



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The bee-keepers' instructor. Vol. IV, No. 3 March, 1882

Somerset, Kentucky: Webster Thomas & Sons, March, 1882

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/ITTLN65BORRPV8W>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NKC/1.0/>

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

VOL. IV.

MARCH, 1882.

NO. 3.

THE
BEE-KEEPERS'
INSTRUCTOR.



A MONTHLY JOURNAL

Devoted to the Science of Bee-Keeping in All its Branches.

Webster Thomas, Editor.

WEBSTER THOMAS & SONS,
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS,

SOMERSET, KENTUCKY.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements of less than 1 inch, 8 cents per line, each insertion. 1 to 3 inches, per inch, each insertion, 75 cents. 12 lines of nonpareil, our advertising type, containing about 9 words per line, make one inch. Discounts will be made as follows:

On 1 to 3 inches, 3 insertions, 5 per cent; 6 in insertions, 10 per cent; 9 insertions, 15 per cent; 12 insertions, 20 per cent.

Special rates given on advertisements of 1/4 page or over. Send for estimate.

Advertisements changed quarterly if desired, and all advertisers will receive the INSTRUCTOR free, provided their advertisements amount to at least five times the amount their subscription would be while their advertisements are running.

If any of our advertisers fail to fulfill their promises at any time, or show a disposition to resort to any sharp practices, our readers will do us a favor by reporting the same to us, and if investigation proves the charges correct, such advertisers will be promptly exposed, and their advertisements dropped. It is our highest aim to make the INSTRUCTOR thoroughly reliable in every respect, and by the co-operation of our subscribers we will be enabled to do so.

If our readers in answering advertisements will mention that they saw them in the INSTRUCTOR they will oblige both advertisers and us.

W. THOMAS & SONS.

\$66 a week in your own town. Terms and \$5 outfit free. Address
H HALLETT & Co., Portland, Me.

**CHAMPION
BEE HIVE
MANUFACTORY.**

To Bee-Keepers.

Buying my lumber by the cargo this year, I have made a reduction on all kinds of Hives and Section boxes. I manufacture all kinds of hives not patented. I also manufacture the section all in one piece, and have the only machinery in the United States for making these sections in thickness according to size, so as to make them substantial, no matter how large they are. Every box contains 500 sections with printed directions how to fold them. Last year I could not fill all of my orders for sections, but I will now say that I can

Fill all Orders Promptly,

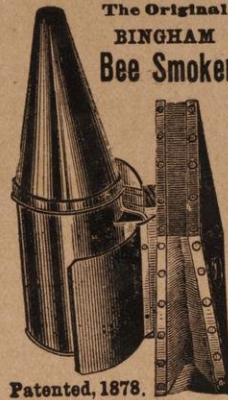
As I have a large stock on hand. Send your orders as early as possible, so as to give us a little time for packing and crating. I procure special rates to every point that I ship goods, so the freight is very light to any part of the South or West. Any bee-keeper that will favor me with an order and is not satisfied with the goods, may return them and I will refund the money.

Send for Free Price-List to

**Champion Bee Hive Manufactory,
Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio.**

R. L. Shoemaker, Proprietor.

YES, SIR!



Patented, 1878.

**The Original
BINGHAM
Bee Smoker**

Bingham invented and patented the first practical bellows bee smoker, and it drove all previous makes from the market at once. T. F. Bingham and O. J. Hetherington invented and patented the first improved uncapping knife.

Over 25,000 of our smokers and knives have been sold to the best bee-keepers in Europe and America, and used from one to five years, without a complaint or one being returned. "They are the BEST," so ALL DISINTERESTED bee-keepers say. Our patents cover all bellows smokers that will burn

sound stove wood, or do not go out. If you use, sell or advertise ONLY OUR GOODS, you will be SAFE, and save trouble and money, and complaints from customers.

Judge Andrews, of McKinney, Texas, said to Bingham at the Lexington, Ky., National Convention: "Mr. Bingham, I am glad to meet you. I have been puffing Bingham four years." He meant the smoker, of course, which he has so long and satisfactorily used. He has our knife also.

Having greatly improved our smokers, they will be better and handsomer this season than ever before. Prices, by mail, postpaid, from 65c. to \$2.00. Send card for free description and testimonials to

**T. F. BINGHAM, P. M., or
Bingham & Hetherington.**

36

Abronia, Michigan.

E. A. Thomas & Co.

Importers and Breeders of CHOICE

ITALIAN, HOLY LAND,

CYPRIAN AND ALBINO

BEEES AND QUEENS,

And Dealers in APIARIAN SUPPLIES.

Coleraine, Franklin County, Mass.

Send for our large ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE before making your purchases for 1882. It will PAY you to do so. 2 12



D. A. PIKE

Box 19, Smithsburg,

Washington Co., Md.,

Breeder of those Beautiful Albino and Italian queens and bees, which gave universal satisfaction last season. Send for circular. 2 7

THE Bee-Keepers' Instructor.

Devoted to Practical Bee-Keeping in All Its Branches.

VOL. IV.

SOMERSET, KY., MARCH, 1882.

NO. 3.

Published the mid-
dle of each month.

“EXCELSIOR.”

{ Terms, 50c. per year,
(or 30c. for 6 months.

North-Eastern Convention—Concluded.

FRIDAY, JAN. 27.

MORNING SESSION.

In the absence of President Clark, who had gone home to attend a donation party, Vice President St. John called the convention to order at 9:15 A. M.

After the reading of the minutes by the Secretary, an interesting paper on “Failures,” by A. J. King, of N. Y., was listened to with pleasure.

Secretary House read a letter from A. J. Cook, of Ithaca, president of the National convention of bee-keepers, asking that the present convention consider the three following points: First, the desirability of appointing committees from different sections to secure local associations either county or district; second, the importance of a separate building and a grand display of honey, business and implements at the State fair, and thirdly, the question of adulteration. This should be properly denounced.

The criticism on the National Convention, by George W. House, published in the Dec. No. of the INSTRUCTOR, was then read by Mr. Locke, at the request of several persons, and called forth much discussion on the subject of smokers.

Mr. Clark, who entered just then and took his place in the chair, thought the convention should not fritter away the time by trying to decide as to who invented the smoker. He said, however, that he would not use the Bingham smoker under any consideration. He did not think that Bingham should be upheld in using the inventions of Quinby. Because the true inventor, Mr. Quinby, did not get out a patent and Bingham did, we are obliged to pay for it.

Mr. King—I have carefully examined the Bingham patent, and I have found that his patent covers everything and nothing. I have manufactured smokers

right along, and I have not infringed on any patent. I do not hesitate to say that Quinby was the first inventor.

Mr. Locke—I believe in right and justice every time. M. Quinby is revered and loved by all apiarists. We ought to denounce any injustice that has been done to Mr. Quinby.

On motion of Mr. Betsinger, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions condemning the unjust resolutions passed by the National Convention. The President appointed as such committee Messrs. Van Deusen, Clark and Bacon.

Secretary House then read the following paper, written by himself, which was heartily applauded, and called forth a lengthy and animated discussion:

Shall We Connect Business With Our Association?

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—When we look about us we cannot fail to notice the wonderful achievements accomplished by associated action. At this enlightened age no branch of business can successfully compete with its adversaries without a combination of interests. Co-operation and concerted action have wrought wondrous changes in every conceivable branch of industry. Think of the vast strides and the great improvements as they have advanced during the past twenty years; not alone in invention, mechanism, agriculture and the press, but also in Apiculture. To-day we see associated system of dairying, in manufacturing and marketing their products, and in breeding the various kinds of stock.

