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The bee-hive. Vol. 4, No. 8 February, 1890

Andover, CT: E.H. Cook, February, 1890

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BEEHIVE

PUBLISHED FOR AND IN THE INTEREST OF BEE-KEEPERS, BY ONE OF THEM.

VOL. 4.

ANDOVER, CONN., FEBRUARY, 1890.

NO. 8.

BROOD-SPREADING IN SPRING.

THE advice usually given to the inexperienced is, Don't spread the brood; that is, insert empty combs *in* the brood-nest in distinction to giving room outside it; and with a prolific young queen and plenty of stores left over from the winter, I certainly think it is best left alone, and even with an average queen the novice had also better "leave well alone;" for to push breeding to its uttermost limit is a very ticklish affair. A few fine days after doing so will make all safe through the young bees hatching out, but unfortunately a few cold days instead render the expected benefit a positive harm. Brood is chilled, which, besides, is generally in an advanced state or perhaps hatching, whereas, if the bees themselves over-extend their brood-nest, the outside brood consists of eggs or very young grubs, and can be better sacrificed than older grubs, on which much labor has been expended in feeding and keeping warm.

Now, there are cases in which brood-spreading is very advantageous even for the inexperienced; I had an instance last year. Two hives in the middle of April had bees well covering seven frames each, one hive having five frames of brood and was progressing rapidly, and the other (having old sluggish queen) had only two frames brood. The goose-

berries were in bloom and pollen was plentiful, and there was no reason why the old girl shouldn't be pushed forward a bit.

As a rule, and a good one too, at that time, or as soon after as possible, the bees should be confined to as few frames as they can well cover, which in the case mentioned was seven, and the number of frames of brood brought up to two less, or five, the end combs being for pollen, sealed stores, or otherwise, and acting as a protection to the brood. For rapidly building up a stock in spring, one great requisite is warmth. Close up every crack, cranny and crevice, except a small entrance; thick, cork-packed dummies are splendid, and will often make an extra frame or two of brood quite safe. Say, instead of seven frames close up to six, and then the whole six can be brood if the second great requisite of steady, stimulative feeding be attended to. An extra frame of brood means in six weeks' time three or four extra frames of bees to fetch in the honey.

It thus pays best to pack very warm all around and over the top, crowding the bees somewhat, and by shifting the frames get every one nearly filled with brood. But this is working at high pressure, and requires considerable attention in feeding, there being little or no room for stores; and a cessation in a steady supply of food would mean ruin to the colony. Consequently, I think

for the less experienced or those who can not devote much time to looking after their bees the slower process is better,—I mean leaving the two outside combs broodless.

Whichever method is adopted, brood-spreading, though slow work for the first few weeks, tells heavily in the end if practiced upon the right colonies. Most backward colonies appear to have a critical period in the spring, when they seem to diminish in population, then remain stationary, while they gather strength for the forward rush which follows, and we must catch the tide on the turn, and by giving extra frames in the brood-nest as required we take full advantage of the expansion.

Now, I always reckon (in the spring) that a good frame of brood when hatched out gives enough bees to cover two frames, but at the same time the old bees are dying off, so the increase is only about one frame. Working from that as a rule, it is easy by taking careful notes to know exactly when to put in an extra frame; and it can be popped in by just sliding half the frames to one side and inserting it in the middle and closing it up again. To take an example, say a colony, when examined, covers five frames, three of which are brood; then the hive should be enlarged one frame in ten days, another six days later, and a third frame five days later still, for in three weeks' time the original three frames of brood will be all hatched out, and the result should be eight frames covered, five of which are brood and one empty for the queen. Allow three days for the queen to fill the empty comb, and twenty-one days later, or forty-five days since we commenced, the hive ought to contain fourteen frames well covered with bees, and twelve of which, if the queen is capable enough, should be brood, and be a hive likely to give a good account of itself during the honey flow. Of course, with

more frames of brood to start with, the same result would be obtained in less time.

The finest combs for placing in the center of the brood-nest are those clean sheets of foundation worked out to about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. I often get them in the autumn, in the doubling boxes. Clean and bright, the queen fills every cell with brood. A very good plan is to pour a pound or so of syrup into a comb before spreading the brood with it, or, if the comb has sealed stores, to bruise the cappings. I think a plain sheet of foundation should not be placed in the brood-nest until there are already at least five frames of brood.

