville, Texas.

THE PORTER SPRING BEE-ESCAPE

Is a simple, durable and inexpensive device, which, when fitted in a suitable board and placed between the surplus apartment and the

Size of body $\frac{23}{4}$ in. long, 1 3/32 in. wide, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep



The bees pass out between the two delicate springs which partially closing behind them prevent their return

brood chambers of a hive of bees, cutting off all means of exit from this apartment except through the escape, permits the bees to pass

down through it into the brood chamber easily and rapidly, but prevents their return, thus reducing the labor of harvesting the surplus honey on the hive at any time to merely that required in adjusting the escape-board and removing the honey after the bees have passed out, and dispensing entirely with that most disagreeable and vexatious of all work known to the apiary—getting bees out of supers of honey by the old methods when robbers abound. Besides these advantages, the honey is at all times secured in perfect condition, its delicate flavor being untainted by smoke and the beautiful cappings uninjured by the gnawing of the bees.

NO EXPERIMENT.

The Porter is not an untried escape. It was invented early in 1890, and through the whole of the season was put to the severest tests, in comparison with all other kinds of escapes by actual use in a number of large apiaries, and proved itself far superior to all others and equal to every practical and reasonable demand. It not only frees the super of bees quicker than any other, getting out every one, but absolutely prevents their return, no matter how long before the super is taken from the hive. It does not become clogged with dead bees and requires only a bee space under the escape-board, a large number of which when not in use thus occupying but little storage room. Wherever tried it is universally commended.

DIRECTIONS. READ CAREFULLY.

The escape-board should be made from $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{8}$ inch lumber, the former being preferable, of the size of the top of the brood chamber or super and provided with a suitable

bee-space or half bee-spaces formed by nailing strips about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch wide and of proper thickness around the board and even with its edges, so that when on the hive there will be a bee-space both above and below it. The hole to receive the escape should be in the center of the board, made by boring two $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch holes $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from center to center and cutting out the wood remaining between them. One escape to the board is sufficient.

When the surplus honey is ready to be taken from the hive, at any time of day when convenient, raise up the super, bees, honey and all, glance the escape-board, with escape in place, on the brood chamber or super if one remains on the hive or has been put on after removing the first, and place the super taken from the hive on the escape-board. If this is done early in the forenoon and there is no brood or queen in the super, ordinarily in five or six hours, frequently much sooner, the bees will be practically all out, or done late in the afternoon, by 8 or 9 o'clock the next morning. If there is brood in the super, a few bees will remain clustered on it for some time, but if they have a queen with them, which very rarely occurs, even though queen excluders are not used, a large proportion of the bees will usually stay with her and she must either be removed or some other means of getting them out resorted to.

Owing to the varied dispositions of the bees of different colonies, under the same conditions, there is a great difference in the length of time occupied by them in passing from the super and with the bees of the same colony, the time of the day, the state of the weather, the presence or absence of a honey flow all have their influence to vary this

time. As a rule they pass out most rapidly when all conditions are such that they are naturally the most active.

Should it be desired to get the bees out of the super as quickly as possible, part of them may be smoked down before applying the escape, and the few remaining will pass out much sooner than if all were left in.

On excessively hot days care should be taken not to have the supers from which the bees are escaping exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

If it is ever found necessary to clean the escape, drop it into boiling water or pour boiling water through it.

FOR THE BEE WORLD.

WHAT I HAVE OBSERVED. ETC

BY T. K. MASSIE.

The box hive brethren "rob" their bees in June or early part of July. The head is then nailed on tight and daubed around with mortar. The bees also go "chinking" up the cracks and crevices on the inside with propolis, so that by the time cold weather comes on the hives are just about air-tight and upward ventilation is an impossibility. The sealing of propolis is not broken in the fall to remove pollen or for any other purpose. The bees, as previously stated, come out strong and healthy in the spring. From these facts I have drawn the conclusion that the pollen theory and upward ventilation cut no figure in the winter problem in my locality. It may be said that the box hives have a larger entrance, and therefore more ventilation at the bottom. True; but this is easy to remedy, and, it seems to me Dr. Tinker is a long step in advance in

this respect by his arrangement for ventilating his hives through the bottom of his winter case.

