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Unionville, Mo.: Bee-keeper Publishing Co., March 1892

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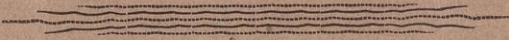
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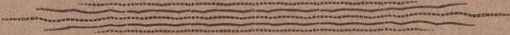
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ISSUED MONTHLY.

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# PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.



MARCH 1892.



Entered at the Unionville postoffice for transmission through the mails as second class matter, by the

**BEE-KEEPER PUBLISHING CO.**  
UNIONVILLE, MO.



TEXAS TO THE FRONT!

I have a fine lot of Tested Queens, 3 banded Italians that I offer at \$1.50 each in March and April. I make this offer to get the use of my 4 frame nuclei. Untested, either 3 or 5 banded races, March, April and May, 1.00 each; after, 75c; \$4.20 for six; or \$8 per dozen. Contracts made with dealers to ship certain number weekly. A few fine breeders, 3-banded, \$4 each; 5-banded, \$5.00. I have changed my postoffice address from Farmersville to Floyd, Texas; Money Order office, Greenville. Floyd, Hunt Co., Tex. **JENNIE ATCHLEY.**



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—AND—  
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**HONEY KNIVES,**

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**THE BEST ON EARTH!**

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and filled with IDEAS from cover to cover. Send 10 cents for three back numbers and see if this is not a truthful advertisement; or, better still, send \$1.00 and receive the REVIEW one year.

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# PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.

VOL. II.

UNIONVILLE, MO., MARCH 1892.

NO. 3.

*Progressive Bee-Keeper.*

ISSUED MONTHLY BY

**BEE-KEEPER PUBLISHING CO.**

Unionville, Missouri.

**ONLY 50 CENTS A YEAR IN ADVANCE.**

Advertising Rates made known on Application.

The future issues of the BEE-KEEPER will be out on better time.

The new Hoffman frame is a decided improvement, but leave off that feather edge.

Many are the private whispers received since the February BEE-KEEPER was mailed. All say they like our large plain type.

There is considerable kicking against the dovetailed hive by dealers that are not "in,, it" While we have both the dovetailed and rabbited corners in use we favor the dovetailed corners. It takes more paint the first time, but afterwards there is no difference in this respect.

Dr. Tinker is now making perforated zinc that a queen can pass through, but will exclude drones. This will be a great help in Italianizing by the cell process where there are undesirable drones. We notice the Doctor's zinc listed in quite a number of price lists that

have been received at this office. We are glad to see his efforts in this rewarded, for it is the best perforated zinc on the market.

Quite a number of farmers here have bought alfalfa clover seed, to sow this spring to give it a trial in Missouri soil. We shall watch and report how it pans out.

What's become of friend Lacy's "new idea" of giving bees a flight in winter? There are some bees wintering on honey dew that needs a flight badly. Wish he would tell us more about it.

The Canadian Bee Journal is to have a cover and to be otherwise improved. The price is raised to \$1.00 per year. It is an excellent journal, and is clubbed with the PROGRESSIVE BEEKEEPER, one year, for \$1.35

We had the assurance from several prominent bee keepers last fall that bees would winter safely on honey dew. We know of two box hive apiaries containing about 150 colonies that were wintered in the cellar. Eighty per cent of them are dead now. What the balance will be by May 1st, it is hard to tell. It has been pretty hard on our own bees. It seemed to effect them early in the winter, reducing



colonies and when cold weather set in they soon died. We would like to know what the effect has been other places.

The Amateur Bee-Keeper is the name of a new book by J. W. Rouse. It contains 52 pages devoted to instructing beginners. It illustrates the different implements making it plain for those that are not acquainted with them.

We are in receipt of a new frame scraper from Leahy M'fg Co., Higginsville, Mo. We have been giving it a thorough trial and find it a very useful tool. No bee-keeper will ever regret buying one. See illustration of it in another column.

We have had a good many copies of the BEE-KEEPER lost in the mails, the past two months. While we have been late in getting out, they should all reach our subscribers. If those who fail to get their Journal will notify us, another copy will be sent.

CHICAGO BEE KEEPER SUPPLY Co.—We carried a small advertisement for them last year, and bought some goods of them. Some of the journals think the concern is a fraud. We will give you a few items that may make the matter a little clearer to you. Mr. J. B. Kline, Topeka, Kans, acts as secretary. The letters sent to their address at Chicago are forwarded to the secretary, who orders the goods for eastern trade shipped from a Wisconsin, factory. They acted very fair with us and if any one has a complaint to make against them we

would like to have them speak out. If Mr. Kline has any thing to say, we shall be glad to have him reply through our columns.