The foregoing was written some weeks ago, and the experience of the late spring fully confirms my opinion that the novice, at any rate, had better build up his stocks by rule than rely upon his own judgment. After honey begins to come in freely progress is much more rapid, and may be allowed for in spreading the brood.—
HONEYSUCKLE, in British B. Jour.

✦ ENEMIES. ✦

AFTER bees are nicely packed on the summer stands, all ready for winter, how natural it is for the bee-keeper to draw a long series of refreshing breaths, in view of his having wound up the one season and of the long winter's rest preceding the the coming year's work. Now he can banish bees, or all thoughts of them, from his mind. It little matters how zealous one may be in the calling of bee culture, we are all glad enough to cast it aside for a time.

Yes, this is all right too, this bee-sleep, but about the *waking up*? There is where we get rudely shaken, and methinks the number is increasing of those who get *so* rudely shak-

en that they fail to ever sleep again—unless perhaps it be with one eye open. It is almost time for the sleepers to wake now, and what shall we see when we finish rubbing our eyes and can look about us clearly?

Perhaps the *remains* of a fine, large swarm of bees. Plenty of honey, plenty of chaff, but—oh! how wet it all is! Take out the wet, mouldy chaff and lift out a few frames—all heavy—and whilst brushing off the dead bees and the loose bits of chaff, you can speculate as to the cause of all this. You realize an effect. You need not to look far,—no farther than the crack in the hive cover, for the cause. Through this innocent crevice a few drops of water have trickled down, day by day, on to the mat of chaff below. Our frequent rains have furnished an abundant quantity of water to completely saturate quite a little chaff. Of course it wouldn't have paid to have repaired this roof during the sleepy season, oh, no,—the bees were “ready for winter,” last fall. Better mark this roof now in some way, that it may be repaired. Put on some black paint, thus dressing it in mourning,—very appropriate.

Another swarm fails to show up well, the hive doesn't leak, either—that is from the top—but it has stood in a little pool of water about all winter, and even now the water is within an inch of the entrance. Of course you don't quite understand this, for did not this same hive stand in this same spot all summer, and no sign of water then? Yes, but we will learn, sometime, that water in the bee-yard, somehow soaks away in the summer (by some unaccountable means); whereas, in the winter it floats our hives. You may mark this hive also, if you wish. An appropriate sign would be four 3-ft. posts for a pedestal.

But here is a more curious wreck: A hive,—tidy, trim, well prepared

and known to have contained plenty of stores and a rousing swarm—last fall—in fact, a pet stock, and setting by itself in the blackberry patch just where it was hived. There may be a handful of bees left, — not more. Stand away a few feet and *think*. Whilst thinking, don't fail to note the steady rap, tap! tap! of the bare, stiff briars against the hive, as the wind bends them first one way then another. A little item to be sure, but could you sleep peacefully with this noise and scratching against your bed all winter long? Then perhaps you are not as nervous as I am.

Nothing else than one wee mouse destroyed No. 28. The entrance of the hive was altogether too large, and the mouse took possession last fall, likely; found the chaff warm and comfortable, the bees fine companions and no one to dun for rent. The bee-master of the yard was even kind enough to keep away. This mouse enemy very seldom troubles bees out of doors, but does once in a while, and it is these “once in a while” that are destroying our bees some way every year.

But of all the enemies in the bee-yard during fall, winter and spring, please deliver me from the two-footed one, sometimes called “Novice,” and who goes about regularly every day, armed with a heavy, crooked wire, and whose special delight is in hauling out a half-dozen bees from the hive entrance! You all know *him*. Let us call his name, Destroyer of Peace. Still there is some excuse for him. He may have read in a bee journal (was it the BEE-HIVE? I hope not)—[Not guilty, friend S.—ED.]—that this was the very proper thing to do. It is quite necessary at times to keep the hive entrances clear, but better do it only *once* in a while, not *twice* in a while, and be very gentle about it. If it be worth doing at all it is worth doing well.

Some may think I have almost overdrawn some of the above illustrations. Not so, I am not able to do that. I have cited causes that I have seen and know about, but give them, not so much that beginners may be on the lookout for just such cases, as that they may be impressed with the idea that they must always be on the lookout. Swarms have died this winter from causes entirely new. So it will be next season and the season following. Now can we afford to leave bees uncared for during the winter?

CHAS. H. SMITH.

Pittsfield, Mass.

MY SUCCESS WITH BEES.

THINKING that some of the readers of the BEE-HIVE might like to know how I have succeeded, I will give my report. I commenced to keep bees at the age of fourteen, and have now kept them three years. The years of 1887 and 1888 were a total failure, and my bees were a constant expense, but the year of 1889 was an extra good one, and my bees more than paid all their former expenses.