Now if we place a thin board down solid on the top bars of our brood frames early enough in the fall for the bees to glue up the crevices and thus prevent all air currents from passing up through our hives we again get even with our box hive brethren, and where we prevent all radiation of heat by placing a cushion on top this board, the same as we do the sides; and, further, in spring and early summer when we give our bees just the ventilation required by raising this board we are another *long step* ahead of them. This board should be thin so that it will warm through quickly when we remove the cushion and let the sun's rays strike it. It is just as good, or better, absorbent of moisture as the Hill's device or sticks and chaff cushion.

It may be claimed that we must use the device or sticks to give our bees a winter passage *over* the top bars of our frames. This is a great mistake. For the last two winters my nearest neighbor has successfully wintered his bees with no other protection than the enameled sheet. This winter (just passed) he wintered a number of colonies in a single simplicity brood chamber with enameled sheet glued down tight to top bars, with no winter passage unless caused by burr combs, and protected from the weather by a simplicity cover—*nothing else*. A few days since I was talking with friend L. L. Hearn, the originator, introducer and noted breeder of the celebrated "Golden 5 Banded Italians," and in speaking of his heavy losses this winter, incidentally mentioned a weak colony, which last July, had an unprolific queen.

He destroyed the queen, gave them a queen cell, and placed an enameled sheet over them and left them. In packing his bees for winter he placed burlap over them (but neglected to put any chaff on them), except this one hive which was overlooked, and left all winter with no protection other than the enameled cloth. Twenty-five packed as above died—every one of them. In overhauling his bees in March this one was again overlooked. About the first week in April he discovered bees working in this hive and was "surprised" to find on examination, that this hive was strong with bees and had plenty of honey. Here was a hive that wintered well with no protection, which friend H. expressed as "something strange." The facts prove to my mind that bees winter better when upward ventilation is prevented, and that passages *over* top bars is not a mistake. They should have a passage way but it should be *through* the top bars, not over them; and with frames made thus, the device loose sticks, etc., are a nuisance. But when hot summer days come, and the bees in box hives, sealed air-tight as above stated, begin to "lay out" in large clusters our box hive brethren are placed at a great disadvantage. This "laying out" is taken as a "sign" of swarming, but after a week or more when the cluster increases to a good sized swarm, not even going in on account of rain, the "notion" is taken that the bees are "too rich to swarm." The head is pried off and the bees "robbed." After the "robbing" the bees go to the inside and resume their work. Then the owner "knowed" his "notion" was right. "There was so much honey in that 'gum' that the 'king' drove the bees out so the drones

could have a chance to lay eggs." So far as it relates to being "too rich" to swarm, this "notion," in some cases and to some extent, may have been true, as too much honey in the combs would curtail the egg laying privilege of the queen, because of want of room, but I have drawn the conclusion that this is seldom the case, and in *all cases* the foul stagnant air in the hive was so stifling to the poor bees that they were forced to the outside to get a "fresh breath," and to keep the brood from being smothered, and when the head was taken off the sealing of propolis was broken so the air currents could pass up through the hive, giving sufficient ventilation as to enable the bees to return inside and go to work.
Concord Church, W. Va.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

BEE NOTES.

See that your colonies have good queens. This is a good month to supercede inferior queens.

It is not advisable to form new colonies after Aug. 1. Make them up in July and furnish each with a good queen and the bees will winter well.

Remove surplus honey from the hives as soon as well capped. This will preserve its snow-white color. The longer it is left on the hive the darker it will be, as the bees find some way to discolor the capping.

The only sure way to prevent loss of swarms is to keep a drone and queen trap on the hive during the warm months. There cannot be any objection to doing this as the trap does not in the least interfere with the working of the colony.

Then again, the trap destroys the useless drones and there is a saving of stores to the colony.

When bees swarm out of season it is generally caused by superseding the queen. If there is trouble with the queen the bees commence to construct cells and when capped usually a swarm issues with the old queen. In some cases the young queen as soon as she hatches is allowed to destroy the old one, when no swarm will issue.

Bees sometimes are forced to swarm by the heat. After the honey harvest the hives should have a large entrance and shaded. The large entrance is the best prevention of swarming and furnishes the best ventilation. There is not the least danger of any large colony being robbed by having a large entrance. Robbing does not usually happen in an apiary that is not much meddled with.—*Am. Api.*

CROP REPORT.

I have taken over 4,000 pounds of honey from 65 colonies of bees since March 12, and there is about 1,000 pounds more ready to be taken, 900 pounds is comb-honey, in large frames, which sells readily here at 10 cents per pound. I am selling extracted honey at 6 cents per pound.