Another new bee escape makes its appearance. It comes from M. E. Hastings, New York Mills., N. Y. It is similar to the Porter, but has more escaping outlets and better ventilation. We rather like its appearance better than any we have seen before. We will give an illustration of it, soon.

We are in receipt of a smoker from St. Joseph Apirary Co., St. Joseph, Mo., which they call the the Abbott-Clark smoker. The improvement is in putting the blast tube in through the fire box. The tube being hot it will not clog up as the old style Clark smoker does. It also gives it a stronger draft.

#### APIARIAN EXHIBITS AT FAIRS.

Mr. G. F. Robbins in A. B. J., page 284, in making rules for exhibits at fairs, etc., overlooks the Golden Italians. Why not have two kinds? Say the three-banded Italian and Golden five-banded Italians. There surely are two classes of these bees. In the fall of '91, we sent samples of our Golden bees to E. R. Root requesting him to examine and send to Prof. Cook, and tell us if they are Pure Italians. Mr. Root replied that he thought they were largely of that blood. Prof. Cook said he thought they were Italians as they are liable to sport. If there had been a large admixture of other blood, these gentlemen ought to



have been able to detect some of it. Considering the large number of prominent beekeepers breeding these they should have a right to compete for premiums as well as the darker colored bees, but then don't compel the three banded bees to compete with the Golden. Give them a separate class, then the exhibitors of both classes of bees would be satisfied, as each one would have a competitor near its own color.

### BEE KEEPING FOR PROFIT.

Dr. Tinker's New Hand Book. It gives his new system of management of bees complete, telling how to get the largest yield of comb and extracted honey and make the industry of bee keeping a profitable one. The work should be in the hands of every progressive apiarist. It is well illustrated. Price, post paid, 25 cents. For sale at this office.

Please do not overlook my queen offer. This is a chance for some one to get a fine breeding queen. Price of PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER, 50 cents a year, post paid. Stamps taken.—*Jennie Atchley, Floyd, Tex.*

### CLUBBING LIST.

*We will send the Progressive Bee-Keeper one year with*

<i>American Bee Journal,</i>	\$1.35
<i>Gleanings in Bee Culture,</i>	1.35
<i>Bee-Keeper's Review,</i>	1.35
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<i>White Mountain Apiarist,</i>	.65

## The Southern States.

CONDUCTED BY

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,

Floyd, Texas.

### SPREADING BROOD.

Friends, I shall now try to say a few words on spreading brood, in spring. First, I shall appeal to your own judgment, somewhat. Do not spread brood too early, nothing gained by doing so. I have visited apiaries, where the operators had ruined their bees by spreading, or widening out the brood nest, as they call it. After natural swarming begins, or settled warm weather sets in, you can, if you wish, spread your brood, without danger of loss. But, if your bees are strong, you can move the frames apart, and slip in an empty frame, or a frame of comb foundation, or empty comb, any time, in this locality, unless it might be December and January; then if you wish, you can, in a few days, slip in another, etc. until your hive is full, but it is not a good plan especially in this country, to allow the bees more combs, than they can keep well covered; if you do, you are likely to get moths, spiders, etc., more than you want. If this is not enough on the subject to satisfy the querist, please ask any further information, and will cheerfully give it to the best of my ability.

Spraying fruit trees. Oh? This brings fresh to my mind a sad meeting. Some three years ago, I was traveling over land from Dallas



to Fort Worth. And about midway I met a man and three little boys all blind or nearly so, except the smallest, and he was leading the rest. They had got their eyes poisoned with Paris green off of the cotton, where people had sprayed the cotton to kill the worms; they were very poor and had been picking cotten for a living, their mother was dead. They were very hungry and nearly naked, as no one they said, would let them come in, or assist them for fear they had the catching sore eyes. I gave them all the money I had with me and also my lunch of cheese and crackers, and it made my eyes water to hear their tale and see the little ones take hold of the food. I have heard of others being poisoned, and bees also. What about a law to stop people from spraying cotton with Paris green.

This February 9th. Bees gathering polen, and have been for several days. Brood in two to three frames and some drones hatching.

I still see some ugly cross firing, through the journals concerning different race of bees, etc. My dear brothers and sisters, let's always try to talk or write with a smile, even if some do contradict us. I do not believe we came here to quarrel.

The reason why, some people keep writing to some of our ablest men on bees about artificial comb honey, is I think just to tantalize them.

I see, some one says, give bees plenty of room at all times, and

shade them well and they will seldom swarm. Kind friend, did you ever keep bees in Texas? You can hive a swarm in one corner of your honey-house, here, and they will only build a common sized brood nest, and swarm just the same, and you need not ever let the sun shine on them either. You will have to give us some other remedy.

