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MOON'S BEE WORLD,

—A GUIDE TO—

BEE-KEEPERS.

VOLUME 2.

FEBRUARY, 1875.

NUMBER 3

CORRESPONDENCE.

REVIEW.

BY JEWELL DAVIS.

MR. EDITOR:—I am glad that friend Nesbit comes boldly forward with his reasons for the standard comb frames. I trust all others will do likewise. It will be noticed that he makes a little variation from his former frame, given in a former article, on page 308, Vol. 1, of the BEE WORLD.

As it now stands, Dadant, Nesbit and Davis adopt frames of nearly the same size, Dadant's $16\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, Nesbit's 16×12 , and Davis' 17×14 . We are well satisfied with Dadant and Nesbit's reasons for such a size of frame and can easily conform to either of the three, if either be decided upon. It becomes us to weigh well their reasons.

"J. J. R." introduces a plea for Northern bee-keepers to move their bees South during the winter and spring months to save them from dis-

astrous losses, brought about by our extremely cold winters of the past few years. This would all be nice if we were so situated as to be benefitted by such an undertaking. I anticipate, however, that our practical apiarins in the North will yet discover that it is not altogether the severe cold of Northern climes, alone, that does the mischief, unless protracted to an unusual length, but two or more of the following causes are brought to bear at the same time in producing disease and death: If cold weather, alone, was the cause, how could we ever expect to winter bees in the North? But combine with the extreme cold, bad air, unhealthy food and long confinement, and we have the almost certain element of their destruction; and especially if they are very weak in numbers. If they have plenty of bees in each colony to generate the necessary amount of animal heat, have a sufficient amount of pure air, and healthy food commensurate with their wants, they will endure very ex-

tremely cold weather for many days. But change these conditions by weakening your colonies, by permitting them to have unhealthy food or bad air, how could the result be otherwise than death, if permitted to remain in this condition for a long period in severely cold weather? (See North American Bee Journal, page 254, April number).

"Tennessee" argues the question of "reason and instinct" in bees, and every person interested in the matter will give good attention to such arguments, and have their desires gratified. "Tennessee" will notice that we have already described our hive in the BEE WORLD.

My friend "Sherendon" goes for the "tricks" of honey dealers—we mean he goes against them—and he is right in so doing.

Friend Bryant points out the inconsiderate bee-keeper with his "log gum" and "brimstone match", as an enemy to his bees. Then he enumerates a race of flies or other winged insects as the enemies of bees in Texas, and perhaps in other portions of the South, but these latter are better known to northern Bee keepers, and we find the former "growing beautifully less". Then he notices the milk weed. This has been noticed in northern localities as in the south, likewise the king bird and the martin may also receive blame as the enemies of the bee, or being their consumers. He seems to be in favor of a less-sized standard frame than either of those cases already mentioned, his being 12x11.

Well, Friend McLean, I see you are down on the "fictitious name" company. I would that you could win them over from their bad habits, for all coming time. I fear, however, they are

chuckling behind their names, at our efforts to discover who they are, and are thinking, like Connoisseur, that his fictitious name means expert, and hence prefers the fictitious to the true name.

Friend McLean advises us to have our bees in readiness for the stormy blasts of winter, and not fold our arms and say all is well, until we know it to be so.

Our friend Parlange "hopes" that bee-keepers during the year will give an interchange of "experience," so we can compare results. Will bee-keepers do this?

He says his bees have done well. The honey yield has been good, and of first quality. Look out for what he intends to do next year. Get your hiding place ready.

Friend Barclay, while musing about "bee keeping" utters the expression, "It is astonishing what rapid strides apiculture has taken during the last decade." We hope it will ever continue to advance toward perfection. Let the "grand possibilities and results before the industrious bee keeper shine along the path way of settled principles, and all theories based upon practice. Be cautious friend Barclay or you will tread upon some persons corns, if you accuse the Editors of our bee journal with "unmitigated selfishness," when they withhold the post office address of their correspondents. Well, we do not blame you for the change, if they persist in such voluntary tricks to hold the correspondents address for their own selfish ends instead of publishing them for the benefit of all who may become interested. We truly hope such editors will reform in this matter. Friend Thompson gives us a recital of the honey

resources of his locality through the season and concludes by showing how to make swarms issuing, hive themselves, securely, in a new hive.

Then we also find Dr. Brown talking about the troublesome insects of his clime, the "Bee-killers."

Friend Hollett recognizes the fact that much has been said about the dollar queen question, and seems to favor the notion that all may sell queens at their own prices—provided they can find purchasers, since the purchaser can have his choice. But how can the man raising them have his choice unless he can have the situation, or the arrangement is good, which Hollett has in his mind. The want of this situation may compel him, in the choice of evils, to quit the business. Now comes his supposition of how Connoisseur plays his figure of getting all his queens "fertilized right." Well after all we cannot tell whether he "guessed" right or not, but leave Connoisseur to tell, or explain the secret and not leave it cloaked in insinuations or statements that only tends to disturb the mind of bee-keepers instead of enlightening them, begetting a desire to know what his language means about his success of fertilizing queens in the midst of black drones. Is he laboring to hold his brother bee-keepers in suspense, and finally not give them the secret of fertilizing queens right among black drones?

Finally Mr. Hollett prefers the standard frame to be $12\frac{1}{4} \times 12$ inches and thinks the adoption of a standard frame away off in the future. It may not be so far off after all.

Dadant touches the honey dew question again lightly.

Charleston, Ill., Dec., 1874.

The above Review was written for the January number.—Ed.

BROKEN PIECES—HONEY DEW, AND A CAT'S TAIL.

BY KINCHIN RAMBO.

Mr. Editor—There is such a thing as honey dew and there is such a thing as aphids (or leaf louse), but they are not one and the same thing, although they may sometimes be found in close proximity to each other, or even mixed up together. And there is an exudation of honey from certain trees and plants; but that is not honey dew either, but honey dew is the condensed odor of flowers, raised up from the earth by the rays of the sun, and falling again at night. Upon the same principle that consumption is sometimes cured by inhaling the fumes of a sugar refinery. And upon the same principle that pyroligneous acid forms upon bacon smoked with green oak wood, and upon the same principle, you may paint a room overhead with green paint, and while fresh put a bowl of water on a table about the centre of the room, close the doors and windows, and next morning you may see a heavy green scum on the water.

For further proof see, in Texas where flowers are very abundant, the grass becomes loaded down with honey dew so that animals laying down on the grass have their hair completely stuck together with honey. But the question is asked why is honey dew so much more abundant in some localities than it is in others, regardless of the abundance of flowers? Honey dew does not always fall in the immediate locality from which it rises; but may be wafted a considerable distance by the breeze. Again the question is asked, why do some leaves have honey dew on them, while others in

close proximity have none? Answer, because some leaves no doubt absorb it as they do the gases upon which they feed; as it is very thin and watery when it first falls.

And now Mr. Editor, you and your readers may scan and criticise these views as much as you please; but I am satisfied from many years' observation that they are correct, and strictly in accordance with the laws of nature. I see also in your valuable paper, a discussion going on as to the propriety or impropriety of clipping queen bees' wings. I have no experience in this matter, but I rather coincide with those who oppose the practice. For several years ago, I knew a cat that lost half her tail by having it caught in a door shutter; and some time after that she brought forth one kitten, colored just like herself, and with only half a tail. Now you may say this was one of natures' wild freaks and so it was; but suppose Dame Nature should conclude to play off a similar freak among the bees. What a worthless progeny?

Floyd County, Ga., Jan. 1, 1875.

REGULARITY—STANDARD FRAMES—HONEY SEASONS.

BY R. M. ARGO.

MR. EDITOR:—The regular appearance of the December number of BEE WORLD took me by surprise. From the late appearance of last number, and the irregular appearance of precedent numbers, I had no idea this number would be out before the first of January. I had written an article for this (Dec.) number and had just set down to write another, when the WORLD was handed to me.

Thus one evil of the irregularity of the WORLD. Your correspondents want to get the WORLD, and look over it for a subject for the next. Hereafter let us all write regular, and if the WORLD does not come regular it will not be our fault.

Friend Davis writes regular, and is a most valuable acquisition to the BEE WORLD. So of many others.

If friend Nesbit will say 11x15, I will give up. My standard frame is 11x13, inside; I am willing to go two inches wider. I have for years used a frame 11x18, inside, and 8 frames, called the Quinby improvements of the Langstroth; and never would have changed them but for queen raising. My location being a poor and uncertain one, I aim more at queen raising than for honey; and as I do not like to rear in nucleis, unless they have standard frames, I prefer a smaller frame, such as the one I adopted two years ago—11x13.

I have given my reasons in former numbers of the WORLD for adopting a frame 11x13. With this sized frame I can use hives of all sizes, from the three-framed nucleus to the long hive of twenty-six frames, or even thirty-two, and a trial of a few of them this past season has convinced me of their value. My reasons for being willing to adopt a longer frame are the same that friend Nesbit gives; and my main objection to 12 inches deep, inside, is that they are too unhandy for use, and too apt to break down. I have transferred numbers of stands for eight years, and I am satisfied, from close observation, that 11 inches is deep enough.