P. W. McEATRIDGE.

Ontario, Calif., June 9, 1891.

—A. B. J.

SPECIAL OFFER.—All receiving a sample copy of this No. that will send me one new subscriber, with 50cts., I will send them the BEE WORLD one year free. If you are already a subscriber I will advance your subscription a year ahead.

THE BEE WORLD comes to you this month in a new dress, both in color and make-up, and with its pages enlarged.

The Bee World.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

W. S. VANDRUFF, *Editor and Proprietor*

TERMS—50 cents a year in advance; two copies for 90 cents; three for \$1.30; five for \$2.00.

WAYNESBURG, PENN'A., JULY 1891.

Entered as second-class matter at the Waynesburg Pa., Post Office.

EDITORIAL.

READ T. K. Massie's excellent article to be found in this issue. It is full of good points, and is striking at the root of some of our old theories and notions, in a way that makes it look as if the foundation would soon tumble. He is making some good points for single-walled hives. His bringing to notice the loss of L. L. Hearne's bees in the large chaff packed double-walled hives, induces me to speak again of my "hobby," that "the strain of bees has more to do with the winter problem than anything else." My experience has been much the same. I have had bees to die in chaff hives, when bees in thin hives, only $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, in the same apiary wintered splendid. But at the same time I do not lay it all to the hive in either case, for I have had bees to winter well in chaff hives and die in thin ones. This led me to the conclusion that it must be in the strain of bees; and after years of testing all the different strains to be found, I have become thoroughly convinc-

ed that I am right. I have taken great pains to examine the markings of the many different strains of bees that I have tried, and I almost invariably find that those that winter well are quite different marked from those that do not winter well. This led me to discard certain strains of bees and adopt those that prove to have superior wintering qualities. I find that they have particular markings, and unless these are known and understood by the queen-breeder, and adhered to such a breeder, will soon have bees that will not winter well. With these points in view I have an "Ideal bee" that I am breeding for with certain well defined markings that I have named the American Italian. The word "Italian Bees," have no meaning any more, for they are of all imaginable shades of color, with no fixed characteristics whatever; and we hear of all kinds of qualities being claimed for them, both good and bad. I expect my American Italian to be a type of bees having certain markings and characteristics, differing from ordinary Italian—a strain or type that has a meaning.

THE BEE WORLD for June was not published. Owing to a rush of work at the printing office where I am getting my paper printed, I failed to get out the June number. This I think will not occur again, as I have purchased type and will hereafter set up the matter myself, and get the printer to do the press work.

This will enable me to be out on time hereafter. Now the next thing I want is a printing press, and then the BEE WORLD will be a "home made" journal. Now let's see how many will help me to get a press by sending in their subscription. If all who receives a sample copy of this number will subscribe it will enable me to get one, and a good one, too. Now who will be first.

Two bee papers for the price of one. All receiving a sample copy of this number of the BEE WORLD can have the *White Mountain Apirist* and the BEE WORLD both one year for only fifty cents. If you are already a subscriber to either, get a subscriber for it and get the other free. This is a good chance to get a good bee paper free. Send now.

THE Porter Bee escape, illustrated elsewhere, is giving satisfaction according to reports given in the Journals. Its construction is very plain and simple, and is no complicated piece of machinery, and will no doubt do its work well.

SAMPLE of a drone and queen trap have been received from Mr. John Spittsnagle, of Brock, Pa. He claims an improvement in this trap over the Alley trap. He has applied for a patent.

DON'T fail to take advantage of the offer made elsewhere, of two fifty cent monthly Bee Papers for the price of one—you get one free.

THE Intermountain Horticulturist has been changed from a monthly to a quarterly, and the price reduced from fifty cents to twenty-five cents a year.

A COPY of "Advanced Bee Culture," by W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich., price 50cts., is at hand. I will give it a more extended notice in next issue.

MY new type is a little larger than the type used in this number. It will be easily read and not hard on the eyes.

ALL subscriptions and advertisements will be advanced one month account of the June No. not being published.

THE bee season in this part of bee-dom has been rather unfavorable, the honey crop will be light.

SHOW a sample copy of THE BEE WORLD to your bee-keeping friends.

A LOOK OVER THE APICULTURAL FIELD.

