The Nebraska bee-keeper. Vol 5, No. 4 April, 1894

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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

York, Nebraska.

Vol. 5, APRIL, 1894. No. 4.

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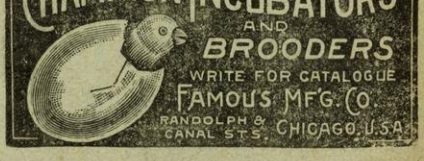

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Scientific(?) Queen Rearing vs. Nature's Method.

A. C. Tyrrel.

OLD FOGY NATURE'S SYSTEM of reproduction and development in the vegetable, horticultural, and animal kingdoms, aided by human ingenuity and skill in the last decade, has been improved to that extent, that in some forms the original species bear no semblance to the parent.

Take, for instance, the old-fashioned poppy, petunia and hollyhock, now transformed into variegated, blotched, double and varied-hued varieties, the hollyhock equalling the rose in size and beauty. But notwithstanding the wonderful transformations, their fragrance remains just the same.

A process has been discovered whereby vicious animals have been rendered perfectly harmless by simply removing their horns, but the *propensity* to *hook* remains.

If I desire to improve the breed of bantam fowls, I do not transfer the chick just formed into an egg of a brahma, neither would I remove an embryo calf or pig to more commodious quarters, hoping thereby to improve and enlarge the animals.

Neither would I transfer larvæ from natural cells to artificially prepared "cell cups" stuck to sticks, hoping to produce a superior strain of bees, even though the process be termed scientific.

Those who have tried to rear queens by this method know how difficult it is to remove the larvæ to another cell, without chilling or injuring it, and that in removing the tiny grub, numerous adjoining cells are mashed and destroyed; that the entire colony is demoralized when the queen is taken from the hive for the purpose of compelling the bees to make queen cells and fill them with royal jelly, which, after the jelly is abstracted, are worthless for any purpose whatever. A great waste of time not only to the bees but to the beekeeper also in preparing the artificial cups in making them ready for the bees to complete.

No matter how carefully one prepares the cells, the bees are loth to complete them and rear queens therefrom.

Wherein are queens reared by this process superior to those reared naturally or under the swarming impulse?

Will someone rise and explain?

I have tried the stick theory and soon

gave up in disgust.

If I have an ugly animal, I can soon make him harmless, but I cannot raise bees without stingers, or breed them out by any process known to the profession or to scientists.

The only way to make them harmless is to cut their stings off close to their heads; but that has a tendency to impair their usefulness and spoil their beauty.

The progeny of queens reared on a stick will have just as pointed stingers; will be no more docile or easy to handle; will swarm as often; will store no more honey, and will raise "dido" as frequently as the old-fasioned insects.

Upon mature deliberation and experiment, the most logical and natural inference that I can apply to the so-called scientific method is, that it is far from being scientific, for the essential conditions to successful queen-breeding are wanting.

The general concensus of opinion may be against me, but our best bee keepers find fault with queens bought this season and known to be raised as above indicated.

One who has closely watched *nature's way* from the time the egg was deposited in the cell, which in due course of time was to develop into a worker or queen as necessity or caprice dictated (for bees like the human family are sometimes cranky), has observed that in the first stage of development, the larvæ rests upon and is surrounded by a glutinous substance, and later the enlarged cell is filled to the brim with "royal jelly," the former entering into the body by absorption as it gradully evolves from the tiny grub into perfect bee, or is eaten together with the jelly, and much of it remains in the cell after the queen emerges. The bees do not guess the size of the cell or the amount of food necessary to deposit therein.

My point is this, but whether well taken or not, I leave to queen-breeders:

I say it is not possible to remove larvæ from cells constructed by bees, which are the proper size, to artificial cells, deposit it together with the life-giving principle (whatever it is called), by which it is surrounded, in the right position in the prepared cell.

Leave behind ever so minute a quantity of gluten, and the vitality of the queen must be impaired; rob it of but a small portion of the very *essence* of its life and what will be the result.

Perhaps this point can best be illustrated hypothetically.

Suppose you take a calf from its mother, and bring it up "by hand," feed it another cow's milk or "stint" its food ever so little, the result is a scrawny, stunted animal.

Originally, nature had provided all that was necessary to rear a perfect animal; you spoiled the conditions and ruined the creature.