Friend, E. R. Root in *Review* comes down on us for using a preface to our letters, and goes and puts in one at the last of his. Oh! would it not be nice if we all had Bee Journals to tell our friends about our rides and good suppers and how we as rival bee-keepers can talk to each other in such good humor, as well as editors of Bee-Journals?

One way to get plenty of natural queen cells, is to keep watch, and just before the bees swarm cage the old queen in the upper story, or some where else in the hive, till the cells are all nicely capped. Then remove them, and release the queen, and so on and I can in good season here, get three or four batches of nice natural cells. Do you catch on?

Friends, do we love one bee journal and their editors as we should? You can't pick up any one of them but you can see they are working hard all day and some work nights too, no doubt, all for our benefit. For if it was not for our journals of to-day where would bee-keeping stand? Let's give them encouragement, when we can.



## Communications.

### HOW TO REAR QUEENS, A BEGINNER ANSWERED.

BY JENNIE ATCHLEY.

First, for a beginner better wait until settled warm weather or swarmingtime. Then take a colony of thrifty bees remove their queen and brood but leave some combs of honey. Should you do this in the evening leave them over night or about twelve hours queenless. Then take a frame from your breeding queen containing little tiny larva or eggs. Place it in your colony prepared for it giving this frame a little more room than usual. Then mark your cells to hatch twelve days hence, and remove them to nuclei about the 10th day, leaving one cell in the hive, or if you wish you can divide the hive up into two frame nuclei giving each one a cell. Allow no cells to hatch except the longest, finest looking ones. Yes, you can raise all the queens you wish from one queen. I hardly ever use more than one or two good breeding queens in rearing 1000 queens. But raise drones from different queens. But I graft a good deal after the Doolittle plan. The plan I have given is the simplest and best plan for a beginner I believe. Use new combs to rear cells on if you have them. After swarming time you can trust a pint of bees to take care of a two frame nuclei, provided you look out for robbing.—*Floyd, Texas.*

We would say to the beginners who desire to rear a few queens,

to commence by putting a new comb in the center of your Breeding Hive. Look at it every day until you find eggs, then mark the date three days ahead; at the end of that time prepare your cell building colony as above. After they have been queenless without brood from 4 to 12 hours give them the frame from the breeding hive, after cutting several holes in the comb; then feed them each evening for 4 days.—[Ed.]

### HIVES AND FIXTURES.

BY R. B. LEAHY.

According to promise I will try to explain and illustrate some new ideas and combinations of old ideas, that we now use and recommend. First of all I wish to speak of "bee hive covers."

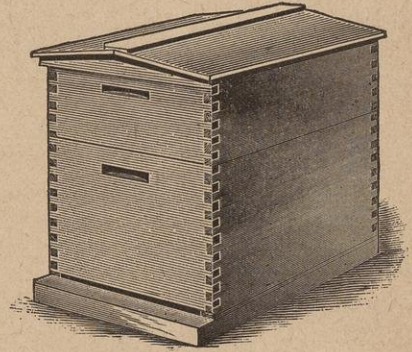
The hives now mostly in use are the Dovetailed Hives. The dimensions of these hives are practically the same as the old eight-frame Langstroth. The inside furniture varies largely, according to the notions and convenience of the popular manufacturers. The more popular the manufacturer the more his wares are used and recommended; so it appears to the writer. I will take for illustration the Root Dovetailed Hive. The manner in which the inside furniture to this hive was first constructed, made this hive practically useless, and the dovetailing principle to bodies of hives, had been in use for more than twenty years. Yet the popularity of Mr. Root was sufficient to boom this hive; but before much harm was done, Mr. Root called in the assistance of that practical



apiarist and genius, Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson, and under his revision they made the hive useful as well as ornamental. Yet, there was nothing substantial about it to recommend it above other hives then in use but its cheapness, which later improvements, that have been added since, will prove.

Later, fixed frames with follower boards, were added to it, which was another advance in the right direction. The supers of these hives are furnished differently by different manufacturers, but nearly all lead to the same results, though all, as far as I know, still cling to the flat cover. There are many advantages in the flat cover to the manufacturer, as they can be made much cheaper than the sloping cover; then, again, a flat cover can be used for boxing the hive parts for shipment. But one half of these flat covers will leak inside of twelve months, especially if made of one' wide board, as the shrinkage is greater on one wide board than it is in proportion to each board on two narrow boards, it causes them to crack where they are nailed to the end cleats, and as there is no drainage, from the fact of these covers being flat or perhaps dished in the center, they will remain wet until there is sufficient sun to dry up a pool of water, unless it runs through the cover down on the bees. I do not claim the idea of a sloping cover as new, but the one shown below is a modification to the two extremes of the cumbersome, heavy gable covers, that have been on the markets, before, and

the present flat cover which is now so generally used. What is more disgusting than leaky covers? Who would not give a cent or two more each for good covers that will not leak? With this idea before us we have arranged to send all our hives with covers as shown in the following cut:



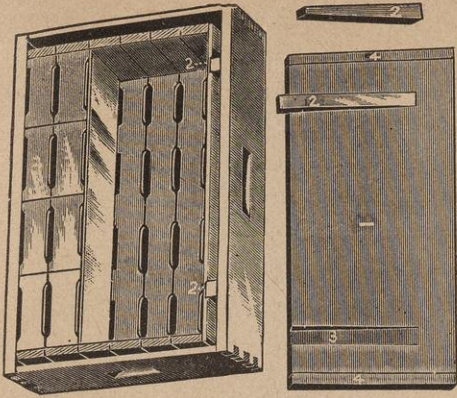
THE HIGGINSVILLE DOVETAILED HIVE.

As these covers cost so little in advance of flat covers, we have concluded to furnish them at the same price as flat covers. We do, however, furnish flat covers to those who want them. Out of 1500 hives sold within the last month, we had calls for only five of these flat covers.

I now wish to speak of supers for these hives as we now furnish them.

The old, and also the new (improved), Root Dovetailed hives have wedges to key up the follower board, as only a straight stick which is as large at one end as at the other and hence not a wedge, is used in lieu of wedges, and from the complaints we have received this arrangement gave poor satisfaction; hence the improvement. We now send out our new key board with real wedges as shown below, with all our hives:

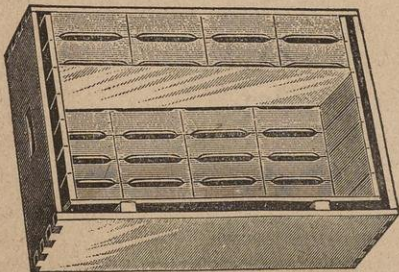




OUR NEW DOVETAILED HIVE SUPER AND FOLLOWER BOARD.

No. 1 is the follower board to the brood chamber. Two of these are used in No. 5 hive. They are cleated on the ends to keep them from warping (see figs. 4, 4); they have a tapering slot cut in them (see fig. 3) in which the wedges (figs. 2, 2, 2, 2) are inserted; these correspond to the taper of the wedges, and form a double draw, at all times giving the wedges a surface to hold on, even allowing for all possible shrinkage of wood. Our supers now are keyed in the same manner, as shown above, and with this double draw system we are enabled to key them up with wood or tin separators, or without separators.

With the super  $12\frac{1}{8}$  inches wide inside, these can be easily used with  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inch sections. Then there are those who prefer 7-to-foot sections, and we can accommodate these with the super shown below.



SUPER FOR 7-TO-FOOT SECTIONS.

This super fits on the hive just like the other super, but to admit of twenty-eight 7-to-foot sections, and a follower board with keys to key up, the sides of this super are made of  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch lumber instead of  $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch lumber, which allows plenty of room. If a key board is good for  $1\frac{7}{8}$ -inch sections, why is it not equally as good with 7-to-foot sections? Hence we recommend the above supers, for 7-to-foot sections.

And now a word about those feather edges on the end bars of the new Hoffman brood frame. Well, aren't they nice? Nice to look at. Don't any practical apiarist know that bees will propolize the joints where the frames come together; that they will have to be cleaned up and the propolis cleaned off once in a while? Won't it be a real nice job to do so with these frames and not scrape off any of the wood that is necessary to give to this frame the proper spacing qualities?

Then again, will these sharp edges ever pull off when the frames are handled in twos and trios as recommended? Not often, perhaps, but that they will, sometimes, is certain. Hence I predict for the "feather edges" short life.

I will here describe an implement called the Jones Hive Scraper.



JONES HIVE SCRAPER.

The Jones Hive Scraper is the invention of Mr. J. H. Jones, of Buckner, Mo. A description of the



knife, given us by Friend Jones during a visit to us last winter, induced us to manufacture them and offer them for sale. It is useful to scrape off the propolis and burr combs, from the frames and sides of hives, being ground like a chisel on one edge and end. By being ground in this way it can be used as a scraper, like a chisel or a knife; in fact, it is a knife and chisel combined. In scraping bits of comb from flat surfaces, like the inside of the hive bodies, the hand does not come in contact with the surface to be scraped as it does with a straight knife. It can be used endways for the same purpose, for reaching down in a hive, cutting combs loose, etc. It is also useful for prying frames and supers apart, as it is stout and strong. This is no "Cheap John" article, but made of the best saw blade steel, strong, heavy and durable. As there has been nothing for this purpose before, but the apiarist's pocket knife, which is often broken or nicked, you will readily see the importance and economy of having one of these knives when working in the apiary. It is economical, because a good pocket knife costs much more, and one would not like to use his pocket knife for the above, for if not broken it will find its way into the pocket all besmeared and daubed with honey.—*Higginsville, Missouri.*

*We will send the Progressive Bee-Keeper one year with*  
*American Bee Journal,* \$1.35  
*Gleanings in Bee Culture,* 1.35

## WAX SECRETION, A LARGE COLONY THE BEST.

BY C. J. ROBINSON.