We see a combination of interests in mining, in transportation, and in buying and selling stocks, grain and all the leading staple products. We see combined action in manufacturing, on the part of the tradesman as well as the capitalist. We have “Boards of Trade,” Protective Unions, Mutual Life Assurance Associations, and so on through the category. CO-OPERATION is the key to all.

It is true we have kept pace with kindred pursuits, as far as knowledge, invention and production are concerned. But it is also a fact that the protectives of our interests have been sadly neglected. Seemingly but a comparatively few recognize the value of the contemplated action. I see no reason why we should not put business into our Association. Many benefits may be derived from such action; not alone in keeping pace with other industries, but in the advancement of our science and the protection of our interests. The lumber we buy for our necessary buildings, hives and boxes, the tools we use in making them, the nails used for putting them together, and the

glass we use in preparing our honey for the market, are all protected in their prices by strong combinations. Then why should we hesitate in adopting anything that may prove an advantage and a protection to our business. By purchasing our supplies, such as hives, boxes, crates, glass, foundation, implements, literature, etc., at whole sale or in job lots, we can obtain manufacturers' prices, and thus secure to the average producer a saving of from fifty to one hundred dollars annually. This is no small item when we take into consideration the competing elements that now seem to be damaging to a certain extent.

By careful investigation from actual transactions, I can authoritatively say, that under efficient management the contemplated associated action will prove a clear gain of one cent for every pound of comb honey produced. Therefore, during such seasons as was 1878, or at any time when our larger markets are crowded, we can sell our products for the one cent per pound UNDER the market, and at the same time realize as MUCH as those who do not enjoy such privileges. Many are the ways in which we might be benefited by CO-OPERATION and a unity of action. We should remember in all our transactions that "A dollar saved is a dollar earned."

With a unity of action we can bring into use a uniform style of package; a uniform system in grading and marketing. A world-wide reputation can be established for our grades of honey, protected by any appropriate trade-mark we think advisable to adopt.

With co-operative effort, we can place Apiculture on a footing second to NONE of the many national industries, and command a power that will FORCE a recognition of our products as a staple commodity, and command respect from all foreign countries. In fact, co-operation and a combination of interests are the powerful main-springs that have revolutionized the business portion of the world, and, judging from the advancement made in the past twenty years, who can venture to predict the position we shall occupy twenty years hence?

I would submit for your earnest consideration the feasibility of incorporating a Mutual Benefit Association for Life Assurance, consisting entirely of bee-keepers. Common prudence should prompt every man to seek reliable insurance. Where families would now be left in debt for their homes (or perhaps without a home), with a certificate in a properly managed assurance society, many bee-keepers would be comforted in knowing that their loved ones would be left in a condition where they could help themselves. With a little effort on the part of each of us, such a society can be organized and sustained with but little expense to the beneficiaries.

Our deliberations should be in truth and earnestness, remembering that in the past our "North-eastern Association" has been the first to rebuke injustice; the first to correct evils and protect the interests of our fraternity; the first and always on the alert to sustain a good cause when the interests of the fraternity were at stake.

It is acknowledged that our Association stands at the head of any of its kind in America.

It is conceded that our deliberations and conclusions are the highest known authority. Thousands are to day anxiously awaiting the publication of our proceedings. Then let us hold fast to that which we have gained in the past; strike while the iron is hot, and place our far-famed Association on a higher and a grander footing, until we can proclaim to the world, "Sans Pariel."

Mr. Betsinger thought the position of the essayist was well taken, and his suggestions should be considered carefully. We can sell to each other as well as a jobber can sell to a dealer.

Mr. Root was particularly interested in

that portion of the essay that called for a uniform box for honey. The important thing for us to consider is, what is the greatest amount that we can get for our goods. If honey is put in small, uniform boxes by us, we can dispose of our honey to a better advantage. That at least is the opinion of all dealers.

Mr. Dickinson was interested in the matter, but he thought that it was a game of every man for himself. As a matter of convenience of packing car lots, Mr. Root's idea was a good one, but if I can put my honey, through any ingenuity, in better shape than my neighbor, and therefore get a better price, I do not care to have my neighbor adopt my plan.

Mr. Root said that it was for the interest of all that a certain standard in market honey should be adopted. We can educate the people to this standard.

Mr. Clark said: I don't believe in the doctrine of every man for himself. I think that if one puts up honey in one pound boxes and he gets a good price, others will follow, and the price will return to its old level. But if we have uniform, one and three-quarter pound boxes, the expense will not be so great and the price will always be good.

Mr. Locke agreed with Root and Clark that the time has come when we should adopt a uniform box.

Mr. King said that this ought to have been agitated some time ago. The diversity of boxes has gone so far that it is almost impossible to crush out now. We can put a stop to the agitation of one-half pound boxes, which is now making, by prompt and decided action.

The discussion took a wide latitude, every one relating his particular experience in selling his goods. Many told what jobbers had advised, and all agreed to disagree upon certain points. In the midst of the talk, which was exciting yet good natured, Mr. Betsinger stamped the convention by offering a resolution to the effect that a uniform box be adopted. He also threatened in the event of the resolution passing, to press another one that should compel the members to use that box adopted. Mr. King offered amendments to Mr. Betsinger's motion that more than one sized box should be used. This again carried the members on "the sea of troubles," until Secretary House mercilessly cut all short by a motion to adjourn. This last motion was carried.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

In the afternoon session the resolution in regard to the size of boxes was discussed at length.

Mr. Dickinson moved to lay on the table; lost, yeas 10, noes 19. The resolution making the weight of the box not less than a pound and three-quarters, was then adopted.

Mr. Betsinger moved that the association adopt some kind of a seal to be used on everything passing from the association; carried.

Mr. Betsinger moved that a committee of three be appointed to select a seal; carried.

The convention selected Mr. Betsinger, George W. House and Mr. Peet.

The Secretary read an interesting paper, written by W. L. Tennant, of Schenarie, Court House, N. Y., on "What per cent. of Increase is the Most Profitable."

J VanDeusen, from the committee on resolutions in regard to bee smokers, reported the following, which was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, At the late national convention held at Lexington, Kentucky, a resolution was passed which partially ignored the instructions and inventions as affecting modern bee-keeping, of our friend, the late lamented Mr. Quinby, and particularly the bellows smoker, denouncing them as belonging to an era now passed away, etc., and in his place exalting others far above him and denominating them as belonging to the modern era of practical and advanced bee culture,

Resolved, That the action above stated is entirely inconsistent with the facts, and that we denounce the same as nothing less than a slander on the fair name of Mr. Quinby, and a seeking to impose on the intelligence of American bee-keepers.

Mr. Root, from the committee appointed last year to secure the passage of a law to prevent the adulteration of honey and other sweets, with glucose, said the bill against adulteration of sweets in general, was too broad and too sweeping in its provisions to receive the sanction of the governor. The adulterators of honey buy pure honey in one place and glucose in another, and do the mixing themselves. He thought the law against adulteration now in force was strong enough to cover the adulteration of honey. He did not know how to effect a remedy.

Mr. King said the members of the association should put up its honey in packages ready for market. The packages should then be stamped with the seal. There was a strong law against obliterating or counterfeiting a seal. There is a brand of beeswax, each piece of which is stamped. This wax, though no better than other wax in the market, brought

five cents per pound more, because the purchasers knew it to be genuine.

Mr. Locke said comb honey shipped from the country was shipped to New York and there cut up and adulterated with glucose.