The next thing that confronted my attention, was the so-called Italians with "four and five bands." If any man has experimented long and carefully in this direction the writer of this article can claim more. I have given years to this study and I here say without fear of contradiction, that no *four* or *five* banded Italians was ever seen in this or any other country previous to the importation of the banded Cyprians. By giving the Italians a dash of the Cyprian blood I produced five banded bees of golden beauty, by the end of the second season I had

handled them. Four or five banded bees can be produced in this way, and they are splendid both for exquisite beauty and honey gathering qualities. But it is hardly fair to sell them as Italians. No man can take an imported Italian queen free from Cyprian blood and "evolute" her progeny into four and five banded bees in a life time. It can't be done where there is any fixedness in the blood of the race. But once you begin to cross two races "sporting" is to be expected, you then breed in from the "sports" to breed by selection toward a type you have fixed in your mind, and by patient perseverance you may accomplish your purpose. But there is no such thing as four and five banded Italians, those persons who claim to have pure Italians with four and five clear cut yellow bands could not swear to the purity of their foundation stock.

In the very nature of the case it would require a very elastic state of mind to bring one to the point of swearing to a thing that must necessarily be a thing of doubt. When there are at least five races—German, Italian, Cyprian, Syrian and Carniolan bees scattered over the country, how is one to know beyond a reasonable doubt, that his bees are not *mixed* in blood. It is well known by the constant readers of the bee periodicals that I have been a strong advocate of the light colored type of Italians, and I still adhere to the opinion that they are superior to the more impure dark types. But four and five banded bees are not pure Italian. Pure Italians should have but three yellow bands whether light or dark in color. This has been the standard in the past and it requires more than one or two breeders to alter a fixed standard that has

been well-established for years. I do not object to *new* types of bees, I am in favor of progress, and the development of new types of bees, and have not been idle in the wild field of experiment myself, but I object to calling things by a wrong name. To detect Cyprian blood in bees, look at the underside of the abdomens of the workers, if there is Cyprian blood present, some of the individual bees will show clear yellow under the abdomen without the characteristic dark veins present in pure Italian bees.

Pure Italians have leather colored abdomens on the underside, marked with dark veins tracing the segments, while pure Cyprians show the clear yellow on the underside of the abdomen with but little trace of the dark veins. If the two races are crossed or but slightly mixed, some individual bees will show up like Italians and others like Cyprian when this test is applied.—G. W. Demaree in "C. B. K."

BEES AS WOMEN'S WORK.

MRS. L. C. AXTELL.

Almost every farmer's wife makes it a point to raise chickens and have eggs to sell, which she generally claims as her money. Seldom a man is found who is so penurious as to ask her for her chicken and egg money. Now if she only knew it, it would pay her just as well to have a few colonies of bees and devote a small portion of her time to their care, as they never require care in bad weather as chickens do. For this reason bee work is more a recreation than otherwise, and suitable for light work for the invalid, whether man, woman or child, provided they do not have too many and too much other work to look after. If the queens' wings are

clipped or Alley swarm hives are placed in front of the hives that the swarm may not go off, so she is not obliged to watch for swarms or to leave her dinner cooking on the stove to hive swarms, then the work can be done at her leisure, in the cool of the morning or evening, or any time she prefers except in bad weather; but it is not so with chickens. If there comes on an unusual wet spell of weather we always have to be out more or less to look after the chickens, even when half grown, every day regular, for weeks, we have to be out early and late to feed and water them and to cover them up tight from rats, skunks and minks. While a half dozen colonies of bees almost every year would give an equal amount of cash for product sold with half the labor, but it is the fear of the stings more than the labor that deters people from keeping bees, I suppose it is that which keeps the industry from being over-done and the country from being overstocked, but as it is, there are tons and tons of honey evaporated in the air and wasted every year. I have heard it said that each acre of white clover would produce more pounds of honey than pounds of butter made by the cow kept on that acre. One need not be deterred from keeping bees by their stings now, because we have learned to keep a gentle race of bees, and if handled right, will attempt to sting but little and we can clothe in such a way they cannot touch us if need be, but after a person works with bees for a while they generally learn not to fear bees more than a fighting setting hen, in the care of both bees and poultry. More money could be made if the person would read books and papers and acquaint herself with the habits of the bees or

chickens, not go to work haphazard or depend on what this or that neighbor says, but read and get the experience of those who have made the industry a success. Especially must one improve themselves about bees, for if we go contrary to their instinct we injure them. We only need to give them a chance to let them do their best for us and then let them alone.—*Missouri B. K.*

FOR THE BEE WORLD.