Before Huber's time not much was known about comb-building or the secreting of wax. Huber's experiments, confining a new swarm of bees in a hive during five days, he found several white combs in the hive. These being taken from them, and the bees supplied with honey and water, new combs were again constructed. Seven times in succession their combs were removed, and were in each instance replaced, the bees being all the time prevented from ranging the fields to supply themselves with bee-bread. By subsequent experiments he proved that sugar-syrup answered the same end with honey. Giving an imprisoned swarm and abundance of fruit and bee-bread, he found that they subsisted on the fruit, but refused to touch the pollen, and that no combs were constructed, nor any wax scales formed in their pouches.

Though Huber demonstrated that bees can construct comb from honey or sugar, without the aid of bee-bread, and that they cannot make it from bee-bread, without honey or sugar, he did not prove that when *permanently* deprived of bee-bread they can continue to work in wax, or if they can, that the pollen does not aid in its elaboration.

Some pollen is always found in the stomach of wax producing workers, and they never build comb so rapidly as when they have access



to this article. It must, therefore either furnish some of the elements of wax, or in some way assist the bee in producing it. Confident assertions are easily recorded only requiring a few drops of ink and the asserters are those who, oftentimes, have the profoundest contempt for observation and experiment. To establish any controverted truth on the solid foundation of demonstrated facts, usually requires severe and protracted labor.

Honey and sugar contain by weight about eight pounds of oxygen to one of carbon and hydrogen. When converted into wax these proportions are remarkably changed, the wax containing only one pound of oxygen to more (in proportion) than sixteen of hydrogen and carbon. As oxygen is the great grand supporter of animal heat, the large quantity consumed in secreting wax aids in generating that high temperature which is necessary for comb building, and which enables the bees to mould the soft secretion of wax into comb-cells.

Careful experiments show various amount of honey consumed in the formation of any certain weight of comb—from six to twenty pounds, each trial being attended by unlike circumstances, that is, no two experiments worked alike nor were the circumstances alike. A difference in the degrees of temperature externally would cause a greater consumption of honey to raise the heat necessary to elaborate the wax, that is, more of a given weight of honey would be consumed by the bees to rarify the air in the hive

than would be, providing the bees were not required to heat up by active exercise. A part of the colony in order to build comb, must eat of the given weight of honey to get up heat, while only more or less of the bees elaborate wax. Furthermore pollen may be used to a greater or less extent according to circumstances attending each case. As wax is what is chemically known as animal oil, secreted chiefly from honey, this fact will not be incredible to those who are aware how many pounds of corn or hay must be fed to cattle to have them gain a single pound of fat.

Sure, rather crowded colonies build comb with a less consumption of honey than smaller ones as above indicated.—*Rickford, N. Y.*

### ARE BEES RESPECTERS OF PERSONS?

BY MRS. A. L. HOLLENBECK.

One day not long ago in an agricultural paper, I found in a piece about bees, this sentence. "Bees are no respecters of persons; they will sting one person just as soon as another."

Now bee-keeping friends, do you not agree with me when I say that the author of that article either had but little experience with bees, or else was a poor bee master? If my bees did not respect me I fear I would have hard work handling some of them, and unless we can "boss" our bees and make them do what we know is best for them, how can we expect to be successful bee-keepers.

I think they can and should be



taught and trained the same as other animals and what other animal that is subject to man, is useful if he does not respect his master?

If I have a particularly ugly swarm, that persists in pitching at every body that comes within shooting distance, that is the swarm I take to experiment upon and if they don't learn to respect me, at least when I have the smoker in hand, I miss my guess. It takes patience and perseverance, but it can be done. I do not believe in handling or disturbing bees, more than is necessary for their benefit; but when I have one of those particularly ugly swarms to deal with, it don't hurt me a bit to smoke them, just whenever it comes handy, whether I wish to handle them or not, and if the ordinary smoke of rotten wood does not subdue them I put a little tobacco into the smoker with the wood and give them a taste of that. Now don't imagine I approve of the use of tobacco by the human family, or belong to a family of tobacco users, for I do not, and when I need tobacco for smoking the bees I have to buy it, which makes not a little fun for the rest of the family. "The lady of the house being the only one that uses tobacco, she smokes—the bees." For unruly bees there is no denying the fact, that it works like a charm and after a few lessons, they have considerable respect for the person who has given them their instruction. I believe that bees properly handled soon learn to know their keeper. I can go among my bees and walk unmolested all

about the yard, while other members of the family who seldom go about them, if asked what makes them so shy of the bee hives, will reply: "Oh, you don't catch me around there, the bees don't know me." I don't know how it is with other people, but if I am asked to go among bees belonging to a neighbor I always take pains to be clothed sting-proof if possible.