The simile is perfect. Whenever you encroach upon or transgress nature's laws, so far as life is concerned, she calls a halt.

The loss of that drop of glutinous matter is as great to the bee as a pailful of milk denied the calf.

If the organism is fine, the greatest care should be exercised in the reproduction of the species; no one will dispute this fact.

To outward appearance queens bred by the *scientific process* are as fair to look upon as any; but they soon lose their vitality as can be attested by hundreds of beekeepers if they have the courage to "speak right out in meeting." Madison, Neb.

[The above article was sent us with the comment, that, "if we raised queens on a stick we would probably not wish to print it." To all we say if you have any better practices or theories than we, trot them out. We are not so thoroughly married to any one system or style that we can see no good in others, and any theory or system that will not

bear investigation is not worth practicing, and if Bro. Tyrrel has advanced ideas that the patent queen breeders cannot contradict, it is well and good, and from the numerous complaints heard the past season,it would indicate that the stick raised queens were not to be relied upon.—ED.]

Early Bee-Keeping in Nebraska.

More from G. W. Wilkinson.

[It was said to us that our authority regarding early bee-keeping in Nebraska was far fetched, and we were looking for some more, when a letter from Bro. Wilkinson was received containing the following clippings, taken from the history of Dakota Co., written and published W.W.Warner, now of Lyons, Neb.—ED.]

The Lewis & Clarke Expedition.

"On the acquisition of this vast territory to the United States,the president, Thos. Jefferson, planned an exploring expedition to ascertain the courses and sources of the Missouri river and most convenient water communication thence to the Pacific Ocean. Captains Merriweather Lewis and Wm. Clarke, both army officers,were placed in charge of the command, which consisted of nine young men from Kentucky, 14 soldiers of the U. S. army, who volunteered their services,two French watermen, an interpreter and hunter and a black servant belonging to Captain Clarke. All these, except the last,were enlisted to serve as privates during the expedition, which began ascending the Missouri river from its confluence with the Mississippi, May 14th, 1804. Three sergeants were appointed among them, and besides the above named crew, there were a corporal and six soldiers, also nine watermen who were engaged to accompany the expedition as far as the Mandan nation. They had three boats or barges, taking with them necessary stores and presents for the Indians, while two horses were led along the banks of the river to be used in hunting.

The expedition then set sail and passed two large islands on the north. while they were thus passing along the subsequent site of Dakota City, Sergeant Chas. Floyd was writhing in the last throes of death, and died as they reached the high bluffs, about one mile south of the Floyd river, so named in honor of this brave soldier. Just before his death, Aug. 20th, 1804, he said to Captain Clarke: "I am going to leave you," his strength failed him as he added, "I want you to write me a letter." They buried his body on the top of the high bluff,with military honors,and the grave was marked by a cedar post, on which his name and the day of his death were inscribed. The place of his burial was called Floyd's bluff. It seems that his death was caused by an attack of billious colic,brought on by eating wild honey, which the party had found either at Col. Baird's bluffs or along the bluffs east of Homer—or possibly on Honey creek, in a tree cut Aug. 19th, 1804. They camped that night at the mouth of the Floyd.

On the morning of August 21st, they sailed by the site of Sioux City and at three miles from the Floyd came to the mouth of the Big Sioux.

In the fall of 1853, before the advent of the white man in Nebraska, Judge Thos.L. Griffey, well known to all early settlers in Nebraska, was appointed by Agent Hepner to escort a delegation of Omaha Indians of whom the Fontenelle boys were leaders, up the river to look at a tract of land above where Ponca was afterwards located, and if they chose to do so, the government gave them the right to select land there in lieu of the reservation on which they are now living. They concluded they would select the latter for their home.

The first night the party camped on what was afterwards to be known as the Col. Baird farm,in Dakota county. When they awoke the next morning they found a bee tree directly above their tents,from which over fifty pounds of honey was obtained."

[We think all will be forced to concede that the honey bee was a"squatter" on the "American Desert" before the white man took possession, and some more good people will also be forced to concede that Nebraska has and will continue to produce as good honey as the world knows of, and also that some of her beekeepers are making a success financially despite the hard times.-ED.]

MRS. WASP AND MRS. BEE.

Said Mrs. Wasp to Mrs. Bee:
"Will you a favor do me?"
There's something I can't understand;
Please, ma'am, explain it to me.