Mr. Dickinson said the action of the convention was silly and foolish.

Mr. Barber said he was of the same opinion. The convention had passed a resolution to use no boxes weighing less than 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., while many of the members had a large number of boxes ranging from one to two pounds. These boxes would be used for at least two years to come. The market demanded boxes of various sizes, and so long as demanded producers would be compelled to furnish them.

There was some discussion as to whether it should be placed on the documents of the association, or on the honey produced by its members. The president decided that the seal would only be on the documents of the association.

Mr. Betsinger moved that a rubber stamp be used after the style of the seal adopted by the association. That each member shall have a stamp at the expense of the association by applying for it. Said stamp to be used on everything sent out pertaining to apiculture; carried.

Mr. Root thought each producer should stamp his own goods individually.

Mr. Bacon favored the stamp or seal. All the members would be interested in keeping the product pure, like the patrons of a cheese factory. If any one was found adulterating honey, the other members would see that he was punished. In unity is strength, and the members of the association have a common interest in keeping their product pure.

The resolution was amended so that members shall buy their own stamps, and adopted.

Mr. Dickinson, from the committee on implements, presented the following report:

Several specimens of comb foundation made on different mills were examined. I. L. Schofield, of Chenango Bridge, N. Y., and Chas. Dadant, of Hamilton, Ill., exhibited foundation for sections and brood chamber, made on Vandervort mill.

Schofield's samples took the preference for sections and brood chamber, as the specimens showed the mill to be more perfectly adjusted, and the base of cells more uniform and perfect. Mr. J. Van Deusen, of Sprout Brook, N. Y., exhibited some very perfect specimens of Van Deusen foundation, with and without wire, and Mr. Dadant also had on exhibition some specimens of Dunham foundation. The committee thought the different styles of foundation were represented by perfect specimens. But the Vandervort foundation was considered eminently superior to the other styles, on account of its natural shaped base of cell and both for use in sections and brood

chamber. The committee also think the Dunham foundation justly entitled to the second award for perfection on account of the amount of wax contained in the side wall, particularly for use in the brood chamber. Mr. Van Deusen's samples of flat bottom foundation were very fine, and were it not for the unnatural shape of the base of the cells, the committee would unhesitatingly pronounce it the best; but as this defect must necessarily be removed by the bees before honey or brood is deposited in it, they are compelled to class it as No. 3 in the exhibit.

Bee hives were exhibited for competition by A. J. King, of New York City; Houck & Peet, Canajoharie; C. G. Ferris, of Columbia, N. Y., and J. C. Stoddard, of Springfield, Mass. We award to A. J. King the first premium, to Houck & Peet second, and to J. C. Stoddard honorable mention for its ingenious device for spreading frames.

First premium for comb honey crate, Houck & Peet. For improvement in packing and on crate of comb honey, Samuel Snow of Fayetteville, N. Y.

Two Smokers by Houck & Peet, one a Bingham the other a Quinby; the Quinby took the preference.

A honey extractor was exhibited by A. J. King, with which there was no competition.

A wax extractor was exhibited by S. M. Locke, Canajoharie, with which there was no competition. The committee would however recommend it for some of its important improvements.

Two Honey knives exhibited by Houck & Peet, the Bingham and A. I. Root's.

Schofield's honey knife exhibited by A. J. King, which was awarded the preference on account of its lightness and convenience.

Some perforated tin was exhibited by Houck & Peet, and some perforated zinc by S. M. Locke, from D. A. Jones, of Beeton, Ontario, Canada. The committee are unable to say whether it is of any practical utility at present or not.

The Nellis and Shuck feeders were exhibited by Houck & Peet; we think the Shuck the better.

In conclusion the committee would say that while they have desired to do justice to exhibitors and if any articles on exhibition have escaped our notice they would ask that as much charity as possible be shown them, as their time was limited. The committee are not informed as to the amount or class of premiums or to which premiums should be awarded, all of which is respectfully submitted.

C. G. DICKINSON,
W. A. HOUSE,
N. N. BETSINGER, } Committee.

The following articles were also on exhibition: Sample prize boxes, Perforated Tin, Wire Nails, four kinds of foundation, Van Deusen Clamps, Quinby Clamps, Comb Honey Racks, by Messrs. Houck & Peet; Ferris Simplicity Bee Hive by C. G. Ferris, of Columbia, N. Y.; a Straw Hat, Queen Cage, specimens of the different races of bees, etc., by S. M. Locke, Rochester, N. Y. A very simple and desirable implement for cleaning section boxes, and various uses, by S. Snow, Fayetteville, N. Y.

Price-lists and circulars from manufacturers and queen breeders, and copies of *The American Bee Journal*, *Bee-Keepers' Exchange Magazine*, *INSTRUCTOR*, and *Guide*, were on exhibition and for distribution.

Mr. Bacon asked that all who intend to use the Vandervort foundation the next season to rise. Eighteen members out of thirty-one present rose.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this association are due and are hereby tendered to the representatives of the *Utica Morning Herald* and *Observer* for the very complete report of our proceedings as published in their respective papers, and for other courtesies shown us.

Resolved, That the thanks of this association are due and are hereby tendered to all the essay writers.

There being no report from the committee on question box, because no box had been provided, Mr. Root moved that a standing committee of three be appointed, to which questions can be sent during the year, to be answered at the next annual convention; carried.

The chair appointed L. C. Root, I. L. Schofield and E. D. Clark.

Mr. Barber said his plan of keeping honey was to place it in a room thoroughly aired, every day, until it is to be shipped. He left it unglassed. He found spiders around in the corners, and he believed the spiders killed off the millers if any hatched. He stored his honey on the ground floor, and by leaving it open continually, kept the temperature of the room the same as the outside air.

Mr. L. C. Root offered a vote of thanks to the reporters of the papers for their reports of the convention; carried. He spoke at some length on the privilege of being able to read the proceedings of the convention while miles away from the place. It is very gratifying always to the reporters to know that their work is appreciated. It is a far more pleasing task to sketch the proceedings of a convention the object of which is to advance any industry, than to give the details of a railroad accident, or some horrible crime.

Mr. Peet, from the committee on seal, presented a design, which was adopted.

The roll was called, and thirteen members answered that they intended to use the rubber stamps; nine were undecided, and three answered no.

Speaking of the different woods of which the honey boxes are made, most of the members favored basswood. This is even preferable to the white poplar, which warps very much when it becomes wet. Mr. Bacon said he had used white spruce and found it very good. It did not warp or split, nor did it stain as easily as poplar or basswood. The president, Mr. Baum and others also favored white spruce.

Mr. M. B. Warner was appointed as a committee on securing rooms for next annual meeting.

On motion the secretary was instructed

to take charge of the matter of procuring seals, etc.

The following is a list of diplomas awarded:

Houck & Peet—Best and most practical smoker (the Quinby), best display implements, best bee feeder (the Shuck), best crate for comb honey, best section boxes.

A. J. King—Best honey extractor, best and most practical bee hive (Shuck Eclectic), best honey knife (Schofield's).

I. L. Schofield—Best comb foundation for section boxes and the brood chamber.

S. Locke—The most improved form of wax extractor, and improvements in shipping and introducing cages.

Samuel Snow—Best crate comb honey, and improvements in arranging bottom of shipping or put crate.

After further discussion the convention adjourned. W. E. CLARK, Pres't.

GEORGE W. HOUSE, Sec'y.

Our Contributors.

For the Bee-Keepers' Instructor.

Wired Frames vs. Unwired Frames.