"But," I hear my readers say, "what difference does one inch make?" Just the same as an additional pound

breaks down. Have not any of you experienced the great trouble and vexation of dropping a comb out of the frame in the apiary, especially if at a time when the flowers are gone? Before you can properly adjust it in the frame, you have a thousand or more robbers around you, contending for the possession of it.

As honey, instead of queen raising, will be the great object of bee-keeping, I am willing to agree on a standard frame, provided it does not go wider than 16, deeper than 12, narrower than 13, or less than 10 deep. If over these dimensions I won't be there to see.

HONEY SEASONS.

Would it not be a good thing for all bee men to know, as near as we can, the honey seasons of each State or latitude? We can get this only by each writer telling as near as possible, the average duration of the honey season in his location. Here in my location, Central Ky., March and April are generally the worst two months of the year. Windy, rainy and cold, and changing every twenty-four hours. There are a few exceptions, but few indeed. Bees do no good in April except gather pollen, and a little honey to live on; but the main honey season does not fully begin before the 10th or 15th of May; sometimes not until the 20th or 25th, and generally ends the last of June. It varies very much here; sometimes only ten days' duration, sometimes seven weeks. During July, and until last of August, bees are generally idle here; but in Sept. some seasons they gather nearly enough to winter on, though fall bloom is almost out of the question here.

I would like to know when the honey season begins in Middle Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida.

Lowell, Ky., Dec. 21, 1874.

APICULTURE AND 1874.

BY HERBERT A. BURCH.

Thinking perhaps the readers of the BEE WORLD might wish to learn how that portion of the apicultural fraternity who inhabit the Wolverine State, are prospering, we have brought our pen, (we've replaced our old, rusty, steel pen with something that can scribble right lively, after a certain fashion,) into requisition, and will indite a few rambling thoughts as best we may. It is so long since we've occupied a place among those who contribute to the genial, cosmopolitan WORLD, that we hardly know where to begin, from the fact that we've forgotten just where we left off. And then, Mr. Editor, you know how much more "at home" we feel among those whom we see and converse with often; and it is with a feeling somewhat akin to this that we resume the pen to indite an article for a bee journal, on the pages of which we "appear" frequently.

It may be well to preface our notes with the remark that, while those who reside in the "Sunny South" are enjoying the balmy breezes, clear skies and radiant sunshine, peculiar to that clime, just outside of our library window "old Boreas" is indulging in those playful pranks so characteristic of his operations in our more Northern climes, and the "cool" intrusion of Jack Frost renders the genial blaze of a good hickory fire quite acceptable.

On the whole, the season of 1874 was one not altogether favorable to those engaged in apistical pursuits. As your readers doubtless already know, the months of March and April last, just did a sweeping business in sending a large portion of our indus-

trious colonies into the mysterious realms of oblivion; while those that did survive old Boreas' blasts, were in very poor condition the following June for "honey gathering rapidly." "Misfortunes never come singly," you know, and honey didn't secrete so as to give our bees a chance to seal over a single square inch of comb, until about the middle of July. Basswood furnished a limited supply of nectar for some 16 days, when we had another honey dearth until the 10th of August. Boneset and asters kept the bees busy for nearly a month, when the honey season bid adieu to 1874. Now you will probably say that we've had a poor honey season here in "Wolverinedom;" and you wouldn't be far out of the way. Mr. Editor, if you should, for, all things considered, it was, without any exception, the hardest year on the apiarian that we have ever known. Even the rainy season of 1869 was much more favorable in many respects.

Now, some one who has a retentive memory may be ready to exclaim, "You once wrote an article claiming that the profits of bee-keeping depended upon the skill and energy of the apiarian—not upon the season. How is it now?"

With us, it is just as we then thought; that though seasons may affect the general result, our profits are, nevertheless, in a direct ratio to the skill and assiduity of the apiarian.

In a letter, just at hand, from one of the ablest apiculturists in this, or any other country, we find the following sentence: "Getting large amounts of honey is science merely—no compliment to the season."

We admit that figures would "come handy" to back up the above position,

but we really don't think it would pay (as some do) to improvise them. Our own apiary was so reduced last winter in point of numbers, that we concluded to continue our experiments through the past season, and are quite well satisfied with the results. Though ill health compelled our absence from the apiary during much of the time in June, July and August, we "managed" to obtain over 100 lbs. of comb honey from some stocks that we devoted to the production of surplus. Most of this was stored in less than two weeks, in August.

Winter is the "season" that affects us, who reside in the Northern States: and if we have strong stocks of bees May 1st, 1875, (which we expect) we shall try our hand for a "pile of surplus," regardless of the season.

There, Mr. Editor, we started out to tell you of Michigan bee keepers, but must defer it until our next, as our sheet is full.

South Haven, Mich., Jan. 4, 1875.

THE NATIVE LAND OF THE ITALIAN BEE.

THIRD ARTICLE.

CH. DADANT.

In the proceedings of the N. Am. Bee Keepers' Society, held in November at Pittsburg, Pa., I saw that Mrs. E. S. Tupper had said "that there is danger in importing bees from Italy, of getting a taint of black stock; as they have mixed some of the Egyptian blood in them."

Greatly astonished in reading that paragraph, I hastened to write to this lady the following letter:

"I read in the A. B. J. that you have said, at the N. Am. Society, that there is danger in importing from

Italy, of getting a taint of black stock, etc. As I am just now holding, in the BEE WORLD, that there are no hybrid bees in Italy, I would be glad to know whether you have ever received tainted queens from Italy, and the name and address of the bee-keeper who sent them."

Mrs. E. Tupper answered:

"I said no such thing, as I am reported as saying at the Convention. Some one asked me if there was not danger of Italians, in Italy, being mixed with Egyptian blood; and I replied that I did not think any Egyptians had ever been carried to Italy, and that I had received fine queens always.

* * * I have corrected it in the January number of the A. B. J."

I wrote also, on the same topic, to Mr. H. A. King, the following letter:

"I read, in the proceedings of the N. Am. Society, that you have visited in Italy an apiary that advertised largely in Europe, and had not a pure colony. As I am just now holding, in the BEE WORLD, that there are no hybrid bees in Italy, I would be glad to know the name and address of that bee-keeper, in order to ascertain the fact."

Mr. King answered:

"The report in American Bee Journal is incorrect. I never uttered such language. I was absent from the city when Dr. Rush's report was received and put in type for Magazine, Dec. number, but returned in time to partly correct many incorrect statements in the report; it is not very perfect, or correct, even in our Magazine."

Now I have written to Dr. Rush, and I wait for his explanation.

Hamilton, Ill., Dec. 19, 1874.

NOTES FROM LOUISIANA.

BY CHARLES PARLANGE.

The December number of WORLD has just reached me. I see that, among other interesting topics discussed at the Pittsburg Convention, was the question whether it would be profitable to move bees to Louisiana to winter. I am satisfied that great profit could be obtained by so doing. Of course bees winter here on their summer stands, housing bees being unknown. On this day, which is Christmas eve, my bees are at work, actively bringing in honey and pollen. I imagine that it will be difficult for Northern bee-keepers, whose hives are now snow-bound or stored away in cellars, to realize that our hives are daily increasing, instead of diminishing in weight.

Bees could be floated down the Mississippi at very little expense, and the late honey they would gather in November, and the spring honey in February, March and April, would more than compensate for the trouble of transportation. Moreover the colonies would arrive North in April, strong in numbers and ready to commence the honey harvest.

Another, and a greater advantage than all just mentioned, would be the safety of wintering. Wintering—that all-engrossing topic with our Northern brethren—would lose all its terrors; and I am certain that not one hive in a hundred that would be moved to Louisiana in good condition, would perish. This certainty of wintering, apart from all other considerations, would surely more than balance the additional trouble and expense caused by the removal.

Again, I am anxious to see such a

movement set on foot, for I feel certain that, so great are the advantages of Louisiana as a bee country, if some of our Northern brethren move down here they will remain with us both winter and summer. We need such men as Dr. W. B. Rush, who speaks of coming South. This State, notwithstanding its present unsettled political situation, offers great advantages to the man who will work.

I was conversing, some time since, with an enterprising farmer who moved to this parish from Indiana a year or two ago. In answer to my inquiry whether he was not discouraged by the late overflow, he said: "Notwithstanding your overflows, your cotton-worms and your politics, I would not return to Indiana, for Indiana. A working-man can support his family here on twenty acres of land, and he can do it easier, and support them in better style, than he can in Indiana on an eighty acre farm."

I will make use of your columns during the season of 1875 to advertise some of my bees. I have no queens for sale, and I offer bees only on account of the increase of my apiary. Bee-keeping is, with me, a secondary occupation, and I have not facilities to manage more than two hundred colonies. I will have about one hundred and fifty stocks of pure Italians for sale during the coming season.

Pointe Coupee, La., Dec. 24, 1874.

CHEAP QUEENS.

BY H. NESBIT.