"Why do men build for you a home,
And coax you to go in it,
While me, your cousin, they'll not let
Stay near them for a minute?

"I have a sting, I do confess,
And should like to use it;
But so have you,and when you're vexed
I am very sure you use it."

"Well, said the bee, "to you, no doubt,
It does seem rather funny;
But people soon forget the stings
Of those who give them honey."—Ex.

Why so Many are financially unsuccessful in Bee Keeping.

Most of our writers and speakers on bee topics, tell of the percent profit made on bee culture, while many who read between the lines,see only disaster and financial loss. Of these,our writers say but little, often nothing at all. Why should so many lose what little they do lose what little they do invest in a colony of bees, and sometimes several colonies and often whole apiaries are wiped out, as the owners say "without any apparent cause"?

We are often in receipt of inquiries regarding this fearful loss.

Regarding the loss to the masses, we do not often have to seek very far to find the cause.

First, too often people buy one or more colonies of bees without any knowledge of how to handle them, thinking that the bees would care for themselves,and the owner too,without any care or thought or expense on his part. Such bee-keepers invariably come to grief.

Another class of bee-keepers who always make a failure, are those who, having one or more colonies of bees,begin to study a little and experiment a great deal. They read that if a queen be taken from a colony, the bees will rear another,also of one and two frame nuclei. Of this class an old time writer told a great truth when he said, "A little learning is a dangerous thing," for they have not yet properly learned their ABCs, but they assume to know it all,and commence the work of butchery. Irrespective of climatic conditions flora, or any other element of success, they divide up their colonies, they put two frames of comb and a few bees into a great big barn of a hive, saying by actions, "now sink or swim, live or die, I've done my duty by you."

Generally one year of this kind of treatment will kill the best of them,but sometimes a few will survive to undergo the same heroic(?) treatment another season. These so-called bee-keepers might be put on the same list of good people with an old doctor, who, when called to see a patient, agreed for a certain price to either kill or cure the patient. Shortly, the patient died, and to collect the specified fee brought suit, and on trial the contract was proven, and the judge asked, "Did you cure the patient?" "No." "Did you kill the patient?" and because he would not answer yes, he lost his case. Now this class of bee-keepers have tried this he-

roic kill or cure treatment to their sorrow.

Another class are those who catch the bee fever, the same as measles or small pox. It runs high and gets away with brains and common sense. They invest all their change and often their credit in the business, of which they know nothing. The fever goes down, their zeal abates and they are out their entire investment.

Of the cause of whole apiaries being wiped out, there is generally some well defined cause, which the intelligent apiarist will quickly find out, and it is not our intention to touch that class in this article, but regarding those other classes; the only wonder is that they have any bees at all. Our writers and speakers on bee topics, as a class are all persons of experience, and who have studied their business from a business standpoint, the same as the banker or merchant. They have looked after the little details of the business and know what and why it pays the best. They are the specialists who have risen above the common class in their chosen work of bee-keeping. They are applying the same tact and energy to their work, that the specialists have done in any other occupation, and are justly entitled to the position of leaders because they are making a success out of it.

To the common class of bee-keepers, let us say, while these leaders are making a success financially in this work, they are not doing it by loafing around the corner grocery, or reading dime literature, but by steady plodding along year after year. Learning more each year and putting in practice the best methods learned by former experiments.

And now I will give you the key to keeping bees and making it a success. It can all be summed up in three words, viz.: *care*, CARE, CARE.

Better renew your subscription, if you are delinquent.

Correspondence.

Falls City, Neb.—Mar. 19, 1894.—Bees are busy at work on maple blossoms. I never saw them thicker on basswood flowers. There is "music in the air." Bees wintered well in this part of our state. I wintered 65 colonies on their summer stands without the loss of a colony. Geo. W. Schock.

Lincoln, Neb. Mar. 13th, 1894.—This is lovely weather for the bees, and they are enjoying it; they are brooding nicely, and have plenty of stores. We wintered our bees in a large box, facing south, packed it with millet straw.

Mrs. H. E. George.

Salem, Ore., Mar. 13, 1894.—Friend Stilson.—Your last issue of BEE-KEEPER contains a notice of the terrible accident which befell me on Jan. 29th, six weeks ago. No one thought that I would survive the terrible smash-up; but I have, and am glad to say to my many friends that the doctors say that my temperate habits are what saved me; that no man that was filled with nicotine or poisons from tobacco and whiskey could possibly have lived. I am so as to hobble around on crutches. Glad to know that you had such a nice time at your bee conventions; here in the valley is no bee country; the foot hills yield a good supply of very fine honey and brings from 15 to 25c. There is scarcely no extracted honey in market: none, only from California. I still keep a few bees to look after.