E. T. FLANAGAN.

When foundation was first used, one of the greatest objections to it was its great liability to sag during very warm weather, and also when used to hive a large swarm on. Experiments were made with wire, by incorporating it in the base of the foundation, but as nearly all used too large a wire, and that liable to rust, a great outcry was made that it killed the brood all along where the wire passed. This difficulty was obviated by using a smaller wire (No. 30), and having it *tinned*. This has proven a decided success, and we hear no more of foundation sagging or breaking down, or brood being killed, where such wire is used. It is certainly a great improvement, for we can now send full colonies to any part of the country, in the hottest weather, without the least fear of the combs melting or breaking down. Another advantage is, that we have no more combs breaking out of the frames when extracting, and all who have gone through that experience know what a vexation it is.

There are, though, some few drawbacks to the use of wire in frames, the chief of which are the trouble of punching the holes for the wires correctly, and putting the wire in the frames. When the holes are punched by hand, and the bars are thick, or the wood hard, the labor is slow and irksome, and very often

inaccurate. In fact, it is almost impossible to punch the holes in a dozen frames without getting them out of the middle or center of the bar, and besides being inaccurate, it is very slow work, unless we get it done at the factory, which adds to the cost, and to the bee-keeper, of all others, economy is money. To all who have to make the holes by hand, we think we do a favor by calling their attention to an invention of F. B. Chapman's, as described in a recent number of *Gleanings* (see Oct. No., 1881, page 479, for a description of how to make one). After punching over 12,000 holes by hand, I concluded there must be a better way, so I wrote to Mr. Chapman, requesting him to make me one of his bar piercers. He did so, and it more than met my expectations. It can punch from one to ten holes at each motion of the handle or lever, does the work perfectly accurate, and as fast as a bar can be placed on the machine and taken off. I have pierced 600 top and bottom bars, six holes in each, in one hour. I am glad we have so simple and effective a machine for doing the work, and Mr. C. deserves great credit for inventing and giving it to the bee-keeping fraternity.

Rose Hill Apiary, Belleville, Ill.

For the Bee-Keepers' Instructor.

Notes From Maryland.

D. A. PIKE.

From my experience during the past season with the Syrian bees, I must say that my impressions are not favorable to them. They did not gather enough honey to last them till cold weather came, so I had to give them frames of honey from my other bees twice before they went into winter quarters. The only good trait I have discovered about them is that the queens are prolific layers. But what does that amount to if her bees do not gather enough honey to live on? I have never yet seen a Syrian bee come in heavily loaded with honey. But if you want plenty of fertile workers, get the Syrians. If mine live over the winter, I will keep them till the first of July, and if they do not by that time prove themselves better honey gatherers than they have in the past, off goes the queens' heads. I will not sell any more Syrian queens until I have tested them better myself. You will hear from me again about the first of July.

I shipped by mail last season 268 queens. The largest number I sold to one person

was 46. Out of the total number sold only one was lost, and that was on the road ten or twelve days. Who can make a better report. Now, I don't claim that my cage is the best in the market, but I do claim it is as good as any; and it is also as cheap. In addition I believe it to be the strongest made. I think my success was owing to the manner in which I prepared the food for the bees before shipping. I claim to have made a discovery in this respect.

There has been a great deal said in the bee journals lately about rearing good queens, some claiming that they should be reared from three or four of the best colonies only. I hold that a queen breeder should have his queens bred up to such a standard of excellence that he need not be afraid to rear queens or drones from any colony that he has in his apiary. Then he is prepared to send out good queens to his customers, and not till then. What would you think of a queen breeder if you were to go to his apiary and he would tell you that he is going to rear all of his queens this season from this queen, and all of his drones from that one or those two queens, and would then tell you that he had fifty or one hundred orders in for early tested queens from last year's rearing, as is generally the case with queen breeders. Do you think his customers would get queens fit to rear queens and drones from? I think hardly, or he would not need to be so particular about rearing all his queens and drones from a few colonies.

Smithsburg, Md., Jan. 23, 1882.

You put your side of the argument rather strongly, Friend P. A queen breeder might have his bees bred up to such a standard of excellence that first-class queens could be reared from nearly all of his colonies, and yet he might rear only from a few, selected on account of some especially distinguishing traits of excellence.

You certainly had extraordinary success in shipping queens last year. If you have made a discovery in the manner of preparing food for shipping, don't you think it would be a good idea to make it public for the benefit of others? Or, having made the discovery yourself, do you think you ought to have the exclusive benefit of it?

Would be glad to hear from you again as to how you like the Syrian bees, after a further trial. Do not be too hasty, however, in pronouncing judgement on them; reports from some of our most experienced bee-keepers indicate that they are excellent honey gatherers, as well as very prolific breeders. Their irascible temper is the great objection urged against them by nearly all who have tried them.

For the Bee-Keepers' Instructor.

Overstocking.

E. A. THOMAS.

Can it be done? This is a question that has been agitated a great deal, and many arguments have been brought forward by those who have given the subject their attention. I have never expressed my views on this question, having waited until I could thoroughly test the matter. After a great deal of thought, and from close and extended observations in a large number of apiaries in both good and poor honey sections, I have come to the conclusion that it is possible to overstock a locality with bees. But I would not have the reader to understand that I apprehend any great danger from this source, or that I believe it as easy to overstock a locality as many appear to believe. Until we obtain a more satisfactory solution of the problem of wintering, the majority of bee-keepers need have no fears in regard to this subject. However, it is well to investigate the matter and endeavor to ascertain the number of colonies that can be kept with the greatest profit in any given location.

Now, in the first place do we understand the meaning of overstocking? Does it mean to keep more stocks than can be kept at a certain standard profit, or more than can be kept at any profit? In the consideration of this point it is necessary to take into account the relative cost of running small and large apiaries. From my own personal experience, and from what I have gleaned from my extensive correspondence, and after carefully noting the average honey crops of large and small apiaries in juxtaposition with each other, I have come to the conclusion that a small number of colonies will give much better results than a larger number. Now, taking it for granted that ten colonies will store a larger amount of honey

per colony than one hundred will in the same place, we will proceed to consider the average cost of running a large and small apiary.

An apiary of twenty-five stocks will require just as many tools, and will require just as much attention during the honey season, as a large one of one hundred colonies would. It costs but little if any more to winter a large number in a cellar or repository, provided there is plenty of room. Hence, the only additional expense of an apiary of one hundred stocks (which a man can take care of as well as twenty-five) is the cost of the extra boxes and the interest of the added capital invested. It is safe to say that ten per cent. will cover this expense, and ten per cent. more all the extra work. Now, then, if 25 colonies will store an average of 100 pounds of honey per colony in a given locality, 20 per cent. of this amount added to it will give the minimum of profit of an apiary of 100 colonies. Twenty per cent. of 2,200 pounds, the product of 25 colonies, added to it, would give 3,000 pounds. As the risk of loss is greatly augmented in a large apiary, we will place the minimum of profit at 4,000 pounds. Therefore, if 100 colonies will produce over 4,000 pounds where 24 colonies would produce 2,500 pounds, then the location is not overstocked; for so long as they give a fair profit above all expenses and interest, there is no danger to be apprehended from this source.

I do not believe that it will pay, in an average honey section, to keep more than one man can take care of, as a greater number will increase the running expenses in greater proportion to the increase of colonies, until we reach a number sufficient to keep two men busy. After close and careful observations, I have come to the conclusion that 200 colonies, or enough to keep two men at work, will not give as satisfactory results. I think it is much better to keep them in two apiaries four or five miles apart; that is, they will store enough more honey to more than pay the apiarist for all extra trouble incurred.