FRIEND MOON:—I wish to say a word in reply to friend Argo. In last WORLD he complains of the cheap, careless, disreputable, unprincipled queen-breeders ruining the reputation of the

Italian bee, and says he has paid from \$12, to 17.50 for his queens.

What does the price of a thing signify? I knew of a horse once that was sold for \$50.00, that proved afterwards to be a great racer, and in three years after sold for \$10,000.

I have had queens imported, too, from across the "Big Waters," that cost me \$50 each, that were utterly worthless. They were poor hybrids, and could not lay enough eggs to supply a good nuclei. And I had other imported queens that cost me only \$8 to \$10, that was worth at least double their cost. And, again, I have bought "cheap" queens from Mr. Alley (the first man that reduced the price) at \$2 each that was just as good as any I ever had; just as prolific; quiet to handle, and their worker and queen progeny all correct.

It is true I have had some from Mr. Alley, and some other "cheap" queen-breeders, that proved to be hybrids, but I considered they were worth all the money I paid for them, because they produced bees that will gather just as much honey as pure Italians, if they do sting a little more.

Friend Argo says: "Such men, sending off impure queens for tested ones, do not consider how they injure the business," and so forth. I hope no bee-keeper who reads the bee journals (and those that do not are not likely to hear of them) are so green as to buy dollar queens expecting all to be pure.

I stated, in a former article, that I could not get more than one in twenty pure, and such is the case with a lot of two or three hundred queens. Sometimes I will have a lot of a dozen or twenty, and almost every queen will mate with Italian drones; and, again,

will have a lot, most all of which will be impure from mating with black drones.

Purchasing queens is just like purchasing lottery tickets, or any other gambling.

Even if we pay a "high" price for a queen the man we purchase of may be mistaken or "impure" himself, or don't know what is pure bees.

I agree with friend Argo on two points, viz: He says it will pay far better in a good honey location to raise honey at 15 cents per pound than sell tested queens so low, (\$5.00 I believe is his price). I would prefer to sell extracted honey for 10 cents than to sell tested queens for less than \$10.00.

Again he says he believes it is best to get a good tested queen at a fair price at first. Yet this fair price looks "mighty big" to a beginner who has never seen an Italian bee; and if we can induce him to pay one dollar for one bee to start with he will soon find it so superior to his old black, wild bees that run off the combs and hide every time he opens the hive—even if it proves to be a good hybrid—he will soon want more; and as he is a novice in the queen business he will prefer to buy another at \$1.00 by mail, to attempt to raise them, and in all probability he will "drown" a pure one next time.

I don't suppose any one advertising dollar queens would send off any but those raised from pure mothers unless by mistake.

But to friend Argo's proposition to purchase only tested queens from reliable breeders. How are we to know who is reliable? We are all at a distance from each other and know no one to whom we could write in your

vicinity for information. It will not do to judge from flaming advertisements and long gassy articles written on purpose to tell "I have got a big priced queen to breed from."

Generally the dogs that bark most bite least, or any fellow that can raise the "soap" can get in a flaming advertisement.

I would suggest to all editors of bee journals to admit no advertisements of queens until he is satisfied upon good authority that said advertiser has got good bees and is honest enough to do justice to his patrons. This in my opinion, will do more to advance the reputation of Italian bees than stopping the sale of cheap queens.

Cynthiana, Ky., Jan. 16, 1875.

N. A. B. CONVENTION—CHEAP QUEENS, ETC., ETC.

BY SHERENDON.

In the busy working season of spring and early summer, when the potato, cabbage and other patches need hoeing and we are wearied extracting and removing boxes of honey, with the bees continually swarming, many incidents, experiments and observations, we intended to give you when weary winter would come on, and there would not be so much claiming our attention; but here we are in the midst of winter, like the fellow standing up at the day of judgment not able to answer the first question, and not recollecting any of the matter we intended to write about, when we should have time.

We have received the December and January numbers; upon their reception everything else is laid aside. We first run over hastily, reading those articles which from their heading ap

pear more interesting, then going back, read every article in turn, leisurely or critically until the whole is digested—then the advertisements, old and new. The number is then laid aside securely for future reference.

The last numbers are well filled with the proceedings of the Pittsburg mutual admiration pow-wow. What good has been or will be accomplished by this great national (?) gathering of a particular clan of bee-keepers? Why is it that so few of the ablest teachers and best bee-keepers of our country, no longer attend these meetings? They still live. Have they become disgusted? Will bee-keeping be advanced by a continuance of this society? Politics and poverty, it is said, make strange bed-fellows. What revolution has induced the Rev. W. F. C., and Mrs. E. S. T., like the lion and lamb to become so loving and close connected. They form a most masterly team. Did you ever hear them talk about each other? Do you suppose they told the truth?

STANDARD FRAMES.

Those who have been keeping bees for years have experimented to their satisfaction, and are not concerned, having adopted the size suitable to their taste or locality, and could not we suppose be induced to throw them away for a frame three fourths of an inch longer and one and a quarter inch deeper, to suit Mr. D. Hives and material to make cost money. The bee-keepers in the United States, as a class, are not monied men.

FICTITIOUS NAMES.

What masked battery has scared Bro. McLean? Is he afraid of a broad-side from out of the bushes, that he would have all your correspondents "present bold front?"

NATIVE LAND OF THE ITALIAN.

What's the use of paying four prices for a queen because she was bred in Italy. For one-fourth or one-fifth the money you pay for an imported queen you can at present buy as good or a better one bred in the United States. The distance they have traveled has not enhanced their value, if they do cost more.

CHEAP QUEENS

There has been already a great deal said about cheap queens, but the subject is not exhausted. Because one breeder will and does sell them at half the price of others, it is no evidence of their inferiority, we think. In another line we will give you some instances to illustrate this breeding business. In our community a gentleman gave \$10.00 for a pair of fan tail pigeons and a pair of ring doves. In three years time they accumulated on his place to such an extent he offered them at \$1.00 per pair, sold a few at 50 cents per pair and gave away several pair. Another party gave \$40.00 soon after the war for a pair of Cotswold sheep. He now offers the progeny of these sheep at \$10.00 per pair—buck and ewe. I could cite other instances, but the foregoing are sufficient. Now, you purchase of Mr. A., a "queen warrant ed tested," and she not only lives "thirty days," but three years, during which time you have raised from her one, two or three hundred queens; you offer for one-half or one-fourth of the price you originally paid Mr. A. for the one you purchased of him, then you will see, SEE WHAT?

That he has other queens he would like to sell at the price you paid and to keep other parties from purchasing of you at less then he asks and has

heretofore received intimates that the bees you offer are impure and not to be relied upon. "That's what's the matter." How would it now look for Mr. B & Co., to publish in the Poultry Journal, and Messrs. C. & D., in the Live Stock Journal to hold up my neighbors as cheats, and dishonest men, because they are selling the progeny of the same birds, chickens and sheep, and bought of them at one-fourth the price they paid. The question arises, did the first party sell the pure breed, and did the second party keep it pure? That's all there is of that. If you pay \$1, \$2, \$5 or \$10 for a queen, and with care her progeny, working, royal and drones, for the first or second generation, does not come up to the standard—you know what—the price had nothing to do in the matter of purity.

Another point in this queen raising. We will mention Mr. G., Mr. R., or Mr. Q., have attained some eminence as bee-keepers—their opinions are received as authority. Some queen breeders are aware of their notoriety and presents one or all of them with a very fine queen requesting them to test and report at their convenience. As a matter of course the recipients acknowledge in due time with commendations. The breeder knew what the queen was before he made the presents and know farther, that this same queen had royal sisters pure, not worth half as much as the one given away, and which are sent out to Dick, Tom and Harry, who have been induced to purchase because Mr. G. or Mr. something else praised the bees of that particular breeder. Who would not speak a word of praise, when merited? Who would refuse when paid, well paid and, the subject deserving. All trades have their tricks—the bee business its share.

SKETCHES FROM TENNESSEE.

BY S. D. MCLEAN.

MR. EDITOR: Friend Argo in January number, hopes the BEE WORLD will still be improved.

We note an improvement in the same number which is a good one. We mean the removing of the table of contents from the cover, and placing it at the head of the editorial column where it will be better preserved.

We are always glad to see improvements and think with our Kentucky friend that it will all come right after awhile, or so soon as all correspondents write over their true signature. When the WORLD comes fully to time and when the advertisements are placed on separate sheets so they can be torn off when the volume is to be bound in book form for preservation, for they will add nothing to the value and will detract from the appearance of a bound volume.

EARLY DRONES.

To secure early drones for Italianizing or queen rearing, select a hive with a choice queen and build up by giving it frames of brood from other hives until it becomes very strong. When all the combs are full of brood and stores so that the queen is pressed for want of room to deposit her eggs, give them a frame or two of nice clean drone comb placed in the center of the brood nest and the queen will occupy them.

APIARY FOR FEBRUARY.