I began in the spring of 1889 with 3 colonies, which were not very strong, but with a little good care and feeding I soon built them up to good strong colonies, and increased them to 13 by natural swarming and took 375 lbs. of surplus honey. I then sold two swarms and have 11 left, which have wintered well, thus far. I have sold nearly all of my honey at 20 cts. per pound. I use pound boxes for comb honey, and put up extracted honey in glass cans and tumblers.

I shall work my apiary almost entirely for comb honey the coming season, as it sells much more readily than extracted honey. I shall also keep pure Italians only, as I think there are none better. I take a great deal of interest in the BEE-HIVE; I do

not find a piece in it that is not worth reading. I hope the coming season will prove to be a prosperous one, both to the readers of the BEE-HIVE and myself.

WALTER R. GAGE.

Skowhegan, Me., Mar. 17th.

Drops of Nectar ²/₃ Frames of Pollen

CONDUCTED BY E. L. PRATT.

SPRING is close at hand and the bee lover's heart will thrill with enthusiasm when the bees begin work on the first pollen and new honey. By the time fruit bloom comes in, won't there be a rush and roar in the yard!!

* * *

While handling bees in early spring, one should avoid using too much smoke. Why, bless you! The little fellows have forgotten how to sting by this time, and smoke in abundance is unnecessary. We use none at all in early spring.

* * *

An examination to ascertain the status of your colonies' larder should commence on the first warm days. If you have no feeders, fill one of the empty combs on the outside with sugar syrup, mixed rather thick at first. As warmer weather comes on, more water can be added to the feed. Just before natural pollen can be gathered, try sifting flour into one side of the comb, "*a la* Russian." A mixture of flower and syrup can be forced into the comb with a thin knife-blade. Don't give too much.

* * *

We need not say that bees should be tucked up as warm as possible after manipulating. Don't open the hives any wider than is necessary to remove the deserted comb. Be as quick as possible after the mats are thrown back.

* * *

That caution about "mice in the

cushions," was enough to start us all to the cellar, "quick step." Brother Smith's pointers were well taken.

* * *

Our Carniolan bees are about as strong as they were last September. Those outside are wintering finely.

* * *

A big working force on apple blossoms will fill your combs with nice honey to bridge over to the clover season.

* * *

Good domestic syrup kneaded with powdered sugar, makes a good food to keep bees from starving, if you do not happen to have any extracted honey on hand. In feeding this be sure to place it directly over the cluster, not at one side. See?

HIVING BEES.

THE PLAN FOR RHEUMATIC BEE-KEEPERS.

OUR bees have come through so far all right, with good strong colonies in each hive, and I wish you had a box or two of the honey they made last season, for your supper to-night. They are nothing but the old-fashion black bee, but they gathered some of the whitest honey I ever saw. They had lots of alsike clover to work on, the weather being just right to keep the second crop nicely in bloom for quite a spell; but the season was not all that could be desired.

I have to do the greater part of the work around the bees as my husband is away from home most of the time, and he thinks my way of hiving them when pitched on the body of an apple-tree in the young orchard, is rather "queer," and he laughs at me, *every time*. His way is to brush them into the hive with a green twig, but I cannot bear a swollen face and hands as well as he does. I have the hive all ready, with a small rock to place beneath the edge of the hive on the ground, then grab the tree

with both hands and give it one quick, hard shake and clap the hive over whatever of them are on the ground. If not more than two quarts of them are under the hive, they go up as nicely as you please, and those left on the tree will leave it and go in with them,—they have never failed me once. They seem to like the idea of getting off the ground! Is it so? The Italian bees are so very pretty, I mean to try a swarm of them for pets. Would I have any trouble about the bees fighting? Would try re-queening, but know nothing about it and am too much afraid of them.

MRS. EZRA WITHEE.

Pittsfield, Me.

[Yes, bees do not like crawling about on the ground. There would be no trouble from the bees fighting. Just get a good smoker, wear a bee-veil, and you can then handle bees as you please, with a little practice, even if you are afraid of them. Your husband will want to borrow the smoker when he finds what a help it is, but don't let him have it, at least, not till he stops laughing at you.]

OUR+EXTRACTOR.

Run by Wind (?) Power. Not Reversible.