The reader will see by the above that I recommend keeping only about 100 colonies in a place. A bee-keeper can have 500 stocks scattered in different directions four or five miles distant, and easily accessible from a central point, and there are very few who wish to keep a larger number than that.

I have not based my observations upon a flush honey season, but rather on the poorest ones, for, while a given number of colonies might give very satisfactory

results in an extra season, the same number might starve to death in the poorest one. In this matter, as in calculating the profits of the bee business, we should note the results of a number of successive years. By a little judicious sowing we may greatly augment the honey crop in a good year, and carry our bees safely through the poor seasons, thus reducing the danger of overstocking.

That it pays to sow largely for honey, bee-keepers are beginning to acknowledge, and I prophesy that in a few years there will be as much attention given to sowing for honey as there is to sowing and planting for farm stock at the present time. In my next article I will give my views on sowing for honey, when and how to do it.

I am very much pleased with the appearance of the INSTRUCTOR. Its reading matter is of the best, and I think it is well worth the small subscription price.

Coleraine, Mass., Jan 30, 1882.

As spring is now here, and planting for honey must be done soon, if at all, we would be pleased to have an article from Mr. Thomas for next month's issue, giving his views as to what, when and how to sow for honey.

For the Bee-keepers' Instructor.

The Honey Market.

A. B. WEED.

I am glad that the INSTRUCTOR has of late given special attention to the marketing of honey. I wish that other bee publications would do the same, as I believe that this is one of the most important questions with which we have to do. Many honey producers have much to learn on this subject, and it is being forced upon their attention by the necessities of the case. When a man brings to town a lot of honey in bad shape, he soon finds that it does not sell as well as his neighbor's that is better looking. Most men take the hint and next time have it in attractive shape; a few, however, try to force the public to lay aside a love of neatness, or what they perhaps call prejudice.

The honey market has lately taken a new departure. Upon the introduction of section boxes and small packages, there commenced a war of extermination upon the large boxes or "gums." They have now almost ceased to dispute the market,

and the next thing to go must be packages that are unsightly, be they of any size or shape. With the new era of smaller packages and lower prices than formerly prevailed, a new class of customers appeared, and we now have the middle and lower classes among our customers. Honey has become a cheap instead of a dear luxury, and is fast becoming a cheap necessity. The extensive adulteration of sugars and syrups is tending to this end. It is exceedingly important at this time that honey should have the confidence of the public. The tendency of the market is toward a small cheap package, and extracted honey is growing in favor. Mr. Dadant and a few other producers have demonstrated that a market can be made for it almost anywhere, if it is properly worked up. I think that these gentlemen have done a very great service to those in the business by showing this to be the case. Extracted honey is generally held to be the most profitable to the producer, even if sold at a lower price; and in this case it is the cheapest for the buyer. This is the shape in which it is mostly sold in the countries where it is an article of common use. The chief obstacle to its general use in our own country seems to be the unfamiliarity of the public with it. Unless it is plainly labeled, many people do not even know what it is, and most of the buyers, being already somewhat suspicious, and having thoughts of glucose in their minds, when they see honey crystalize, believe that they have discovered a fraud. The label on the package should clearly explain the phenomenon. If a market for candied honey were established, a very great advantage would be gained. When it is in this there is little or no danger of adulteration, and it is more easily shipped than in any other. While passing, it is a noteworthy fact that we occasionally find specimens of honey which will not candy.

After having secured our honey in good shape, the next thing of importance is to have it properly put upon the market. This is frequently the most difficult part of the whole business. Of the many who solicit consignments of honey, but very few know how or even care to handle it properly. I have lately seen a fine lot of honey nearly spoiled by being stored in an unsuitable place. It was first allowed to candy, then to sour; and lastly, mice had access to it. This was in one of the largest commission houses in this city. I have also known grocers who kept it in *ice boxes*. This mistake, however, came from misdirected solicitude

for its welfare. It is important to the producer that his honey reaches the consumer in as good shape as possible, for upon this depends very largely his future sales. Middle men may be either an aid or an obstacle to the advancement of an interest. It is well worth while to superintend the sale of honey wherever this is possible. Many apiculturists succeed in selling a considerable amount directly to consumers; this not only secures better prices, but a proper handling of the honey as well. A home market is much the best.

It has been urged that honey producers concentrate their trade, and send all their crop to a single firm in a city. While this plan may have its advantages, I believe the best way to protect and encourage our interests is to keep competition as sharp as possible among dealers. Let consignees report through the bee publications the treatment their honey receives, the prices obtained, and the name of the commission merchant to whom it is sent. In this way we will soon know who to trust, and agents will learn that we have sufficient means of protecting ourselves.

But after all, there is no market like a home market, and special efforts should be made to develop it. It means ready cash, larger prices and steady growth, and then the honey is under the supervision of the producer until it reaches the consumer. If the country sends its entire crop to the cities, the market will be depressed, and quotations be made which will effect the whole of the season's crop unfavorably.

A few months ago Mr. A. F. Moon said, in the *INSTRUCTOR*, that if a person declared a preference for a home bred queen as against an imported one, that there was "something wrong." This seemed to me such a remarkable statement, coming from so good a breeder as Mr. M. is known to be, that I ventured to ask him, in a subsequent number, the reason for it. Since then I have been waiting for a reply.

75 Bagg St., Detroit, Michigan

We can most heartily endorse all you say in regard to developing the home markets. Send only the surplus to the cities. That is our advice always. Of course large specialists like Messrs. Heddon, Jones, House, L. C. Root & Bro., Dadant & Son, and many others, must always send the bulk of their crops

to the city markets, but the majority of bee-keepers can make more by disposing of their products at home. There is often considerable prejudice to overcome, but a little perseverance will conquer all obstacles, and with the demand once firmly established, it will grow year by year, and richly repay the bee-keeper in the end for his trouble and pains. The experience of Chas. Dadant & Son, as given in their pamphlet on extracted honey, illustrates what perseverance will do toward overcoming the prejudices and objections of consumers—principally arising from ignorance—and they deserve the thanks of bee-keepers everywhere for so clearly demonstrating that a market for honey can be created almost anywhere, if only the proper effort is made.

Read before the National Convention.

A Partial Review.

T. F. BINGHAM.

"Honor to whom honor is due!"

It is well in looking back from our advanced standpoint of apiculture, to observe wherein we have profited, and in what respect the present American system of bee-keeping differs from that of the past, and to whom most indebted.

The system I have denominated the American, is the substitution of absolute control, for the "happy-go-lucky" methods previously pursued. The early writings of the lamented M. Quinby, called the "Mysteries of Bee-Keeping," which were among the most conspicuous of the closing era, were appropriately called its closing chapter; while the writings of the Rev. L. L. Langstroth, and the invention of the movable comb hive, may be justly called the opening chapter in improved bee culture, and the foundation of the American system.

Do I assume too much in saying that nearly all we have of present value rests on one single corner stone, hewn and perfected by one master hand, whose surpassing genius, experience and practical application, have shown him the master builder, on whose single invention the vast present and the undreamed future

of American apiculture rests?