The principal work of the apiary for February should consist in building up his colonies. He should not fail to improve the opportunity now offered for stimulative feeding. The rye meal should be continued as directed last month whenever bees can

fly to take it until natural pollen appears. See that none lack honey or syrup at this important crisis, for bees consume a considerable amount of honey when rearing brood. During this month queens are actively engaged depositing eggs from which larvae are continually hatching which are liable to be chilled and lost by sudden changes in the weather. To guard against such casualty every precaution should be taken. The brood should be kept warm, and we know of no plan more practical than that of covering the frames with a quilt, piece of carpet, paper or cloth, of any description, and piling cotton seed on that to the depth of three or four inches.

They act as absorbent to take up the dampness arising from the bees, and also confine the heat, as may be proved to the satisfaction of any one who will slip his hand between the seed and quilt. The entrance to the hives should be kept contracted, and where colonies are weak it will perhaps be advisable to use division boards. As the colonies grow stronger give room, placing an empty comb between two containing brood, or what is better, a frame of capped brood from a strong hive that can spare it. Continue this plan until they can occupy the full capacity of the hive.

Culleoka, Maury county, Tenn., Jan. 14, '75.

N. AM. BEE CONVENTION.

BY A. J. MURRY.

I have read the proceedings of the Convention held at Pittsburg, and I have seen nothing new or learned anything except it was the adulteration of honey. That I have long suspected, but did not positively know, but cursed be he who does do it, and

every bee raiser ought to shun him. Give us names Why did they stop half way—out with them. I am in a growling humor, and I may hurt some one. I rather think the Convention was a mutual admiration society. I missed many of the old names that was a power in the early days of the society. What is the matter? Is it slowly passing into the hands of four or five interested parties, or is it as Novice says, bee-keepers learn nothing, and will not go to the expense of attending the convention. Are they of no use? They are. But instead of it being one grand society, that will break of its own weight through the prominence of some parties, they ought to be more local. Local societies what no Convention wants; but before we organize, we must pay one dollar to that broken down organization. For what? For the privilege of having our proceeding published in some favorite journal. The resources (its proceeding) of the society are frittered away, and a member who pays his dollar gets a what? Nothing. He had better pay it to the support of a bee journal, where he will get something for the money invested. Where are the proceedings that have been promised members in book form? Oh, where? Among the things that were dished up in a mangled form through a journal that we have already paid for; or are they laid away in some desk, held for bills that are questionable, or to be used for the holder's own benefit. You must not judge by this tirade that I am opposed to societies—not so. I would like to see a society in every county or State, especially in the South, for we are very ignorant. Meet once a year or monthly, and discuss

bee-keeping in our own State. Give the journals a condensed report, but keep a full detailed report for the benefit of members. Let the secretary of our State society correspond with the society of a sister State, exchange proceedings, and if considered beneficial, have a convention of States. Let each society elect one or more delegates to attend, and give the mode of operation and of reason, and these proceedings be published for the benefit of all. Let each state help to pay for it, but don't give the half dollar for the privilege of self organization to another society. We want lecturers also—not any one who is interested in a patent hive, they are too good. But get some practical man, who can talk as well as practice, recommended by a society, and all communities who wish lessons, invite him to lecture, pay his travelling fees and a reasonable compensation for his time. Some men's time are more valuable than others, but terms could be agreed upon.

I am for the organization of a Southern society. As our climate is different and ahead of that of the North-west, their directions for wintering, time of feeding and honey seasons are of no use to us, and aside from the manner of raising queens and other operations, in the hive, no information is gained from reading the proceedings of Northern societies. So let us organize county and State societies, and if necessary, a Southern society; But don't let us pay half a dollar to the Southern society, nor any other, except it be to get one of their lecturers, for we get no books of proceedings. So Mr. Editor, agitate the subject through the medium of your journal in the South.

Memphis, Tenn, Jan. 15, 1875.

BEE DISEASES AND THE MICROSCOPE.

BY HARRY GOODLANDER.

FRIEND MOON: Ever since I lost all by fire a few years ago I have felt the pressing need of a good microscope, especially in the research of the "bee disease." Well, yesterday morning a traveler stopped at my house to warm himself. I found that he had one with him, and persuaded him to stay a short time with me so that I could use it.

And now for the five hours with the microscope. I selected a few bees from my healthiest stocks, five bees I froze to death, cut them in two lengthwise, examined with the lense; saw—nothing unusual only frozen bees. I then examined the diseased honey, and found it far different from what I expected, for I had concluded that the disease was caused by a microscopic insect, but I found nothing of the kind; but I found it a vast field of vegetation, a complete net-work of vines. I fed some to the bees which they readily took up. Upon opening two of them immediately, I found the same in the bee that I found before, but upon opening the bees at intervals of two, four and five hours afterwards I found the vegetation apparently growing nicely under the influence of the warmth of the bee. It appeared to have taken root and to have fastened itself upon the intestines of the bee.

The lense was not as strong as I would like, yet the owner said it cost him \$20.00. Now, from the above let us draw our conclusion. May this not account for so many bees bursting with the disease—the vegetation caus-

ing an inability to discharge by being fastened to the intestines?

And may not this account for the cause of bees, when they discharge, sometimes drag their toes after them as though it was waxy?

From an examination of several specimens of honey I found that honey gathered in a dry season had more, while that gathered in a wet season, especially from fire weed and butter weed and cotton weed, etc., was full of it. Now, may not bee-keepers unknowingly bring to bear the very elements, within their hives, that produce this vegetation? May not this throw some light on the reason of the material, from which a hive is made, has a great bearing on the health of the bees? But time will show.

Just as soon as I am financially able, I will carry forward the investigation (although commenced long ago) and give the results through the journal.

Should I receive financial assistance from bee-keepers, it will enable me to go a little faster, and perhaps develop some things I never thought of.

Leesburg, Ind., Dec. 23, 1874.

EXPERIENCE OF "SIX."

BY W. B. RUSH.

FRIEND MOON.—It seems time for a voice again from Pennsylvania. Dr. Davis did not appear in your last with his savage pruning knife, and some of us feel a breath of relief, for while his criticisms in general were good, but in all kindness to the Dr., I would say he has too much of old nature in his pen; too prone to find fault with articles—rather point out what he believed to be the better "modus operandi," and leave the reader to see

the error. One thing is visible, as a result, the short articles which appeared last spring, that were brief and various, are swallowed up by longer and more intricate ones not understood by a novice. They fear the Dr.'s lance and bistoury.

THE WORLD is here again, and is a much sought for favor on my table, lying between the American Journal and Bee Keeper's Magazine. I can't spare either of them.

Scarcely a number of the journals come, but (and I am sure too) that the dollar queens are spoken of. Now, for brevity, let us call them Root Queens, as does our Monmouth, Ill. man, and advertises thus. It would be of much interest to hear from those that have them for sale, to know how their orders come in and what satisfaction they give. Answer, Monmouth?

It is now growing near the time for queen rearing, and I want to raise a discussion on the size of the colony or nucleus in which queens are to be raised. I will assert that queens raised in a small nucleus are not as large or prolific, nor as hardy as those raised in full colonies. But now, Dr. Davis, wait a moment. If the temperature is kept up to and not above that of a full colony, then it does not make any difference; now make the discrimination in temperature, and you have the quality of the queen in proportion, and just here comes one thing more in connection. The queen cells, when placed in a hive (or virgin queens either, in a cage) out from the center of a good cluster of bees, will be greatly improved, and there is only one remedy, and that is correct temperature.

This was discussed long ago, I am aware.

Are not workers undeveloped queens—females—and what is it that perfects them? More room and royal jelly I have been making experiments on workers, and would have our queens more extensive had not the season grown so late; could only get two queens fertilized (after September 31.) Now, I claim bees can be increased in size by careful breeding, and the worker cells be larger, but not perceptible to the eye. I can and have done it—diminished the size of workers and queens.

I have now, under this paper and pen, workers, from large and well-developed ones, to those one-half their size. All know the appearance of a pure worker (or ought to), the smallest ones are just one-half the perfect size; have wings full length, antennal full length, but more delicate; legs are proportionate; body well formed; yellow bands the whole length of the abdomen, the lines between are black, but very narrow. I repeat they had yellow bands the whole length of the abdomen. They are as light as any queen. Now, you may ask how were they obtained? in one hive, by manner of feed and feeding, and in another by temperature; very active; and would think them good on the wing, but they are short lived. I have the queen they worked from, and a sample of them in alcohol. Dr. Davis, would not queens treated similarly be just as imperfect?

I am so thankful for the success of my experiment for one important item now, and this brings me to answer (with Dr. Brown), Chas. Dadant, he asserts through the columns of the WORLD, that there are no impure bees in Italy. About three years ago, Chas. Dadant visited many of the best

Apiaries of Italy, and reported through the journals that there were impure bees there, and that he refused some queens and preferred others on account of purity. Now, where are the "sachems" of Hancock Co., Ill.?