R. R. Ryan.

A Chance for Missionary Work in Missouri.

I arrived here from Nebraska, on the 11th inst. The bees came through in fine shape; after looking them over, I found but one broken comb; it was an unwired one, the only one unwired in the lot. There was very little brood in

the hives when I left Nebraska, and they have about all the empty cells filled with honey that they have gathered in the last week from elm and soft maple, so I will have to extract from the brood nest to make room for brood.The combs are whitened along the top bars. If I would let them, they would occupy the surplus boxes but that would not do, with no brood below. A man went past the house the other day and saw my rows of white hives, and he enquired at the store and wanted to know if they were grave stones; guess he tho't I brought my private grave yard with me. I think that bees will do well here if only given a little attention, at least, I am willing to give them a trial, although an old lady living close by, when she heard that I was going to bring 34 colonies with me, said that it would cost me something to hire men to feed my bees; she said that Mr. —— had to hire three men last winter to feed his bees; don't know how many he had, or whether he used a spoon or druggist's dropping tube to do the feeding with.

The peach buds here are all frozen, but every one is looking for a large apple crop. Elmer Todd.

Virgil City, Mo.

Bees have wintered very good, probably owing to the open winter, and at present, brood rearing is being carried on at a lively rate. We are having the nicest weather that has been known to this part of the country for many years at this season of the year; bees have been been out every day this month up to date without an exception, and only a few days that they were not able to work all day. Generally we do not have weather fit for the bees to fly profitably for a month or more later. Bees are carrying in rye meal now and I think it is a good plan to feed it in northern latitudes as the early breeding works best with me. For the next month or two the bees should be kept as warm as possible so that there is no danger of the brood being chilled during cold nights and by this packing the same number of bees can keep warm about one-fourth more brood than they otherwise could. The present outlook is good; clover, our main dependant, is coming out nice and it appears as if the "silver linings" were once more right side out.

To secure the best results, the brood chamber should be contracted to the number of combs occupied by the bees. if not, the heat is uselessly wasted. See that none of them have scant rations, or breeding will be checked, which will mean a loss of honey. Do not let your bees stand until fall and then look for a large crop of honey for you will not get it. Give them attention when needed as with other stock.

Mar. 17. Theo. Bender.

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Next meeting Apr. 25th., at the home of Geo. Rossiter, three miles south of York.

Experiment Station Bulletins Received.

From the New York Experiment Station, we have received during the month, Bulletins No. 63, devoted to Blackberries, Dewberries, and Raspberries. No. 65, regarding the manufacture of cheese, and No. 66, Commercial Fertilizers. These to some might not be of special interest, but what New York is doing, Nebraska must do to make the most of her opportunities and resources. In this same connection we would also acknowledge the receipt of the Eleventh Annual Report of the New York Experiment Station.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

J. B. Case, Port Orange, Fla., breeder of five banded Golden Italian Queens.

L. L. Allspaugh, Auburn, Neb., Bee Supplies.

Mrs. J. N. Heater, Columbus, Neb. Bee Supplies, Italian Bees & Queens.

C. P. Dadant & Son, Hamilton, Ill., General Apiary Goods.

Prof. Bruner, apiarist in charge of the experimental work at the State University, has bought some bees and ordered a bill of supplies with which to begin the work.

The State Bee Keeper's Society, at the annual meeting last fall made the Prof. an honorary member of the society, and when told of their action in the matter, asked "What kind of a trap are you getting me into now." Do you see now Prof?

March, the windy, dusty month here, while neighbors in our own and other states have had snow, rain and hail, we have had wind, dust, and cold. The first half of the month was open and fine. Bees were at work gathering pollen and *honey* from the soft maple bloom from the 2nd to the 15th, something we never saw so early before. Then began the change. From very pleasant, it became cloudy, then cool, then cold, windy, and dusty. Thermometer down below zero, but dry. No more honey or pollen unless fed. Our bees were tucked up sa snug as at any time during the winter. We had not taken off any of the bed quilts while the sun was shining, becanse we had seen the sun shine in March before and recollected what came later.