HOW A WOMAN BEGAN BEE KEEPING.

No. 2.

After studying the bee-business through the winter it seemed to me as though spring and warm weather would never come so anxious was I to try my new found knowledge.

In April when the bees began to carry pollen I undertook a task I had never ventured to try before, viz: to thoroughly explore the interior of the hive. To be sure I had often looked into the hive and taken out a frame or two from the outside, but that was all as the bees were cross and generally managed to get in a sting or two before I got any farther, which drove me away and marked me for at least a week to come.

Now with face and hands well protected, a smoker, and a bottle of laudanum to apply to stings in case I should get any, I went at them and went through the hive from one side to the other and although the bees made a terrible fuss, they didn't drive me away this time. It was not till after a good many such examinations had been made that I finally succeeded in getting sight of a queen.

I found after I had smoked and handled them a few times that they were not so cross and had regard enough for me to remain at a res-

pectful distance when I had the smoker in my hands at least.

The question now was how to prevent them from swarming and getting away from me. In May I found in one of the hives queen cells started, so I watched them till they were about ready to be capped and then divided the swarm. None of the methods described in my books seemed to be just fitted to my wants for the reason that I could not find the queen just whenever I wanted to, therefore I tried a plan of my own at which old bee-keepers would doubtless smile but which was successful, nevertheless.

Placing a vacant hive on the stand beside the one containing the swarm I wished to divide, I took the frames out one at a time, brushing all the bees back into the hive, and then placed the frames in the vacant hive.

One frame which had brood, but no queen cells, I left in the old hive and placed a frame of empty comb beside it, then moved the hive to a new place.

I divided them just after noon and by night all the old bees were back to the old stand in the new hive which contained the queen cells and the queen and young bees were in the old hive on the stand. Any one who has had like experience can judge how anxiously I watched them and how pleased I was when the queen-cell hatched and in due time the queen commenced to lay and I could say that my experiment was a success. The other swarm was divided in like manner and later in the season each of the swarms having the old queens I divided again thus making six swarms in all. Two swarms I traded for two hives making me four swarms and five hives. The

two new swarms I got from the first division went to work in sections and when in September I brought in the two cases well filled with fine white honey, for one who has a particularly sweet tooth, two of them I sometimes think, opened his eyes big and wide and said—perhaps I better not tell just what he said after all but it wasn't any thing about chicken coops.

The next time I'll tell you something about my experience introducing queens. MAY MAPLE.

For the BEE WORLD.

Instructions to the Beginners of Bee Culture.

BY M. H. DEWITT.

The honey season usually closes with this month. Buckwheat, Asters and all other fall flowers generally afford good pasturage for the bees after this date, but they cannot depended upon for surplus honey. Then all the surplus honey should be removed, for it will not improve by leaving it on the hive; but on the contrary it becomes colored by the bees passing over it. The longer it remains the more yellow it becomes. The honey should be graded as it is taken from the hives, and all that is not finished or is not salable should be extracted. If a fall crop is anticipated the empty combs and foundation may be replaced, but the clover and baswood honey should be kept separate from the fall honey, as they are quite different in quality, and mixed honey is not very salable. Even if no fall honey is expected, the comb foundation should be put on the hive after the honey is taken off, as the bees will draw it out and there will be so much done for another season. In storing your honey away put it in a dry, warm place, for in a cold place it will candy and if damp it will sour. Bees often

swarm in this month after the honey season is nearly over. Such swarms should be put on a full set of combs and fed later in the fall. If you have no combs put them on foundation and feed them as early as they need it. Late natural swarms may be put back into the parent hive after remaining in a separate one for a few days, and they will usually stay.

BEE NOTES.

Don't jar the bees while you are working with them, work quietly and keep cool.

Avoid weak swarms, as they gather but little honey and breed slowly.

Decayed elm makes the very best smoke you can get.

If you are at all timid, wear rubber gloves and a bee veil when you are handling your bees, always use some smoke or smoke them at the entrance before opening the hive, do not open a hive without smoking them, if you do you will ruin the disposition of your bees and make them unusually cross.

Never disturb your bees on a cold day.

It pays to have an extractor and use it, if you own but ten hives of bees.