Now for a bit of story. The school children have a song about "the little busy bee" one part of which is:

"Should you try to shut them in,  
You will hear a pretty din,  
And may chance to get an angry  
sting as well."

The three year old baby of the family hearing them sing it repeated it thus:

"Don't 'ou dare to shut them in,  
Or 'ou'll get a little sting;  
It will make 'our eye get big and  
swell."

To-day, March 14, my bees are in as good or better condition, than ever before at this time of the year. They have plenty of stores to last them till honey will come again unless something unusual should happen. Some of the hives appear to have nearly as many bees as when they were prepared for winter. It is still too cold here to open the hives and work with them very much; but I took advantage of a sunshiny day to make sure they had plenty of honey to last them for a while.—*Millard, Nebraska.*

Mrs. H. we know bees become accustomed to their keeper, the same as the stock about the farm. Bees that never trouble the owner,



get after a stranger soon as they enter the yard. Bees generally remember any rough handling by a person unaccustomed to handling them and the next time this person comes near the hive, they are ready to fight.—[Ed.]

### DRY LEAVES.

BY OTTO J. E. URBAN.

In Gleanings (Jan. 15th, Page 53) the Rambler gives an account in Ramble No. 51, of Bro. Heddon and his hive and how nice he treated him in Dowagiac. Well Bro. Martin, I can't say that much for Mr. Heddon. I went North last summer. During my stay in the Northern states I went to see Mr. Heddon with the intention of buying a large number of his hives, if I liked it, after seeing it in use. I didn't see that fast horse. I had to walk out to his bee yard. Mr. Heddon didn't even take time to go with me, but he sent his boy along with me. Well, we went to the bee yard and looked at the bees and hives, that is, my self and the apiarist. Mr. Heddon jr. laid down in the honey house and took a nap, while we looked at the bees. I saw lots of Langstroth hives, but very few of the Heddon hives. In the evening I was not invited to the house and went to the hotel and spent the time the best I could. Next day I went back to Chicago. I didn't buy any hives. Mr. Martin, you know as well as I, that sometimes it pays to treat a man nice and take him out riding.

I notice in Wants and Exchange Department, in Gleanings, D. S.

Hall, of South Cabot, Vt., advertises a large lot of second-hand Heddon hives for sale. You are right, Mr. Hall.

I would like to see one of Mr. White's queen cages. Bro. White, will you be so kind to send me one?

Mr. Editor: I second your foot note to Mr. Garrett's article on page 7, January issue.

Don't ever put a cloth or enamel sheet direct on your frames if you don't want your bees to cut holes through your combs. Give a bee space above the frame, which gives the bees a chance to move from one comb to the next.

We have had a cold snap during the last two weeks. The thermometer went down to 14° above zero. Yesterday my bees had a good flight again.

Big robbing in my yard to-day. One colony died out during the cold weather, what was the reason? Mr. Miller would say, "well, I don't know". It was a very late artificial swarm that didn't get enough winter store on account of the fall drouth.

The type setter was out of "h" I presume, when he set my article for the January number, so he made "Wild Clima" instead of Wild China.

Friend Jennie, if hope is our only chance it's a poor one.

You say the grip has a hold on you? Well, it gripped me twice this winter.

My best wishes to your success in the new locality.

A convention in Texas! Now you said something good. Let's



have it. But ain't you going to take us Southerners in?

Only one article in January Review on "writing for bee journals."

It is written by W. F. Clark, of Guelph, Can. Bro. Clark hits the nail on the head, as usual.

January the 30th, I found four-days-old larva in my colonists today. Drones flying same date. Don't our text books say, the average life of a drone is thirty days? These drones in my yard were evidently reared during September and October last.

While making notes for "Dry Leaves" a little drone, reared just about a year and three months ago, is sitting on my lap.

Well, how about the Texas Beekeepers' convention. I would like to hear something about it in next issue of P. B. K. Waco would be a good place to hold the convention.

Mr. A. A. Weaver sent me one of his shipping and introducing cages a few days ago for a sample. It's a good cage. It is similar to the Pratt Perfection cage, with two decided improvements. One is the two little holes in the ends, one for putting in the queen and bees, the other hole is for the hive bees to release the queen through. The second improvement is his cover; it is made of paste board with printed directions on the inside of cover. The cage measures  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 13-16 \times 13-16$  inch and can be sent through the mail, bees, food and all for one cent.