It is much better to have a small colony of all young bees in the fall, than twice its size when half the bees are old, says G. B. Jones, in C. B. J. This same gentleman describes a visit to the bee-cellar of Mr. McArthur in such glowing terms, that one almost feels envious of those strong stocks that "covered the frames from top to bottom and from end to end." This writer claims that such desirable results were brought about by the removal of the old bees the previous fall. To determine when a colony is queenless, we see it advised to notice the capping of the honey, the actions of the bees, and lastly,—to look in the hive. The latter method will do it, sure, and has,

we believe, been tried before (?)..... The Canadian Legislature has passed an act for the suppression of foul brood.....A new invention, or at least a new application of an old one, is a device for fastening fdn. into sections by the use of a lamp, so arranged as to heat a thin piece of iron to the right degree, which is brought in contact with the fdn. by the foot, after the section has been placed in position. It is said to work nicely.....At the Wis. State Convention Rev. T. E. Turner read an article on Carniolans, extolling their many virtues. Then the bee-keepers "went for" him, and he owned up that no person could tell any thing about their purity from their markings. If this is the case breeders of Carniolans have a fine snap in guaranteeing purity.....Long confinement in a cage has a very injurious effect on a queen. Many queens that are very prolific when shipped, are made less so by long caging. Many prolific queens have their ovaries injured by allowing the bees to ball them.—J. P. H. Brown in Review. The compartment for the queen in shipping cages should be small, then she cannot be "bounced" against the sides so hard as in larger ones.....I. R. Good forms nuclei by confining the bees to their hives, giving plenty of ventilation, and placing them in the cellar for 48 hours. When set out he says not a bee will return. We should like to know how he would explain this, when bees that are in the cellar over winter, remember their location.In the April Api. Dr. Tinker sails into Mr. Heddon rather hotly about his break-joint honey-board, and the editor closes up the matter by calling it a humbug. We didn't suppose Dr. T. would use such vehemence in print, the more especially so, since he complained of Mr. Stiles' defense of the Heddon hive in the Review, and the BEE-HIVE, wherein the Dr. figured to some extent.....It

will now be in order when speaking of bees, according to Mr. Kelley, to say: "Don't let the *animals* tread on me!" Visitors to our apiary will please use this expression.

THE

Bee Hive

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

E. H. COOK,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,
ANDOVER, CONN.

Subscription Price, 25 cents Per Year
in Advance.


Editorial Ink Drops.

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Has Apis deserted us? We hope not.

What do you think of Our Extractor?

Whose on the top-bar now? Chorus: All of us.

 Correspondents, please send in your articles right away, quick.

April 3d was a jolly day. What a buzzing, whizzing, roaring and flying there was among the bees!

Is Prof. Cook hibernating, that he fails to put in a word in defense of digested nectar? It looks like it.

Don't let neighbor Putoff induce

you to neglect the bees till some of them starve. It don't pay, you know,

"Bee-keeping for Profit; or How to get the Largest Yields of Comb Honey," is the title of a book soon to be issued by Dr. Tinker.

Give the bees plenty of honey, see that they have a vigorous queen, tuck them up warmly, then follow the "let alone" plan till they need more room or the sections.

Down in W. Va. friend W. B. Baker says the bees have gathered pollen all winter and considerable honey in February. March 1st they had seven inches of snow.

S. A. Shuck, a prominent bee-keeper, reverses his brood-frames in a similar manner to that practiced by H. L. Jeffrey, and believes it pays him well to do so.

The editor of the Review, in commenting on A. I. Root's animosity to patenting bee appliances, says that many bee-keepers think Mr. Root wants to make money out of their inventions.

THREE BOOKS CHEAP.

We have three copies of Prof. A. J. Cook's Bee-keepers' Guide (latest edition), that we will sell, including a year's subscription to BEE-HIVE, at \$1.15 each. The regular price is \$1.50. Order quick.

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Though we have lapsed so far behind time, still our subscription list has not decreased. We intend to give it a boom by offering the BEE-HIVE for 12 issues for only 15 cts. As soon as we catch up the price will be 25 cts., so don't delay.

Can any New Englandite beat this? "The bees were bringing in pollen yesterday, Mar. 12th. Their legs were not only loaded, but their backs were well dusted; it was probably

from skunk cabbage. This is eleven days earlier than last season. E. D. Barton, E. Hampton, Ct."

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Under this heading advertisements of 35 words will be inserted **four times** for only 25 cents.

To exchange.—A B C of Bee Culture, King's Bee-keepers' Text Book, 1888 and '89 vols. of Gleanings, back Nos. Am. Bee Journal, also vol. XV. Bee-keepers' Magazine; all in No. 1 shape. Make me an offer. L. J. Waldo, Merrow, Conn.