Has not the fact come home to every practical bee-keeper in this honorable body, time and again, that amid the thousand changes and struggles to improve and surpass the first and original, or movable-comb bee-hive, not one outlived the legal limit of the original Langstroth patent? To illustrate, allow me here to quote a few sentences from the covers of back numbers of a leading American bee paper:

While I earnestly try to maintain a broad "charity for all, and malice toward none," and while I do not wish to take upon myself the responsibility of dictating a course for others, I feel it a duty to discourage with all my might, both by precept and example, everything in the shape of patented bee hives, or patents on anything pertaining to bee culture. On the other hand, I shall try to encourage every one to do all in his power to advance the common good of all. I do not believe the world "selfish and grasping," but have much confidence in the disposition of our people to pay for everything they get, and to reward those who work for them disinterestedly, when they once get a clear understanding of the matter. If you have made a valuable invention or discovery, give it to the people, rejoicing that you have been enabled to contribute your mite to the common good, and in seeing others happy, and sooner or later you will surely have your reward. Nothing that we manufacture, in the shape of hives and implements, is patented.

I recommend the Langstroth frame for everybody, and for every purpose whatever, in preference to anything else, and I have pretty thoroughly experimented with all shapes and sizes. There may be other forms that will give just as good results, but I do not believe there are any better. For all general purposes, I advise the Simplicity hive, holding ten of the above frames. The Simplicity (or Improved and Simplified Langstroth hive) is not patented, and never will be.

Permit me here to ask, if the leading bee-keepers of America are opposed to patents? and if so, what method they have devised to encourage invention and render unnecessary the methods devised by Congress? Is it of any value to bee-keepers of to-day, or the bee-keepers of the future, that the memory of the inventor of the movable-comb bee hive, and the honey extractor, and comb foundation, should be revered and perpetuated? Or is there no duty or interest except to get more honey and higher prices, and cheap supplies at cheaper prices?

I assume, in the absence of any other plan of encouragement and protection than that devised by our forefathers as a just tribute to worthy invention, that the American people do respect and honor not only the inventors, but the inventions and the legal record of them in the United States Patent Office. One of the publishers of a bee paper stated in his publication that "any man who did not take legal steps to establish the fact of his invention, should not complain because of the indifference of others." Is

it not to the interest of every practical bee-keeper, and to the interest of this the most National exponent of American apiculture, to put itself on record as the guardian and patron of valuable and original first inventions?

Do American bee-keepers expect too much of this more than national body, in presuming that it shall carefully weigh not only the causes of success and failure, but that it shall lift up its voice in commendation of every worthy and practical invention, while it speaks in no uncertain tones its disapproval of the substantial copying, without invention or improvement, of the worthy inventions of others?

Does not every practical bee-keeper know that if the public could have been kept from buying worthless imitations of the Langstroth or movable-comb bee hive, that hundreds of thousands of dollars would have been saved to innocent bee-keepers, and that our most noble and worthy L. L. Langstroth would not only have received his well-earned honors, but his just rewards?

Abronia, Mich.

For the Bee-Keepers' Instructor.

Honey Localities.

D. KEPLER.

After moving my bees from Napoleon, Ohio, last fall, to the mild climate of Tennessee, and seeing that all was in order with them for their winter's rest, I concluded to look about and examine the honey resources of the adjoining regions. After traveling much on foot, and observing many fair localities for profitable bee-keeping, I procured a horse, and took a trip of some 500 miles in this and the adjoining State of North Carolina. Without going into details, I will only mention a few places that I think adapted to profitable bee-keeping, found in the granite formations of the Blue Ridge and Unaka mountains, in North Carolina and east Tennessee, and in the spurs running out from and between the two great ranges mentioned.

Here, on soil derived principally from granite, in the composition of which feldspar predominated, I found the most magnificent forests of linden, poplar, locust, sugar maple, horse chestnut, and other nectar-producing trees and shrubs, in proximity to mountain and valley pastures of white and red clover. In such localities I found large numbers of bees, kept by the settlers. In one neighborhood I found about 200 colonies, kept

by four owners, living within three miles of each other. At another I found about 1,000 colonies, within a distance of five miles from one point, kept by six or seven persons. All these were in round log gums and box hives.

The elevation of these localities gives them about the summer mean temperature of the southern parts of Wisconsin, Michigan and Canada, where such eminent bee-keepers as the Grimms, Heddon, Jones and others, have astonished us with their large yields of honey. And, owing to the southern latitude, the winters are so mild and the quality of the honey so good, that losses in winter, and spring dwindling, were not even mentioned to the writer by bee-keepers.

In this locality bees are now carrying in pollen. They have wintered well, and consumed but little of their stores.

Coulterville, Tenn., Feb. 14, 1882.

Question Box.

CONDUCTED BY.....F. L. WRIGHT,
PLAINFIELD, MICHIGAN.

All communications for this department should be sent to the above address not later than the 20th of each month, to insure an answer in the INSTRUCTOR the following month.

Comb Foundation Moulds, etc.

1. Where can comb foundation moulds be procured?
2. Will they make good foundation?
3. What is Mr. Given's address?
4. Can one get his die book for pressing foundation, without the press? also, price of same?
5. Please tell how to make comb foundation, or ask some one to do so through the INSTRUCTOR.

Dalton, Pa. GEO. H. COLVIN.

1. Foundation moulds can be procured of Oliver Foster, Mt. Vernon, Iowa; John Faris, Chilhowie, Va., and others. A. I. Root, O. Foster and others advertise rubber plates for making comb foundation.

2. Some make quite fine foundation with plaster moulds, but we were never successful with it, as it consumed too much wax and altogether too much time, to make a little foundation.

3. D. S. Given, Hoopstown, Ill.

4. Yes. You can procure the die book and make your own press, though I hardly think you can make one powerful enough to make the indentations perfect, as cheaply as you can buy one made purposely. The die books cost \$15.00 for L. and Gallup size, we believe. There seems to be a great diversity of opinion in regard to this press. We have never seen one at work, but think the plates will give considerable trouble by the wax

sticking to them. Very fine foundation is made with them, and this is the only machine that will put foundation in wired frames, that we know of.

5. It will depend much upon the machine you are using. If using any of the roll machines or Given's press, you will first have to sheet your wax. This is done by dipping plates of wood or other material into melted wax and then into cool water, when the sheets of wax may be easily detached. These are run through the rolls exactly as clothes are through a wringer, but not quite so fast. As we never had any luck with the plaster moulds, will some one who has please give the *modus operandi* in the INSTRUCTOR?

Queens, Supplies, etc.

1. Will you please inform me where I can procure good queens cheap? also, supplies for the apiary?

2. If a man does not want to go into bees altogether, what other business would you advise?

3. Would you advise me to go into bee-keeping and do nothing else?
BEGINNER.
Horis, Ill.

1. Write any, or all, whose advertisement appears in the INSTRUCTOR, and buy of the one who gives you the best bargain. They are all reliable, I believe.

2. If near good markets, small fruits and trucking is a good business. Fruit growing is a part of our business, and we like it well.

3. No, not until you are thoroughly posted in the business.

Editor's Corner.

North-Eastern Convention.

In this issue we complete the report of the proceedings of the above convention, with the exception of a few essays, which we hope to present to our readers at some future time. The essays were from practical bee-keepers, and covered a wide range of topics, the discussions were interesting and instructive, and the whole proceedings will be found of very general interest to bee-keepers everywhere. Secretary House's essay on co-operation we can specially recommend to our readers as containing much food for thought and reflection. The subject is one which has been commanding a great deal of attention among thinking men of nearly all classes for some years, and there is no

reason why bee-keepers should not co-operate for their mutual protection and advantage as well as any other industrial class. The benefits to be derived from such co-operation, rightly conducted, are many, and we hope the time is not far distant when they will be practically realized by the numerous associations of bee-keepers in the United States.