There is more profit with less labor in 300 hives of bees than in 160 acres of land, but you should know what to do and do it in time.

All bees will become robbers, if tempted with exposed sweets in times of scarcity.

It has always been a mystery to me why professional men who have considerable leisure, and especially those who have the time and live in rather adverse circumstances, do

not occupy their spare moments in the pursuit of bee culture. I am anxious to do all in my power to increase the interest in the "busy little bee." I believe the bee should be given a more prominent place on every farm and on every yard. A more healthful, interesting occupation does not exist; and managed rightly there is money in it.

Bee-keeping requires a knowledge of small items without which ordinary results only obtained. The work is well adapted to the ladies; in fact a large number of our most successful bee-keepers are ladies; the exercise in the open air cannot be valued too highly; and having the table supplied with the delicious nectar is by no means a small item.

People in poor health will find the pursuit especially valuable.

Students, teachers, clerks, ministers, operatives and farmers can all keep bees with profit.

Sunny Side, Garrett Co., Md.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CAGING QUEENS.

BY J. E. THRUSHER.

Having, last year, the care of a small out-apiary, the owner Mr. Fox Turner, wishing to guard against swarming, thought it would be an excellent plan to cage the queens and persuaded me into doing so. Well, we succeeded admirably as none of the colonies swarmed at all. (?) But one thing we found out was, that we got no surplus honey from the colonies with the caged queens. I do not believe it is a good idea to cage the queen, for the bees will build queen-cells below if you put the queen in the surplus boxes above as we did ours, and although our colonies did not swarm, it does not appear that cag-

ing the queen would prove a very great safeguard against it. I think the reason we got no honey was because the bees filled the broad frames with it as fast as the young bees hatched out, the added room from day to day just about keeping pace with the nectar gathering capacity of the bees. Then bees whose queen is caged act a great deal like a queenless colony, a majority loafing around the entrance most of the time, and never having their full force in the fields. When the queen is allowed to keep the brood combs filled with eggs there is not room below for the honey, and the bees are forced to put it in the sections, just where we want it. I may as well remark now that I shall cage no queens this year. Clipping the queen's wings to prevent their running off with the swarm is very much practiced by many apiarists, but for my part I hate to see them so mutilated. I clipped the wings of two queens last summer and the bees killed both a short time afterwards. Perhaps it was because I made a poor job with the scissors. Clipping queens may not be a bad practice perhaps for out apiaries, but I do not believe it pays for the trouble when your hives are located where you can watch them closely.

Of course it will prevent prime swarms from decamping, but you must be on hand just the same to find the queen and fix them up, for if you are not you run a risk of loosing your queen even if you do save your swarm. I was amused the other day at one of my neighbors; he does not keep bees but he knows all about them—of course. He asked me how far I thought my bees went to gather honey. I said I supposed they flew two or two and a half miles usually. He

laughed rather knowingly and said he'd bet a dollar they flew *forty miles*. I asked him upon what evidence he based his assertion. Well, said he, there was two brothers who lived just forty miles apart and both kept bees. The brothers being together one day, one said to the other that he believed that some of his (his brother's) bees were flying about his hives. So they concluded to test the matter, and when the visiting brother went home he put flour on the backs of some of his bees, with the understanding that his brother was to watch for them at his home forty miles away. The brother watched, and sure enough, discovered bees with flour on their backs flying around his hives. Of course they were his brother's bees. I said, did no one else located between those two brothers have bees; he supposed they had. I said, do you know whether any of those bee-keepers put flour on their bee's backs about this time? He said he didn't know whether they did or not. Moral: "Believe everything you hear that is a little out of common and you will soon know it all."

We had the loveliest weather the last three weeks of April that I have ever seen for that month, and the bees had a picnic in the dense masses of bloom. But, alas! May came in with cold north winds, frosts every night, and during the day an overcoat is very comfortable indeed. Some say our fruit is all killed but I hope they are mistaken. If this weather continues much longer we will have to feed our bees, although I never saw bees increase in stores so fast until this present cold spell set in. I will report in my next the outcome of the present situation.

Martinsville, O., May 7th, 1891.

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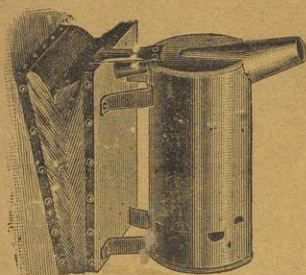
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