Don't take off the packing yet.

Of late we have had thoughts of joining the "Coxey Army," not that we were unemployed, but because we had too much employment.

In youth we thought when we reached 45 or 50 years we would find a resting place. That, when that time came, we would find it easier to sit down and see the work go on: but as each new year comes along we find it still harder to do the regular routine work and chores and then in addition, each year brings new work and cares. We cannot push the work as sharp as twenty or thirty years ago, and consquently the work often pushes us. So good readers don't grum-

ble if we are sometimes late. You all know by personal experience that in these close financial times it is best to run all kinds of business as close to the shore as possible, and this is the method we follow, hiring as little help in all branches of our work as possible and keeping expenses below the income thinking that the best pollicy.

Brighter times will come by and by.

The State Fair will be held at Lincoln, Sept. 7 to 14 this year, and the Management are stirring to make this the greatest fair ever held in the state, and much interest is manifested all over the state. Already the superintendents of agricultural and horticultural halls are importuning the management for more space. Also the poultry, honey and fish departments. We trust the bee and honey friends in the state will make their arrangements to keep step with the procession in making this the grandest display the state ever held. We hope to print the premium list of this department next month, but don't wait for it but send to the Secretary, Hon. R. W. Furnas, Brownville, Neb., for the whole list.

The Home.

HAVE A GOOD GARDEN.

A garden is hardly worth having, unless one can have a thoroughly good garden. There are many men who make gardens year after year, and never have such an one, simply because they neglect the first matter of importance, which is to make a good soil. A garden soil is something like a poet, only the converse of the axiom is true and it is made and not born. There are of course exceptions to this rule, but it does not often happen that one finds just the best soil in just the spot where he wishes to have the garden. Some are discouraged by this fact, and so do not try to have a garden at all. Others put up with what they find ready to their hand, and spend much labor continually in the effort to produce good crops from poor soil, when, if they would spend a little of their labor in building up the soil, they would accomplish much better results in the end, with a great deal less trouble than they now have.

The first thing to be considered in locating the garden is to have it in a convenient place. If it is put off in some distant corner, where it is never seen unless by special effort, there will be too much of a tendency to let it shift for itself—and such treatment is not conducive to good crops. Having located it, next examine into the quality of the soil. If this proves to be a good rich loam, you are very fortunate, for you have the best basis upon which to build. If it is a heavy clay, you must give fisrt attention to improving the mechanical texture, so as to make it friable and workable. This can be done by hauling on coal ashes or cinders from factories and plowing them in. By this means we have made stiff clay as friable as an ash heap. But if you find a light and sandy soil, then bring it all the vegetable matter that you can—leaves, straw, coarse manure, &c., and plow it under and let it decay beneath the surface.

Whatever soil you have, and whatever initial treatment, you must not lose sight of the fact that it is very far from the ideal soil for a garden, because it

does not contain naturally, sufficient available plant food to enable you to grow the very best crops,and such crops alone as you can find the fullest satisfaction and profit it producing. To bring it to this stage,you must manure, and manure, and manure. Remember that you have not a whole farm to enrich but only a little garden plot of a few square rods; so you can afford to apply manure in such quantities as might well frighten you if undertaken on a large area. Of course you are going to apply it beyond the needs of the crop which you expect to grow this year, but your purpose should be to thoroughly impregnate the soil so thoroughly with plant food, that whatever seed you place there will at once find the element needed for its perfect growth. A load of manure on the garden is not enough. A half dozen loads are not, unless the garden is very small indeed. The entire surface should be covered to a depth of at least six inches and this not with course green manure, but with a fine and well rotted product. Put it under the surface in the fall if you can. Then in the spring put on more, and continue the operation every spring and fall as long as you have a garden there. When you plant in such a thoroughly enriched soil, there is no hesitancy about the germination of the seed. The plant springs quickly into vigorous life, and makes the rapid growth which is the warrant for a bountiful maturity.