The editor of Am. B. J. gives a very wise answer to query No. 803, on page 145 Am. B. J. The query

is: "What is the best time of the year to rear queens?" He says, "queens may be reared at any time during warm weather." The best time is probably when the swarming is on, or when honey is coming in freely—but an experienced queen breeder can make the proper conditions at any suitable time.—You are right Bro. Newman. Bro. Heddon is another Solomon. Dr. C. C. Miller's "if" is just as wise.

Four convention reports in Am. B. J. of January 29th.

John D. A. Fisher, of Woodside, N. C. tells the readers of Am. B. J. of having but a few of his Italian queens mismated in spite of there being lots of black bees near his yard. My experience is the same. I bought nearly 100 colonies of black bees last season after drones were started and transferred them all in the home yard. There were lots of black drones that escaped and still I didn't have but about five per cent of mismated queens. The Italian is a better rustler, and more active. It may be the young Italian princesses know the matrimonial law of the United States.

February the 3rd. My bees gathered the first pollen this spring today. It is taken off the American Arbor Vitæ mainly which is in bloom now.

Gleanings in Bee Culture put on a darker dress this year. I don't think it's prettier than the old one.

What is the matter with Dr. C. C. Miller? He has no "stray straws" in Gleanings Jan. 15th. Don't quit the "stray straws" Doc-



tor, they are very spicy, I like to read them.

Friends, what hopes have you for the coming season? I am inclined to believe we will have a good one in Texas. We had a very hard winter, some days the mercury went down to 14° above zero. We generally have a good crop season with plenty of rain after a hard winter.

—*Thorndale, Tex.*

Friend U., perhaps it was better for you that you didn't buy Mr. Heddon's hive. We have given the hive a pretty strong recommendation, but will not make any more of them for our own use, as there is too much extra work to get them in working order, but then our business has changed and we are compelled to handle frames more than is desirable with the Heddon hive. Mr. Heddon holds a veil over the new hive and system giving us a glimpse occasionally (in print) promising wonders, but never gives only just enough to draw us on.

—Ed.

### STAR APIARY NOTES.

S. E. MILLER.

The PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER for February to hand and fully digested. It is progressing nicely.

Bees wintering on honey dew as well as could be expected. They were not confined to the hives however, for more than three or four weeks at one time, and then when they had a flight spotted their hives in a way that indicated that a warm day had come none too soon

Four colonies have bid farewell

to the flowers that will bloom next spring. Not on account of the honey dew however; but lack of attention on the part of the apiarist.

We are having an abundance of rain which we trust will bring out clover in all its glory as well as other honey bearing plants and trees.

March 3rd, our bees were bringing pollen. Have not learned from what source, but suppose it is from willow or soft maple, or perhaps both. Strong colonies are rearing considerable brood.

Keep an eye on your bees. The time is just coming when they will die before you know it if you don't see to their wants. When you have fertile workers, try this plan of getting rid of them. Remove some of the combs, and crowd the colony over with a chaff division board leaving room on one side of it for one or two frames. Here insert a frame or two of hatching brood covered with young bees, and a laying queen. See that there is an entrance on both sides of the division board; later on, remove the division board, see that you have plenty of young bees, as the old ones will return to their original home.

I should like to know how D. A. Pike, (p 18 Feb. '92, P. B. K.) has tested Albino bees along side of Italians for eighteen years and along side of Syrians for two years. I should think by this time he would have a strain of Albino-Ly-gurio-Syrio. Hold on! I am afraid I'll get into deep water if I don't look out. Perhaps he has them in sep-



arate apiaries some miles apart. But even then I do not see how he could consider this a test, as localities a short distance apart often vary in honey resources. But why tinker (not Dr. Tinker) or Doctor.

(No reflections on Doctor Miller) with these old strains. Don't Punics gather honey when there is snow on the ground and the mercury is below zero? Let some one who has Punics tell us as there has certainly been a chance to test their endurance the last winter.

Mrs. L. C. Axtell gives a chapter on brushing bees off combs. Don't she know that this is a thing of the past, except under rare circumstances, in this age of bee escapes and perforated zinc? Yet there are times when we must use the brush. I would not however, hesitate to shake combs containing brood unless there should happen to be a queen cell on the comb that I wished to have h perfect queen.

I am with W. C. Frazier on the imported queen subject. If it costs no more or little more to have imported queens, than it does to rear queens, I should certainly have all or nearly all imported. G. M. Doolittle to the contrary.—*Bluffton, Missouri.*

### LIGHT COLORED BEES.

BY A. L. KILDOW.