H. A. King says, he found impure Italians there alongside of pure Italians. Mr. M. Cori, in a letter published in the "Bien en Frannel," says: "I received two Italian colonies and did not find them what I expected from reports that I read," &c. See Bee Keeper's Magazine for July, page 161, A. Benedict—"I believe there are impure bees in Italy." He received these words from Dadant and King, who were there to see for themselves, and now we believe it and call for the proof. I am informed Dadant & Son have good bees, and I believe them truthful; but what are we to do when King holds out still in his assertion, and has no imported queens to sell. Dadant, a short time since, declared that the Italian is a distinct specie of bee, and that there are no impure Italians in Italy. Which report are we to believe? Tell us Dr. Davis. Had Dadant come out and frankly confessed he had been duped and found himself mistaken, then, all O. K. He also went to import queens, and now puts the blame on Apiarians in Italy, and says they told him about impure bees; also he was in such apiary, or apiaries, and did not like the bees; now, he says, the very same bees are pure. He must admit an untruth or ignorance of the test of pure Italians. I am informed, by good authority, that there are Egyptian bees in Italy, and some have been received here.

But now, I come to that part of Mr. Dadant's article, on the markings of bees in Italy, and with all kindness

and respect to Mr. Dadant's (I am a plain, outspoken man) honor and motives, I must contradict him, and demand proof, that bees in Italy, in case of drouth or scarcity, the Italians sometimes show but two bands (I cannot repeat verbatim for my WORLD is loaned). This is unreasonable. He must then admit a pure queen will raise bees of two bands, they are impure. Here is just where my experiment comes in, and it is this, viz., bees that are raised under unfavorable circumstances, lack of food, do not lose any of their markings, but are lighter, if any change is perceptible.

If his theory be true, then friends, when we order queens, let us say, "please don't send any queens that have been raised when there was a scarcity." All this theory will not answer for to prove that queens which show workers of two bands are pure. Dr. Davis, here is a chance for your "probe." "Six" has made the incision. You probe it. I am sorry Dadant feels so grieved at the "Sachems" at Pittsburgh. He complained seriously and I see you are inclined ditto. There was much said on importing bees not sent to the journals. All I see contradicted in my report is from Mrs. Trupper. See American Journal, page 7, "I did not say any such thing." Yet, she admits all that I reported, except this. I should have (according to her) put in the words, "I don't think that it is prolific," to read thus, or, on inquiry, she said there may have been Egyptian blood taken over. (Now comes the difference between us and this I did not hear.) "But I did not think it possible, for I never heard of it." Here are two sides, take which you please. I will put in my own word here. There are Egyptian

bees in the best district of Italy, and has been for more than two years too. I am importing some queens (but none for sale), and I am more particular about purity there than here. I have been arranging for some nine months to import two new varieties of bees. I have proved to my own satisfaction that the Italians are much superior to the blacks, and there are other varieties far superior to the Italian or Ligurian, as they are above the black.

I am soon to begin to turn my attention to bees for profit, and lessen my experiments, many of which are not yet known, and will only be called out as times demand.

My wintering arrangements have been completed, I can winter safely and profitably, and my winter quarters shall be as June to the bees—except flowers.

I am, with heart and voice, in with friend Argo, about North and South. I spoke in emphatic terms against it at the Society's meeting, and moved for St. Louis for the next convention; but our Canadian friend, who is "Caput et Legem," influenced it otherwise; but I am going down to see your section of the country this summer.

Simpson Store, Jan. 15, 1875.

A BEE HUNT.

BY W. H. G.

MR. EDITOR.—In November last, after frost, some peculiarly marked bees were discovered around my hives. Satisfying myself that these robbers were not from my neighbors', I concluded to take a beehunt, though late in the season. After capturing several of these robbers and taking

them to a field near by, I put them on a frame of honey. Yea, even before I had located by "bait," a bee "struck it." Some hours elapsed before I could tell accurately the course these robbers went. Ascertaining the direction, I moved on, over a half-mile, and planted down my Jacob staff in another field. Here, I reconnoitered for two hours. Then, moving a few hundred yards from the direct line, I put down again. Here, I noticed the line made in this last flight crossed the original one obtained near home. My last course, taken not far from this first cross, was just before sunset, so I only saw the bees go and not return. Here I concluded to defer further operations till next day; when, capturing over a dozen robbers, I sallied forth, going beyond my last "down" of the evening previous; but soon found I had gone beyond the bee tree. Retracing my steps to a field, near the end of my first day's work, I set my bait in order, and soon ascertained the course—another cross on the first. Soon the comb was almost covered with bees going to and fro. I began my search in the woods just by, and soon found the tree, from which the bees were "pouring in a stream" to the bait, about six feet from the ground. Marking the tree, I returned one and a-half mile home, and made ready to secure the bees, at least. After sunset I cut off the tree four feet above the entrance, and again below, when, with the help of two persons, the middle section was lowered into a cart on a thick bed of pine leaves, and securely conveyed home, which I put in order near my hives in their forest home. These bees have three distinct leather colored bands below their thorax, yet, some-

what darker than my young Italians, the progeny of queens, recently obtained from Dr. J. P. H. Brown, Augusta, Ga. Whence came these bees? Ten or twelve miles distant are forty-five colonies of Italian bees, and two years ago a swarm went to themselves in the woods. If not from this swarm, truly, whence are they? Next February, I expect (*Deo vol*) to transfer these bees to a frame hive and give them a start. Thus far I have been more successful than your correspondent in December No. of the BEE WORLD, in his first bee hunt in Tennessee.

Sparta, Ga., Dec. 1874.

CANDID VERSUS ADULTERATED HONEY.

BY CHAS. DADANT.

Some bee-keepers, finding that it is sometimes difficult to sell candid honey, want to know how to prevent honey from granulating. No doubt, candid honey is not as attractive as liquid and clear honey; but candying does not change the taste, and if, by candying, honey lacks its beauty for the eyes, it gains another quality, viz., it is more easily eaten than in a liquid state.

But that is not the only benefit derived from the candying of honey; this property is the best safeguard against adulteration.

Honey candies or granulates because it contains grape sugar. Sugar dregs does not granulate because it is formed of cane sugar, which does not granulate but crystalizes.

In France, the sale of liquid honey is impossible, because the honey dealers and their customers know that candid honey is not adulterated; while

liquid honey can contain all kinds of sugar drugs without the possibility, even for a chemist, detecting the fraud.

It is, therefore, of great importance for the bee keepers to inform the consumers that if they buy liquid honey, from December to June, that they get a spurious article, or a mixture which has lost right to be called pure or natural honey.

When the majority of the consumers of honey of this country will be sure of this fact, the honey adulterators will have to seek another business, and the bee keepers will find an easy market and a full price for their extracted honey.

Hamilton, Dec. 19, 1874.

VARIOUS ITEMS IN BEE CULTURE.

BY D. W. FLETCHER.

DEAR EDITORS.—As the old year has passed away, and I am yet in the land of the living, I thought I would write you a few lines. I have been so very busy that I have not had time to write very much. Bees here seem to be wintering very well just at present, although they have not flown in six weeks; how they will winter I cannot tell, but all appears to be well now. I have read many articles in different papers and various journals, on "What killed the bees in the winter of 1872." One says one thing another says something else, &c. I am satisfied just what killed the bees in this locality, and I will tell you and the readers of the BEE WORLD. Bees did not fly in nearly three months from the time they went into winter quarters. Why? Because they had no opportunity, the weather was so cold

that it was impossible for bees to leave the hive and return. Consequently dysentery set in, and that, together with the severe cold weather, destroyed a great many fine colonies of bees in this locality. Someone may ask, what makes you think that long confinement caused the destruction of so many colonies of bees? I will tell you what I know to be a fact. The winter that so many colonies of bees died in this vicinity, a man, residing about four miles from here, near the Cayuga Lake, had fifteen swarms of bees that he undertook to winter, or started to winter. These bees were placed on the south side of a building, where the north and west winds could not reach them; the hives were set near the earth and the entrances were shaded by a wide board set up edgewise in front of the hives, and when it was warm enough for bees to fly there, it was too cold in this locality, from the fact when there came a warmish day the wind was most always in the north or west, and when the snow would melt slowly, the air was too cool for bees to fly and return. In the vicinity where this man resided the snow was gone nearly a week before it was here, and the weather seemed to be more mild there than here. To sum up the whole thing, his bees had an opportunity to fly once through the winter, while the bees in this locality had no chance to fly. The results were his bees all wintered finely, with the exception of one swarm that the mice destroyed. Everybody's bees died all around him, that is, within one mile and a half, as none were kept nearer than that. An old bee keeper made the remark to me after, that the reason this man was lucky with his bees

was the cause of his good success. Now, this was not the cause entirely, it was because his bees had an opportunity to fly and cleanse themselves this winter. There will not be enough left by Spring to fly. I read many brilliant reports from bee keepers in different localities, and am much pleased and delighted with such reports; but some say, why can't I do just the same thing with my bees, and receive such great profits, &c. Why, I will tell you; first, it is because the localities are different, and second, it makes a considerable difference who manages the bees, whether a practical bee man or a novice. My opinion is to secure a good locality for bee culture, where there is plenty of pastureage, &c., and your bees, with good management, will reward you amply for your labor. I have found out, in my experience with bees, that laziness they are a stranger to; all they want is a good locality, a good hive, and good management. If you have not a good locality for bees your profits in honey will usually be very insignificant, when compared with the reports of others in different localities. As for this locality, it is not a very good one for bees, although some years bees appear to flourish and do well in this locality. I am very much pleased with the last number of the BEE WORLD, and think it cannot fail to please and instruct all who are interested in the culture of the honey bee. I say to my brother bee keepers let us all lend a helping hand to aid the publishers of this journal this year, and as long as it exists I do sincerely think that we can make this one of the most interesting and instructive periodicals on bee culture published in this country or Europe, if we would only put

forth our energies to accomplish it; let us all try and do the best we can and success will most assuredly be the results.