We have too many starved gardens. My neighbor has one, in which he toils industriously every year; but I have never seen a load of manure or fertilizer of any sort put upon it, and the result is what you might expect. I am not prepared to say that such treatment as I have here indicated would pay for the whole farm, but the garden is conducted on a different principle from that of the meadows and grain fields. If the garden will pay at all, it will pay to treat the soil after this fashion.Most gardens do not pay. They produce a few peas and beans in the early summer, later, some cabbages,and then the potatoes(not very many nor very large) about complete the tale. But the garden should have in it every vegetable that will grow in your climate, from radish and lettuce up to pumpkins and water melons. It should not be given up and left for the weeds to over-run in August,but celery and late cabbages and turnips should keep its memory green to the very verge of winter. If the soil has been put into such condition that all these things can be made to grow easily and well, it will be quite natural to have a succession of crops; but if strenuous effort is required in order to produce anything, the garden will have little attention after it has given the first few messes of green vegetables in the early summer.

It would be a good idea to make up your mind about the garden now, so that you could be building the soil as occasion offered;and after you have begun it do not stint your work, but bear in mind that it is just as necessary to have a good foundation on which to build your garden as for your house or your barn. I was once accused of extravagance in this matter by an old farmer, who waded ankle deep in the manure which covered my garden plot in the late autumn; but the next summer he paid me for vegetables enough to balance the total value of the manure, which he thought I had wasted. It is quite possible that in growing farm crops there is a limit to the profitable application of manure, and it may be that there also is such a limit in the garden, but I have never found it, nor do I think many others have. The danger is wholly on the other side. So says E. N. Coy, in March Farm Life.

The Poultry Yard.

CONDUCTED BY

J. H. McCLATCHEY.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

Continued from last month.

The day will soon come when the thoroughbred as well as the breeder of common fowls will be recognized as a dispenser of wealth of the State. Strike from the country all domestic fowls and eggs, for a period of six months and imagine if you can, the condition of things at hotels and in kitchens. Six hundred million dollars worth of property to the country means something, and $8,000,000 to Neb. speaks a language we can all interpret.

The rooster would be a much more popular bird if he could only be persuaded to keep his mouth shut between midnight and 3 o'clock in the morning. We know that he is at home in the bosom of his family, so are we but we don't care to get up in the night and brag about it and don't want to be woke up to hear him do so. Fowls like pigs, are fond of milk, sour milk is said to be the best, and promotes laying if fed regularly winter and summer.

All farmers should keep pure bred poultry;they eat no more than common barn yard fowls,the profit is doubled.

Now again let us turn to the practical side: as far as we as individuals of Nebraska are concerned as there are so many different points in poultry raising that are prominent just now that it would be impossible to ever refer to them all in one article, we will however refer to a few. 1st. if we are to make poultry raising pay at all, we must have our birds comfortable during fall and winter. You will make no money with frozen feet or even with frosted combs. Egg production will stop with the advent of frost into the chicken house. The house may be according to your means, the fanciful painted one,if cold, will not bring you as much money as the sod or straw one kept comfortable, if you want high priced eggs see that there is no chance for a frosted comb, and with a variety of feed something like their summer range and you will get them. I know in this climate we can't get it that way but we can do something in that line. Feed bran, swelled oats, potato peelings etc. scalded,hot water, or milk is better, feed this in the morning, warm in cold weather and you will be well paid for the bother. But this leads to another question as nine times out of ten when a farmer comes to me to buy a chicken and sees several kinds he asks, Which is the best breed? now what does this prove, it does not prove that the farmers are more ignorant than the breeder or fancier, but that the farmers have not taken enough interest or time to get acquainted with the different breeds or judge of its merits. It shows that as a rule this part of the farm income has been neglected and consequently lost. And yet this is a question which I cannot positively answer as to which is the best breed etc. and ususlly answer it this way, the one that is best adapted to your surroundings, and if there is more than one equally so then the one you like best, there is a good deal in that as the one you like the best will be likely to be the best, for you will take the best of care of it. Now if I were writing for a breeder or fancier I might add, the one for which there is a good demand at a fair price or the one for which there is a limited demand at a fancy price.

Have you studied your surroundings? have you free range as most farmers have or is it restricted? do you wish to raise for home use or for the market? are eggs or chickens most wanted in either case? when you have settled these points yourself, this helps to determine which breed is best to raise, as but one breed is usually practical on the farm without additional trouble and expense. If for broilers get those

of the brahma type, if for eggs those of the leghorn type as they are, as we western people say, rustlers and the very best of egg machines, Minorca advocates may object but if so, state your objections. If for a general purpose fowl, the Plymoth Rock type, if you want a quiet breed that won't rustle much get the Cochin type.