A copy of the P. B. R. is before me and it is certainly a credit to its Editor. Its pages are full of good, newsy articles, and in looking over these articles I saw the one by D. A. Pike on Albinos.

When I see or hear anything con-

cerning the Albinos I am at once interested.

I am not surprised that the Albinos are not as prominent yet, as the Italians, for the reason that the Italians have had a boom for a good many years, and it has been difficult to persuade the people to test the other races as the Italians were so well known.

But now the Albino(which is a sport from the Italian) is coming to the front and wherever they have had a chance, they have proved themselves as good and even better than the Italians.

I have been breeding the Albino since 1885. The first two or three ears I did not put them on they market, as I wished to see what they were before recommending them to the public. Since then I have sent them to nearly all the States and also to Canada.

An Albino queen from my yard, sent to G. H. Ashworth, Sedalia, Mo., took the premium at the Missouri State Fair of 1891 on bees and honey.

You will hear these bees very favorably spoken of wherever they go. All they want is a chance, for they are fast coming to the front.

The Albino is not only gentle and a good workers, but the most beautiful bee known, not excepting the five banded Italians; and the working qualites have not been sacrificed for color.

I think the statement, as made by some, that in order to obtain yellow bees, queen breeders have sacrificed everything for color, is over drawn. In my experience I have found it unnecessary to sacri-



fice any good qualities for color. And judging from reports I find that the light bees are as good as the darker ones. If so much has been sacrificed why is the demand for yellow bees so great, and the prize for them more than for the dark bees?—*Sheffield, Ill.*

Our experience with light or golden colored bees, has been very satisfactory, the past season. They gathered a larger per cent of white honey than our dark or leather colored bees did and they certainly have wintered better. Some of the howlers about their fancy bees being inbred to procure color, are now adding this stock to their yard.—  
Ed]

### QUEEN AND DRONES, 11-2 MILES APART.

MRS. OBSERVER.

ED. PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER:—The other day I received a sample copy of your paper; after reading it through from beginning to end, "ads" and all, I feel like saying with Dr. Miller, (in Gleanings), "pretty good."

Your remarks about queens going away from home to mate, leads me to relate a bit of my experience.

I only have a limited number of colonies, and last spring only two of them were allowed to rear any drones. These were quite early, just as soon as I could get them.

I have not the exact date, but it was early in may.

The last of July and the first of August is our poorest time for honey here, and last year was even worse than usual. So if any yet

survived they were certainly dispatched by the bees.

I wished to raise a few queens from a choice Italian mother to supercede old queens in the fall. So in August I tried to raise drones from another colony, but all I could do, was unable to get an egg deposited in drone comb, though I tried several of the best colonies.

About this time two colonies became queenless in some way and built queen cells.

Not knowing any better way to do, I let them alone and awaited results. The nearest neighbor that keeps any bees lived more than a mile away and only had a swarm or two. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles away lives a bee-keeper whose yard was alive with drones (in fact drones was about all his crop last year, as he only averaged about one half pound surplus for each colony) and about the same distance in another direction is another yard of about 25 or 30 colonies.

Well, a queen hatched in both hives and went to laying just as soon as any queen I ever had.

Now don't imagine I know what I am talking about for as I said before I only have limited number of colonies, and had been for some time trying to get drones I so knew just what was inside each hive. I might add that in September when the fall honey came their was no trouble to get drones; but by that time my two queens had their hives filled with brood.

My bees are wintering well. They gave me about 30 pounds surplus per colony, spring count, be-







## 5-BANDED ITALIANS!

The following is clipped from the A. B. J., page 119, and 34 of the Queens mentioned were reared by us.

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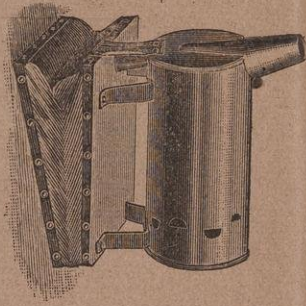
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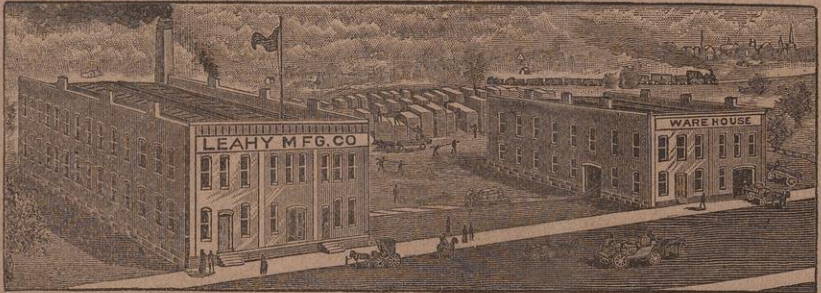
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