Lansingville, Tompkins county, N. Y.

A MISSISSIPPIAN'S EXPERIENCE AND VIEWS.

BY DR. J. M. SIMMONS.

EDITOR BEE WORLD.—I dislike very much to say anything respecting bees and hives, having had so little experience practically with either. I think there is a great deal said and written that is well calculated to confuse beginners and cause them to commence wrong, and after a few years of labor and toil, with bees and humbugs, especially the latter, they quit the business in disgust. This was my condition exactly, two years ago, when I first set out in bee culture. I was not satisfied as to the best hive to use, and sent to a prominent bee-man, who advised me to buy a Patent Hive and Right, from him, for \$10.00 and freight. I sent for it and used it one year; at the end of that time I put it on the fire. It was the most complete bee moth and moth trap I ever saw. My advice to beginners is to subscribe to some bee book or journal, or both, to suit your locality or section, then send for some Italian bees, or, if you have black bees send to some reliable apiary and get some pure, tested Italian queens, and last, but not the least important, send to some reliable bee man who has no axe to grind, for a sample hive, but don't pay him any right for it only for his hive as a pattern. I think Langstroth's hive and frame comes as near suiting all sections as any hive and frames that have ever been made, either for single or

two story. The only change I would make in his hive would be to rabbit the sides instead of the ends, and use it single story instead of two-story, for either comb or extracted honey. My reasons for this change would be to economize time and material in making hives, and space in the hive requiring only one division board to contract or enlarge the hive, unless you wish to raise queens, then use two boards and have their fly holes.

Mr. Editor, I notice some of your contributors only give their initials and sign fictitious names. Now, I think this is wrong, let every contributor sign his own name in full, and give Post-office, County and State, then we can locate them and know whether their communication suits our locality or not.

Mr. Editor, I am glad to know that we have a bee journal in the South, for I have been taking the "American Bee Journal," and find it is too far North for us, not at all suited to our climate. I wish your BEE WORLD much success, and hope it will deal justly with all patent hive venders who cannot prove up all points of excellence claimed by them. I have no axe to grind, but may have some tested Italian queens, raised from pure stock, for sale in 1875. If applied for some, I may give my plan of hive and frame, and mode of raising queens some time, if desired.

Lauderdale, Miss., Dec. 29, 1874.

A BEE HUNT.

BY D. A. PIKE.

MR. EDITOR.—I see in the BEE WORLD of December, a "Bee Hunt," described by "H." of Murfreesboro, Tenn. Now, I don't claim anything new, only a box to catch and carry bees in. How to make the box: I take a piece of glass $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; then take a good solid piece of leather, say upper leather. Cut a crevice in it, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch from the top, to receive the glass. Make the leather wet and sew tight around the glass; make the box two or three inches deep—just as you please about that. Of course all bee hunters know you must have comb and honey to start a course of bees, old comb is the best, and also diluted honey, make it quite thin with water, the bees will work much faster on it.

How to start a line of bees: Take the box in your right hand, go to where there is a bee sucking on a flower, hold your left hand under the flower; now, put the box over the bee and press the box on your left hand, of course, you have the bee in your box. The bee, seeing light at the top of the box, will come up against the glass. Now, hold the box in your left hand, and carry to bait. Now, place the bottom of your box on comb containing honey; place your right hand over the glass to make it dark, and the bee will go down on the bait and begin to fill herself with honey. Now, you can look through the glass and see the bee at work, or you can turn the box up a little and look underneath, and see her at work, and still keep the light excluded. When you see that your bee has commenced to suck in earnest, remove the

Wm. H. Floyd, Pine Apple, Ala., writes: We have had a poor year for honey here; a short season in the spring, followed by a long drought of eleven weeks, so that our honey harvest was quite short.

box cautiously, step back and watch the bee. In this way, by catching more bees, you will soon get a strong course. When you want to follow up your line, all you have to do is to place the box over the bees on bait, shake the box a little, and your bees will come up as before. Now place, or hold the box in your left hand, so that the bees cannot get out; take up the bait and follow your line until you come to some clear or suitable place, then put your bait down and proceed as before. So continue until you come to the tree, or you can leave one bait set, take your bees and start another line at an angle, and where those two lines meet the tree must stand.

In my next I will give you my profit per swarm in my apiary.

Smithsburg, Md., December, 4, 1874.

VARIETY.

BY HARRY GOODLANDER.

FRIEND MOON: As several have wrote to me asking me to give my reasons for using so large a frame and as the question of standard frames is now in vogue, we will try to state some of our reasons. I have tried frames from 12x12 all the way up to 30x15, and find a frame that will give me comb 18x16 suits my location best. Twelve such combs to the hive of course. The frame outside measure is larger. Now many are advocating a standard frame; but not one of the advocates has even hinted at the great problem to be solved, i e, to get the greatest amount of brooding cells in the least possible space. Solve that first; then you can easily settle the standard frame question. Now, so far as I have

examined, I find that the brood nest is longer one way than another, and that where all things are favorable the bees have it set long way perpendicular in order to economize heat; but I find that they appear to suffer no inconvenience from having that nest layed on its side, provided you assist them to economize heat, and provided you do not contract the sides, which you do with shallow frames, of the nest. Now, bee keepers, the old man will give you a sum in mathematics to do. Find which will give the greatest number of breeding cells in a certain space, of large frames or small ones. Suppose we try it with the Quinby hive, 12x22. Set the frames lengthwise, or crosswise, eight large or twelve small frames. There are other advantages to the bees that large frames have over small ones, yet small frames are more easily handled than large ones, but that is for your own convenience and not for the bees. We want the brood nest to contain about 70,000 cells; place that in as small a space as possible. Then we want from 45,000 to 50,000 cells for the bees to store honey in to keep them from crowding the brood nest. In figuring on this let the small frames occupy the same size hive that the large one do, and see which will contain the most cells in the same space.

The other advantage is in winter quarters. Any one can see what that is. Now I am decidedly in favor of large frames. The frame should be longer than it is possible for the queen to make the brood nest, and should be enough of them so as to not crowd her side-ways.

Leesburg, Ind. Jan. 1st, 1875.

SUBSCRIBE at once to the BEE WORLD.

NOTES FROM MISSISSIPPI.

BY ANNA SAUNDERS.

MR. EDITOR.—Thanks to Mr. Murray for his kind mention of me. It is an evidence of the same friendly feeling which has been shown me by so many, who, but for the bees, would be entire strangers. It seems only natural to most of you to want to cheer and encourage a woman, one, moreover, who as some of you know, labors under many and peculiar difficulties, in attempting to devote herself to the fascinating employment of the apiary. Everywhere in our country the spirit of chivalry displays itself constantly, even in the wildest hurry and flurry of this restless age; so universal is it that it almost excites our wonder to meet a man without it.

A stranger has just been inspecting my apiary. He seemed delighted with the movable frames, the extractor, &c., and especially with a beautiful Italian queen I showed him; but, after admiring her awhile, asked—"Now, where is the king?" He lived some time in Northern Texas, near Paris. He says that the bees there cannot find enough suitable houses, and often establish themselves on the ground in the grass, or on the outside of their hives, after filling the inside. I knew of a case in Concordia Parish, La., of a colony of bees which built their combs on the outside of a tree and remained there several years, the manager of the place not allowing them to be disturbed. I know of two houses in the walls of which bees have lived for some years, besides one, the attic and walls of which are literally filled with bees, the owner tells me, has no idea how many colonies. She moved into it last Spring, previous to

which time it had been deserted for about ten years.

A few days ago I had the pleasure of displaying my bees, &c., to a couple of delightful old people, from below Clinton, La. The old gentleman is about eighty, and his wife nearly as old, and you may imagine my surprise when they asked me to show them my bees, extractor, &c. They were not at all timid and seemed much pleased. He told me a great deal about the abundance of honey here in early times, but said it had all left the country many years since. The cutting down of the forests I suggested as the cause of this change, but he did not seem to acquiesce willingly in the correctness of this explanation. I can scarcely hope to see such yields of honey now, even with Italian bees, extractors and all. Our immense uncultivated fields are growing up in pine thickets and sedge grass, in lieu of the magnificent and varied growth which covered the land when the bee and the white man came.

MR. EDITOR, please allow me to suggest that the absence of dates to the articles in the journals is often a source of considerable annoyance. Something is frequently said which makes it desirable to know the date of the writing.

For some months a strange little visitor has often hovered around my eyes at sunset. At first I took it for a humming bird, which it much resembles, though rather thicker in proportion to its length. It often eats honey out of a comb in my hand, but is never still an instant, so that I have never had a good view of it. It is not at all like the common mosquito hawk which some of you may suppose it is.