In the matter of adopting a standard section, we do not think the Association showed its customary wisdom. As some of the members said, the market demands packages of various sizes, and so long as demanded, producers will have to furnish them. And when the fact is taken into consideration that the one pound sections are almost *invariably* quoted at from 1 to 3 cents per pound higher than larger packages, in all of the principal markets of the country, we do not see just why the Association should have fixed upon the one and three-quarter lb. section as the standard. In this matter of sections, we think it almost as difficult to strive for uniformity, as in hives. The obstacles to be encountered in adopting a uniform section are not nearly so numerous or serious as they would be in adopting a standard hive, but individuals will always have their preferences, and while perfectly willing for others to defer to their judgment, and adopt their preference, they are not quite so ready to defer to others. Besides, as before remarked, the market demands different sized packages, and as long as demanded they should be furnished.

If any of our subscribers at any time receive more than one copy of the same issue, they will oblige us by handing the surplus copy to some bee-keeping friend. We are constantly sending out sample copies, and probably occasionally send one to a subscriber.

By reference to our advertising pages, it will be seen that Mr. Kepler has made a reduction of \$1.00 per colony, all around, on the price of his bees.

The Smoker Question.

Mr. Bingham thinks that injustice has been done him by Mr. House's criticism of his essay read before the late National Convention, and writes us requesting "if not inconsistent with your interests that you place said essay before your readers, that they may know the truth of the matter referred to." As we are willing at all times to comply with any reasonable request (whether it be "consistent with our interests" or not) from those who feel themselves aggrieved by anything we publish, we cheerfully give Mr. Bingham's essay a place in this issue. In this connection we wish to make a few remarks ourselves, and as *personally* there has never been the slightest difference between Mr. Bingham and ourselves, and we have not the slightest personal interest in the matter, we hope what we may say will be taken in the same candid, unprejudiced spirit as it is written.

As all our readers are probably aware by this time, it is to the extravagant claims Mr. Bingham makes concerning his smoker that we object. [See ad. in this month's INSTRUCTOR for instance.] We do not for a moment pretend to say that he does not make a good smoker, or one that will not give satisfaction—not considering it necessary in rendering one person his just dues to "run down" or depreciate the manufactures of another. Nor do we deny that he, or others, may have made some improvements on the original invention, our knowledge on this point not being very extensive. But when it comes to claiming to be the "original inventor," saying he is the "only legal manufacturer," that "all who do not wish to be liable to prosecution must buy only of him," that his smaller sizes are "vastly superior to the best of other makes," etc., etc., he certainly makes statements which he would find it extremely hard to substantiate, and which are very misleading to the uninformed. The late Moses Quinby was undoubtedly the *original* inventor of the bellows

smoker, and as he did not patent his invention, but with characteristic generosity gave it freely to the bee-keepers of the world, any one who wishes to have a right to manufacture smokers, and users can buy them of whom they please, without any fear of prosecution—Mr. Bingham's patent to the contrary notwithstanding. Such, at least, is our opinion.

That Mr. Bingham himself has no confidence in the validity of his patent, is shown clearly by his actions. Although there are a number of firms engaged in the manufacture of smokers, and, according to his claims, continually infringing on his patent, we have never yet heard of his bringing suit against any one—either user or manufacturer—for infringement. If he thought his claims could be substantiated would he not try to enforce them? We certainly think so.

It is to be deplored that there is so much contention and bitterness manifested between bee-keepers who ought to be on friendly terms with each other, yet at the same time we propose to stand by what we consider right, fair and just, be the results what they may. Mr. Quinby we consider rightly entitled to the honor of being the original inventor of the smoker, and if it had not been for his invention, we very much doubt whether Mr. Bingham would be making smokers to-day.

Dadants' Pamphlet.—Every one going into the business of producing extracted honey should get a copy of the work entitled "Harvesting, Handling and Marketing Extracted Honey," by those veteran bee-keepers, Charles and C. P. Dadant. It gives the result of the practical experience of practical bee-keepers, and although only costing 15c., it will be worth more than that many dollars to those of limited experience; while those whose experience is not so limited will find much useful information in it.

The demand for beeswax is getting quite brisk, and a pure article, in consequence, is scarce and high. See market reports.

Mistaken Ideas.

Many persons who certainly ought to know better seem to have very crude and mistaken ideas concerning an editor's duties and rights. They think if they write an article for publication it is the editor's place to publish it just as it is written, without any omissions, or changes in language, unless by their express permission, seemingly forgetting that the *editor*, and not the *contributor*, is the proper judge of *what* should go in his publication, and *how* it should go in. For instance, an esteemed contributor, when sending us an article for publication not long since, wrote as follows:

"When you have the *full sense* of the article, you have my permission, and I will consider it a favor, if you see fit to change a word here and there, to knock off the imperfections, not changing the meaning."

Most gracious permission! If one of an editor's chief duties does not consist in this "changing a word here and there," as our friend puts it, we would like to know in what it does consist. Of course it would not be right, fair or *honest* to publish anything in this form so as to make it convey a different meaning from the one intended by the author. This we have *never* knowingly done, and never mean to do. But when the meaning can be more clearly conveyed by the use of different words, or the reading be made more elegant, it is an editor's duty, privilege and *right* to make whatever changes he thinks best. And if in his judgment he deems best to omit some portion of an article entirely, he has a perfect right to do that also. He has to choose for all of his readers, and has varied tastes to consult; what would please some would not suit others at all, and anything in an article that he thinks will not meet with the approbation or approval of the majority of his readers he has a right to reject, providing, always, that the meaning is not thereby changed, or injustice done any one. In "correcting" manuscript we have always made such

changes in the language as we considered best, and shall continue to do so, in the future. It is our right, and we intend to exercise it.

Read the Advertisements.—It is a very common thing for publishers to receive inquiries as to where this that and the other thing can be purchased, what will be its probable cost, and perhaps a lot more questions of a similar nature, when by simply referring to the advertising pages of the periodical they write to, the questioners would find just the information they ask for. Don't think, good friends, that only the pure reading matter is worth looking over, for if you do you are most wonderfully mistaken. Read the advertisements as well as the other matter, and our word for it, you will often find them more profitable reading than any thing else.

March and April Management.—These are the two trying months on bees, in the northern and middle latitudes of the United States. Young bees will be reared, and honey being more rapidly consumed than during the winter, there is great danger of bees "eating out" before the new honey comes in. Every colony should be thoroughly examined, that the condition of each may be known. Feeding now will have the tendency to start breeding rapidly, and if not well supplied with stores it will be necessary to keep it up. If stores are plenty a quart of thin syrup every six or eight days will be sufficient to rapidly start a colony to brood rearing. To start brood rearing early the brood nest should be contracted so as to be easily kept warm. This can be done by a division board, which can be moved to admit frames as they are needed. When there is an abundance of sealed honey bees can be stimulated by clipping off the caps and placing it in the center of the hive. This should not be done however unless the weather is sufficiently warm for the bees to fly with safety, as they require a great deal of water when using honey for brood rearing.

Queenless colonies should be united with weak ones, carefully preserving the combs to be used when needed. Rye flour should be continued, especially in northern latitudes. If wintered in cellar bees should not be taken out until the cold weather is supposed to be over, unless they show an unusual restlessness. In such case remove them for a fly on some pleasant day, and return them to the cellar.

The condition of every colony should always be known so that it may be treated according to its necessities. Be watchful and vigilant, and don't forget that judicious feeding always pays, for if the brood chamber is filled up with good sugar syrup, it will enable the bees to commence storing surplus honey all the earlier.