Geo. S. Pratt, Jr., Bridgeport, Ct., will sell Italian bees in Langstroth hive, \$8; May, \$7; June, \$6. Eggs from high-class P. R., \$1 per sitting. Fantails, Jacobins, fans, owls, etc. Common pigeons taken in exchange.

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Cinnamon bulbs, 8 cts. per doz.; strawberry plants, 8 cts. per doz.; choice Sugar-cane seed 10 cts. pkg.; Water-melon seed, best, 5 cts.; Nutmeg Geranium slips 15 c.; 2 for 20 c. Wm. Ebert, Denny, box 22, Butler Co., Penn.

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DR. G. B. SWEENEY, Pittsburg, Pa.

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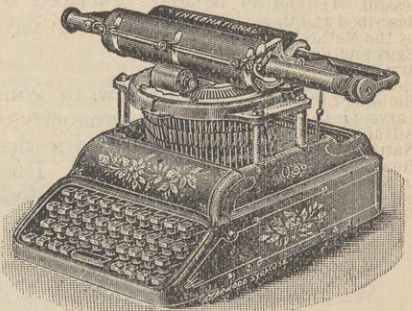
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— METHOD OF —

REARING QUEENS.

Without exception this is the best article on Queen-Rearing that Mr. Doolittle has written. It gives, in language so plain that all can understand, the method used by Mr. D. himself, which is a guarantee of its valuable qualities.

Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Ills., a prominent apicultural writer, says of it:

"You have done a good thing in putting in pamphlet form 'Doolittle's Method of Rearing Queens.' It is of value, and gotten up nicely."

CONTENTS:

A sketch of G. M. Doolittle, wherein his Early Love of Bees, Reading Bee-Books and Papers, Influence of the Teachings of E. Gallup, Good Queens, Writing Articles, etc., are interestingly described. Following this comes Mr. Doolittle's Method of Rearing Queens. The first subject treats on the Importance of Good Queens, showing how necessary they are if one would be successful. The Old Way of Rearing Queens is then described and its defects clearly shown, followed by the Method Now Used, and its disadvantages. Eggs and Food are then discussed. The way of arranging and fastening the Queen-Cups is then clearly described and fully illustrated. The Cell-Building Colony is next described, followed by Larvæ for Queen-Cells; Transferring the Larvæ; Advantages of this Method; Points to Remember; Natural Queen-Cells; How to Make the Nuclei; How to Cut Out the Cells, and How to put Cells in Nuclei. This is followed by pithy points gleaned from Mr. D.'s writings, as follows—Honey-Queens; Scraps; Honey-Combs, Reports.

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White Band Albino Bees for Sale.

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One to 5 colonies, each. . . .	\$6.50	\$6.00	\$5.50
Six to 10 colonies, each. . . .	6.00	5.50	5.25
More than ten, each.	5.75	5.50	5.00

If wanted in Hives, add \$1.00 for each hive wanted to above prices.

2-Frame Nucleus Colonies, with Untested Queens, in June, \$3.00; July, \$2.75; August, \$2.50. With Tested Queens, in June, \$4.00; July, \$3.75; August, \$3.50.

I use the Cary Improved L. wired frames; all straight worker combs, built on fdn. Send Money by Registered Letter. For further particulars send for Circular. Address,

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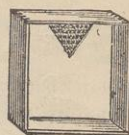
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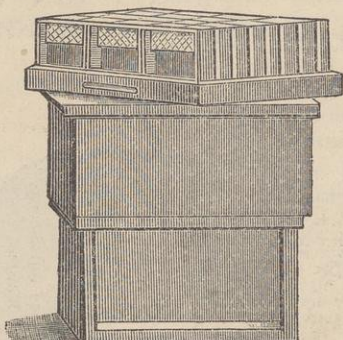
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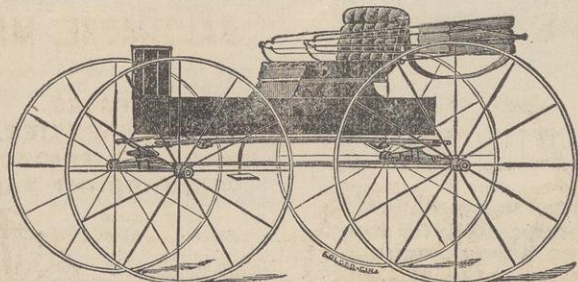
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