The Japan plum is in bloom now.

Can any one tell us if its blossoms yield much honey.

I begin to hope that my location is better for honey than I thought at first. My bees commenced swarming the last of March this year, and did not kill off their drones till October, I find now that most of the hives I have been able to examine have too much honey, in spite of the terrible drouth we had in the fall.

It was impossible for me to extract the honey, or even to look into the hives during the fall.

I hope I shall be able to give my bees more attention in future.

Woodville, Miss., Dec. 4, 1824.

POTATOES FOR BEES.

MR. EDITOR.—I extracted 25 pounds of honey per hive up to the middle of June, none since though, as much more could have been taken had I been able to command the time to extract it. Nearly trebled the number of my stocks. Torrents of rain all the spring and terrible drouth all the fall; just a year for bees to starve I should have thought.

Has anyone tried powdered borax inside of hives to get rid of roaches? I bought some nearly a year ago, but have not used it yet, fearing it might be offensive to the bees also.

A very intelligent gentleman tells me that boiled sweet potatoes are good for bees—mash and make into little cakes, lay them in blacking box tops, &c., and set inside the hives. I intended trying it myself before saying anything about it to others, but my bees are so very abundantly supplied with bread that I will not insist on their eating potatoes this winter. Last winter they did not have any pollen on hand, comparatively speaking, but gathered it the whole winter.

THE CONVENTION.

BY A. J. MURRAY.

The *King* reigns. Long live the *King*. The *Pope*, though infalible, his subjects thought different, and so was left alone in his glory. The *Pope* is a *Back*; though ours is a *Benedict*, and will of course return to his consort, the *Queen*, which he loves so well, and the *Clark* will preside, and he ought to see that no one will *Tupper* influence for the benefit of the old *Love* for some may be *Benton*, helping *Hoagland* or any other land. *Tennessee* for instance. Her soil produces the best of honey plants, though it may be a *Brown* subject farther South. I know a *Hill* that raises more bees than any other *Chap* or *Zimmerman* and make the flowers *Rush* up producing honey that requires no *Lemon* to flavor or preserve it. The *Queen* bees may be induced to come out and taste of the sweets, but I doubt it. But I'll *Bel singer* that he can't produce any other man that will take the *Wind-er* the honey out of a comb as quick as the *Queen city*. Mr. *Stets-son* says he can, but he must be allowed to locate his apiary in a *Park-ee* a grove near *Toledo*, where the *Sherif* nor *Southerners* could get at him in case he should adulterate his honey for a big yield he must have; though *Perrin*, gets *Moore*.

Stephenson thought that *McLane* ought to clean out all the *T-weeds*, and *See* that nothing but flowery subjects were there for the bees to *Eaton*. As for *Delille*, he could use his discretion in regard to it.

The meeting must have been held by daylight as I fail to find that the *Moon* had shown its countenance. If it had, it might have had a tendency to mellow and soften all asperities, and have *Root*-ed out all sectional feelings; though many might have felt *A-dam Grimm*, about it.

We of the South need not feel *Hurt*, for as long as the *King* reigns, so will these class meetings be held in his dominions. *Brown* we may be, from exposure to the sun. Still we *Love* our land; though the sun makes *Baker* dry as a chip. Still we make *Adair* that she cannot be surpassed for quantity and quality of honey. We can *Saunter* through, and so I *Argo* that we need not fear to meet a *Hill* or a chilling frost. They may attempt to *Parse* her by; but the day is not far distant, when even the *Newman* will want her assistance, and *Bowen* to her might.

SENDING BEES BY MAIL.

BY H. ALLEY.

FRIED MOON: In reading your journal I find much that is interesting. I lately saw an article from R. M. Argo, on sending queens by mail. He stated that he could not send them safely in the kind of cage as I use. I seldom lose one in such cages unless they are delayed in the mails over one week. I have sent them in cages to Texas where they were ten days in the mails and have not had a dead bee in the cage when it reached its destination, but the cage was made rather heavier than the kind Mr. Argo has seen, or refers to as mine. Sometimes the bees will die and it is hard to tell the real cause; but in most cases it is the food. I use the best and heaviest honey I can find to fill the sponges with, and use no protections on it to keep the bees from being daubed, and in all my experience in sending queens by mail, only one person ever reported that the bees were daubed by the honey in the sponge.

I think that bees will live longer in those cages in the mails than they would if placed in some closet and kept quiet.

Mrs. E. S. Tupper has informed the readers of the A. B. J. several times that it was against the rules or law of the P. O., department to send queens by mail. No postmaster, this way, has had orders not to receive bees to go in the mails. One postmaster only had a notice that "bees were not mailable matter." So long as postmasters will receive them, just so long will I send them by mail. Now and then there is a postmaster who makes a little fuss about bees in the

mails, but there is only one in a thousand of this kind.

We are having very cold weather here now. The glass has been down to zero and below for ten days past. Bees are wintering well.

The past season was the best we have had here for several years.

Wenham, Mass., Jan. 17, 1875.

HOW TO MAKE ENGLISH CANARY, NO WAY INFERIOR TO THE BEST OF SPANISH WINES.

One hundred and twenty pounds will make a barrel of very good mead, but if you make it of clear honey, your best way is to allow four pounds to every gallon of water. Let your quantity be much or little, (which you ought to govern yourself by, either considering the bigness of your cask, or quantity of honey you have to make up into mead) mix it in your copper, and then boil it and scum it well, which scum you may strain through "Hippocrat's sieve, or a taper bag made of swan skin, with a hoop at the broad end, letting the narrow end come to a point. This bag will make it as fine as the other through which you may put it. When your mead is almost cold, turn it up, clay it down, and let it stand until it is fine and old enough to drink; which sometimes will be sooner than other, according to the time of year and kind of weather that comes upon it after making. This liquor is one of the choicest of wines, as well as the most wholesome of all vinous liquors in the world, and ought to be drank and made use of in possets, etc., as Canary. Thus used it is impossible to know whether the posset was made of your own mead or Canary. Thus for

making of mead with clear honey. But if you do it with the washings of combs, or dissolve all your honey from the combs; then you must dissolve it in warm water until an egg will swim in the mead the breadth of a shilling. But here you must be very careful that before you break your combs in to the sieve, or strainer, you must separate all the young bees, which you may easily know from the honey, and also the sandrach (or bee bread) which is a yellow substance with which some of the cells are filled; which otherwise will give your mead an ill taste; and then proceed to boil, scum, and turn as before. It is best if it be kept until it is a year old; and if you make it well (as before) it will keep as long as you please. I have, some now by me almost nine years old. [Warder 1749.]

ANOTHER DIRECTION FOR MAKING MEAD.

All the writers who have hitherto treated on this subject have given into a capitol error with regard to the strength of this liquor, by directing too great a proportion of honey to be dissolved in the water. The usual practice of making it so strong as to bear an egg, is very wrong. The liquors is thereby rendered a mere scum, and this bad quality is still increased by the long boiling generally practiced. It is scarcely possible to procure honey so pure but that some bee bread, wax, or other substance is mixed with it, and this cannot be perfectly separated from it, so far as I know, but by boiling. On this account, therefore, the boiling of mead seems indisputably necessary. In order the more effectually to separate these impurities from the liquor intended to be boiled it is advisable to mix some whites of eggs with it before it is put on the fire. Very particular care must be

taken to skim off the thick scum that rises upon it, the moment before it begins to boil, and this must be attentively continued so long as it does boil. The only intention of boiling being here to separate the impurities, and to make a perfect union of the water and the honey, both which purposes are very soon obtained. It evidently appears that the boiling need be of but very short duration. This circumstance should be particularly attended to in making of mead; because the longer the boiling has been continued the less will the liquor be disposed to ferment kindly. It is perhaps owing to our too long boiling only, that mead, highly esteemed by most of the Northern natives, has long been under discredit in this country; a discredit from which it might probably be retrieved, if due care were taken to prepare it rightly. The common method of boiling it too much, has always prevented its fermenting sufficiently to remove its luscious sweetness; whereas, were it to undergo a due fermentation, that sweetness would go off and the liquor would acquire a fine racy flavor.—[Wildman, 1770.]

SOME OF THE RESULTS OF '74.

BY M. QUINLEY.

EDITOR BEE WORLD.—You ask for a report of what our bees have done. The greatest honey producer—Capt. Hetherington, Cherry Valley, New York—in the State, let me say States, has already reported to various papers, that he has furnished over 57,000 pounds for market. His partner, Mr. Elwood, Starkville, Herkimer county, N. Y., had the care of 175 Stocks, and obtained from them 18,050 pounds—

CO-RELATION OF BEES AND FLOWERS.

The bees, Mr. Darwin says, have solved a difficult problem. They have made their cells of a proper shape to hold the greatest possible consumption of precious wax in their construction. No human workman is skillful enough to do what a crowd of bees can do, working in a dark hive—make cells of wax of the true form.

The number of bumble bees in the country will depend upon the number of cats. How can that be? Because the number of bees is dependent upon the number of field mice, which eat the bees. Hence the more cats the fewer mice, and the fewer mice the more bees.