Now this is about as good as I can answer the question as to which breed is best. Each distinct breed is bred for a special purpose and in that particular may excel all others but will lose something else that others excel in. To combine all in one is just like it is with the horse or cow, a Durham for beef, a Jersey for butter and a Holstein for milk, to cross a Durham with a Jersey you lose beef on one side and butter on the other and as a rule your loss is greater than the gain. This is a day of speciality so do not think as many farmers do, that a mongrel fowl or any other scrub stock is better than a pure breed. It is just as cheap to raise an eight pound chicken as a three pound scrub, etc.

Now I would like to see every farm in Neb, with some one kind of pure bred poultry, it is easily done now days and much more profitable. I should like to see some discussion on any or all the subjects refered to, and others brought up. We are all here to learn, for instance would broilers be more profitable than eggs, would an exclusive egg farm pay in this state, would it not be wise for every County in the State to organize a poultry association as Nemaha County has.

RAISING TURKEYS.

Some people are successful in raising turkeys, others fail so entirely that many inexperienced persons are deterred from raising them on account of the supposed difficulty in attaining success. Many people think it is luck in successful turkey raising, but it is no such thing. Knowledge with care and attention is about all that is necessary, but it is also essential to have the best stock to begin with. The gobbler should never be under two years old, and should be selected with regard to size and color. The hens should be strong and healthy, of a large size, if two or three years old will be all the better. The standard birds for the market are the bronze and black, the former being the best for amateur breeder, specimens have been known to weigh as high as forty pounds. For early market they should be mated in February, and if kept in a warm place will lay whenever desired. when danger from frosts is over the eggs may be left in the nest, but it is best to gather them every day and store them away until wanted, turning over each day to prevent settiing. A hen will cover from sixteen to twenty eggs, according to the hen and the condition of the weather. I have always found it best to set the eggs under common hens. The turkey hens are apt to wander off with their broods on a dewy, cold morning and the little turks get wet, chilled and then are left to die. When the little turks first come out of the shell they should not be disturbed for twelve hours, then they should be placed in a warm, dry coop, and fed a little hard boiled egg. In a few days wheat bread crumbs and milk curd can be added. Little turks are very delicate in their appetite and should be fed a little every two hours, the first two days, gradually increasing the length of time between meals, also the amount of food. The second day they should be let out of their coop, and given a run in the middle of the day, the hen being confined until they are a week old, when she may be allowed to go with them after the dew is off, being careful to have them housed at night or in case of rain until they are four weeks old. By this time they will

learn where their coop is, and it should be left tilted back slightly so that they can go out early in the morning. They are "early birds" and believe in the "early worm." They go to the fields as soon as it is light, returning before noon to rest in the shade, at which time a little corn and wheat screenings should be thrown them as well as the scraps from the breakfast table, for turkeys have voracious appetites and will eat almost all that is given them.

After a biting frost your turkeys cannot, unless they have the run of a piece of woods, pick up enough to sustain and fatten them. Give them corn, wheat screenings,and vegetables if you can spare them, also a meal of corn meal soaked up with water. If possible give a little meat once a week.

Those selected for breeding purposes for the next year should not be fed near as much as the turkeys for market, as the object is to keep them in a good breeding condition. But this cannot be done if you have not an airy, warm place for them. In fact they are an airy bird, roosting on the barn or tree until late in the fall.

Early in Febuary begin to feed your breeding turkeys ground bone, if convenient, two or three times a week and keep it up until the spring is well advanced.—*Nebraska Farmer.*

The following should be added to J.H. McClatchey's adv. on 2nd page of cover Houdan eggs, $1, per 13. Imp. Pek n Duck eggs, $1 per 9. Golden Polish and African Guineas,a matter of correspondence.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

The Bee-Keepers' Quarterly, will be issued Apr. 1st, 1894, and be largely devoted to Editor al Review o Apicultural Literature. It will contain not only all PRACTICAL METHODS of management and devices found in bee journals, but many points not published elsewhere. An EARNEST EFFORT will be made to eiiminate the impractical theories and claims so often met with in Bee Literature,giving only PRACTICAL INFORMATION which may invariably be relied upon.

There are some bee keepers who are making a financial *success*,even in these hard times, and to show you how they do it will be the Quarterly's mission. Price 25 cents per year. Send address for free sample copy to James Heddon, Dowagiac, Mich.