If the whole genus of bumble bees became extinct, or very rare, the heart's ease and red clover would become rare or would disappear. How is that? Because bees promote the growth of those flowers. The visits of bees are necessary to the fertilization of some kinds of clover, and almost indispensable to the fertilization of the heart's ease.

In a word—no bees, no seed; no seed, no increase of the flowers. The more visits from the bees, the more seed from the flower; the more flowers from the seeds.

Nearly all our orchidaceous plants absolutely require the visits of insects to remove their pollen masses, and thus to fertilize them.

Twenty heads of unprotected Dutch clover yielded 2,900 seeds. The same number protected from bees, produced not one seed; one hundred heads of unprotected clover yielded 27,000, and the same number protected from bees, not a seed.

SUCCESS IN RAISING HONEY.

We have often spoken of the business of "Bee Keeping and Raising Honey" as one of certain profit when conducted as it should be.

An apiarian should have a "taste" for honey raising; they should have a practical knowledge of the business to go into it on a large scale, so as to make a business of it.

Very recently we had an interview with Mr. J. S. Harbison, the well-known Apiarian, formerly of Sacramento, but now permanently located at San Diego, where he is carrying on a very large and successful Apiary. Mr. H. was in this city with three car loads of his honey destined for Chicago and the East. He had already sent six car loads and anticipates sending six more this season, thus making twelve car loads of honey from one apiary; this looks like business.

Mr. Harbison has now at San Diego two thousand hives of bees; these are principally the Italian bees, as they are much superior to the black bee. In addition to the large amount of honey raised, and it is about 100 tons, Mr. H. makes 1000 lbs. of bees-wax.—California Farmer.

HONEY PRODUCT OF A SINGLE BEE-KEEPER.

Capt. J. E. Hetherington, Cherry Valley, N. Y., writes to "Gleanings on Bee Culture"—"Your letter asking for a report of my present seasons honey crop duly received, I take pleasure in complying with your request. A part of my bees are managed by others. Total amount of honey made by bees managed by myself, box, 19,907 lbs. extracted, 3,150. This was from 234 stocks in the spring, increased to 307

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in the fall. Total from stocks managed by others, 427 in the spring, increased to 677 stocks in the fall; box 22,701; extracted, 11,717; making in all, from 661 stocks in the spring increased by fall to 1,047; total box honey, 42,608 lbs.; total extracted, 14,867 lbs.—grand total, 57,475 lbs. I now have in winter quarters 1,172 stocks, in good condition. We have added to our number this fall by purchase. We use the Quinby hive mostly, the few that are not are made of straw, made so as to box conveniently."

Sunflowers, a Missourian says, after the seed is threshed out, make excellent feeders for bees.

Notes and Queries.

W. M. KELLOGG, Oneida, Ill., writes: Good weather for bees, and they are still on their summer stands. Shall put them into winter quarters soon.—Dec. 9.

J. M. Simmons, Lauderdale, Miss., writes: I want a bee journal that treats of bees and their management in the South. I am sick and tired of so much wintering. I want something that suits us in Mississippi and States in same latitude.

T. D. Ward, Lawton, Mich., writes: I have five Italian swarms and five black. The latter I wish to Italianize; would you send and get queens or would you Italianize from my own? They are nice and pure.

"You would probably do as well to Italianize from your own. Should you fail to do this successfully, you could then procure queens.

T. N. Hollett, Pennsville, O., writes: My bees are wintering splendidly; so far scarcely any dead bees yet. I am satisfied that bees cannot be wintered profitably out of doors in this latitude. My bees are housed.

EDITOR BEE WORLD.—I am now preparing to engage in bee keeping the coming Spring. I have not yet made a selection of location; but have some thoughts of going to Florida, it being, in my idea, a part of the South where bees could work the year round. What do you think of it? Do you know of any reason why bees would not prosper in that State and do constant work? Very respectfully,
Baltimore, Md. R. D. BUCHANAN.

Florida is considered a good State for bees. Still, if you are pleasantly situated where you are, and near a good market, you would probably succeed just as well by staying. Climate does not have as much to do with successful bee keeping as the attention bestowed upon the bees by the apiarian.

A. F. Moon.—As the people of the South are becoming more interested in the honey bee, and improvements in that direction are steadily going on, would it not be well for us to follow some of our northern brethren in trying to establish a standard frame. I don't think that it would be wise for us to adopt the same size or sizes that they do, because ours is a different climate, and I think that should have something to do with the depth, if nothing more. As wintering in cellars, manure heaps, hot houses, &c., are almost, if not entirely unknown in the South. It would be well to consider that point, that is, have a frame that will allow bees to winter well on their summer stands.

Now, I would like to hear from practicable bee-keepers on this frame question. As a rule, most that I have heard speak, like a frame nine or ten inches deep, giving as their reason, that they procure more honey from that depth than any other; while, some say, give them a larger, or rather deeper frame. I hope those of our bee keepers who have tried different sizes of frames will give us the result in the WORLD, that we may learn from their experience. Have been thinking of using a two-story hive that would hold eight frames each, making sixteen frames to the hive, and I can't decide as to the size the frames should be. I have thought of trying some 9 x 12, that is 9 deep and 12 wide, and then I have thought of trying some 10 deep and 14 wide, which will make my upper or surplus chamber larger than I would like to have it, and I want to have the frame in both chambers, brood and surplus, the same size, so that I can use them interchangeable. It is a subject of some importance at least, I think. Will you be so kind as to give us some "Moon" light on the subject? Not only the frame, but the hive also, single and double story, &c. Wishing you much success in your enterprise, I am your s, obediently.

T. B. PARKER.

We have not tried two-story hives in the South, and are not quite sure that they would pay. For a one story hive, perhaps a frame 10 x 15 deep, would be as good a size as any; and perhaps that size would answer for the two-story as well. What does our brother bee keepers say?

Reader, if there is no agent in your vicinity, please become one by forming a club. We pay cash commissions.

MOON'S BEE WORLD.

A. F. MOON & CO.,

Cor. Broad and Elm streets., Rome, Georgia.

FEBRUARY, 1875.

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GEORGIA AND ALABAMA BEE-KEEPERS CONVENTION.

We doubt not that our bee-keeping friends are prepared to attend the next meeting of this Association, which convenes on the first Wednesday of March next, at Talladega, Ala. Let there be a good attendance, and a careful consideration of all the topics discussed and a general interchange of experiences and views, and a happy reunion of our fraternity in Georgia and Alabama. Judging from the rapid increase and growth of our sub-

scription list, bee keeping is obtaining a firm foothold in the South, and our Conventions are a still greater indication of its growing interest. We subjoin a letter from the Vice President of the Association, who extends, in behalf of the citizens of Talladega, a cordial invitation to all who may come. Remember the date, March 3d, 1875.

MR. A. F. MOON.—I am requested by the Executive Committee, to remind you that the next meeting of the Georgia and Alabama Bee Keepers Convention, will meet in Talladega on the 1st Wednesday of March next, and that you extend the cordial hospitality of the citizens of Talladega, to all who may favor us with their presence on that occasion. We hope to have a full attendance, and invite all who will come and enlighten us in this important enterprise. Respectfully yours,

W. L. TERRY,

Vice President.

Talladega, Ala., Jan. 3, 1875.

We chronicle, in another column, the death of Mr. Roswell C. Otis, who died at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in the 61st year of his age. Mr. Otis' health had been impaired for years, and those who have seen him any time within the past few years of his life will not be surprised to learn of his death. He was a man of strong likes and dislikes, and often made enemies when not intended. He was brought before the public a great deal as agent for the Langstroth Hive, and instituted several suits against patentees of other hives, for infringement, his last being against H. A. King, but which was never carried through, we believe. We are indebted to M. M. Baldrige, of St. Charles, Ill., for information of his death. Although some time since his death, yet, we presume the fact will be new to most of our readers.

Be sure and sign your name and address. We are constantly in receipt of letters without the address of the sender attached.

Who has an Atkinson Honey Extractor for sale? A party has written us enquiring for one. Manufacturers should advertise.

We have received R. M. Argo's circular and price list for 1875. Send for one before purchasing elsewhere. Postoffice, Lowell, Ky.

We will send one pound of rape seed, or one-half pound of mustard seed to every new subscriber to the BEE WORLD. Please state, when ordering, which you prefer.

"The Apiary."—We shall finish distributing this premium this month, and request all who are entitled to the work, that does not receive it by March 1st, will notify us of the fact.

We have received Quinby's circular for 1875. Prices are low for good stock, and purchasers can be assured of finding everything as represented. Send to M. Quinby, St. Johnsville, N. Y., for circular, free.

For the report of the Michigan Bee Keepers Convention, published last month, we were indebted to the secretary, Mr. Herbert H. Burch. The report does the Secretary great credit. Mr. Burch will write for the BEE WORLD, the present year, regularly, if his health permits.

We call our reader's attention to the advertisement of T. N. Hollett, Pennsville, Morgan county, O., in present issue. His queens are so excellent that the progeny of one of them took the first premium at the Georgia State Fair last fall, which is saying world's in their praise.