To Correspondents.—Correspondents should as much as possible try and avoid being prosy. When you have anything to say, come right to the point. Make your writings brief, pithy and incisive, throwing out every thing that is not strictly relevant to the subject. And when writing on two or more subjects in the same article, finish all you have to say on one subject under one head, and then write another (in printer's language, a "sub-head") for each other subject, writing everything you have to say on each subject under its appropriate head. This will systemize the article, and make it look better in every respect.

Those of our correspondents who wish it will be supplied by us FREE with envelopes having our address printed on them, and paper suitable for "copy" paper. Just drop us a postal saying that you want some stationery, and it will be promptly sent you.

Subscribers finding a cross opposite their names, on the wrapper, will understand that their subscription has expired, and unless renewed promptly, or we are requested to continue it, the INSTRUCTOR will in all cases be discontinued.

Can not some of our California readers send us an interesting article from that part of the world once in a while.

Sums of over \$1.00 should be sent us by registered letter, and *not* by postoffice money order, as Somerset is not a money order office. Amounts of \$1.00 or less are generally safe if sent securely sealed in a plain envelope.

Those having honey to sell can always rely upon our market quotations as being thoroughly trustworthy and reliable. They are generally received a day or two before going to press (as late as is possible to insure insertion), and published *just as sent us*, without any changing or alteration of any kind.

We have just received from Bingham & Hetherington one of their well-known uncaping knives. It is made from the best of steel, finely ground and tempered, is exceedingly neat, light and strong, and looks as though it would do the work perfectly for which it is intended. Will report further concerning it after trial.

Now that spring is here, and bee-keepers in most parts of the country know how their bees have wintered, we would like if they would send in short reports of their successes or failures, together with any other items they may deem of sufficient importance for publication. Make the reports brief and to the point—a postal card will do for the majority of them as well as anything else.

We have received a copy of the *California Apiculturist*, a new bee paper started at Oakland, Cal., for the benefit of the bee-keepers of the "Golden State." It contains 8 quarto pages, size of the *A. B. J.*, and presents quite a creditable appearance. May it live long and flourish. It is published by the Apicultural Publishing Co., at \$1.00 per year. N. Levering, a well-known writer and bee-keeper, is the editor.

Catalogues and Price Lists.—The following catalogues and price lists have been received by us since our last issue:

C. H. Lake, Baltimore, Md., a very neat and tasty 64 page catalogue of bees, queens and supplies.

Wm. Ballantine & Son, Sago, Ohio, a nobby little 1 page price list of bees, queens and apiarian supplies.

L. C. Root & Bro., Mohawk, N. Y., a neat 12 page circular of all the usual supplies, bees and queens.

D. S. Given & C., Hoopston, Ill., 20 page circular of the Given Comb Foundation press and wiring machine, together with two beautiful samples of foundation—one wired, for the brood chamber, and the other, very thin, for surplus boxes.

J. L. Bowers, Berryville, Va., a neat 4 page price list of the usual supplies.

E. T. Flanagan, Belleville, Ill., 12 page catalogue of supplies, bees and queens, containing also directions for introducing queens and transferring bees from box hives.

Bright Bros., Mazeppa, Minn., a very pretty 24 page catalogue of supplies, bees and queens.

Chas. F. Muth, Cincinnati, Ohio, a 20 page catalogue of the usual supplies. Also a copy of a little work entitled 'Practical Hints to Bee-Keepers,' which is all that its name indicates. Price, 10c.

Geo. H. Colvin, Dalton, Pa., a small 12 page catalogue of seeds, potatoes and apiarian supplies.

Spalding & McGill, Ainsworth, Iowa, plant and seed catalogue for 1882.

E. O. Lord, Great Falls, N. H., "Poultry and Pigeon Fanciers' and Breeders' Directory." Price, 50c.

We still have a few copies of the April, May, June, July, August, Sept., Oct. and Nov. numbers of the INSTRUCTOR, and as long as they last we will supply free those who may wish any of them to complete their files. Order at once, however, as our supply is limited.

The December number of the INSTRUCTOR is out of print, and as we desire a few copies of that issue, we will pay 9c. per copy for a limited number. Those having that number who do not desire to file it, will confer a favor upon us by mailing it to us, taking care to enclose their name and address, so that we may know who it is from.

Bees in this section are now busily engaged, and have been for several weeks, in carrying in pollen. Some of our colonies at this writing (March 11th) have young bees in, which were hatched by March 1st, while others have considerable sealed brood. The spring is opening up very promisingly, and we look for a good honey season.

Whenever you get puzzled, or want to know the "why" or "wherefore" of anything relating to bee-keeping, write to the editor of the "Question Box." Your questions will always be answered to the best of his ability—which is not so small, by the way. We desire to make that department especially interesting to our readers.

The Union Bee-Keepers Association will meet at Eminence, Ky., on the 27th day of April, 1882.

G. W. DEMAREE, Sec'y.

Honey and Beeswax Markets.

REPORTED FOR THE INSTRUCTOR.

Chicago, March 6.

Honey—The market is bare of choice white comb, and sells as high as 25c. per lb. in 1 and 2 lb. packages; other goods unchanged. Extracted, 10 to 12c.

Beeswax—Scarce.

R. A. BURNETT.

St. Louis, March 6.

Honey—Comb scarce, and firm at 18 to 23c. for bright in fancy packages. Strained dull at 8 to 9c.

Beeswax—Steady. Prime, 20 to 22c. Choice yellow not obtainable at less than 27c. Large orders for latter on market. Would advise any parties having beeswax to ship it here as early as possible.

R. C. GREER & Co.

Cincinnati, March 6.

Honey—No variations in prices. There are but few offerings, with demand fair. The price of comb is nominal. We pay 18 to 22c. for it on arrival. Extracted, 7 to 11c. on arrival.

Beeswax—Brings 18 to 22c. on arrival.

C. F. MUTH.

Cleveland, O., March 6.

Honey—The market remains unchanged with us. 1 and 2 lb. white unglazed sections sell very readily at 21 to 22c., and second quality white 20c., but buckwheat honey is unsalable. Extracted is selling at 12c. for small and 11c. for large packages.

Beeswax—25c.

A. C. KENDEL.

Baltimore, March 6.

Honey—Prime comb in demand at 20c. per lb. Extracted, 10c., and 12c. for a prime article.

Beeswax—20c. on arrival for prime southern yellow.

CHAS. H. LAKE.

New York, March 6.

Honey—Best white clover in 2 lb sections put up in neat packages, 18 to 20c.; fair white clover in 2 lb sections put up in neat packages, 15 to 17c.; mixed and dark grades in 2 lb sections put up in neat packages, 12 to 13c.

Large sections 2c. per lb less than above prices. Best white extracted in firkins, 10 to 11c.; best dark extracted in firkins, 7 to 8c.

Beeswax—Suitable for comb foundation and guaranteed pure, 25 to 26c.

H. K. & F. B. THURBER & Co.

Boston, March 7.

Honey—We quote: 16 to 18c. per lb.

Beeswax—None on the market.

CROCKER & BLAKE,

Table of Contents.

North-Eastern Convention.....	33
Shall we Connect Business with our Association?	33
Uniform Section Box.....	34
Resolutions in Regard to Smokers.....	35
Report of Committee on Implements.....	35
List of Diplomas Awarded.....	37
Our Contributors :	
Wired Frames vs. Unwired Frames.....	37
Notes from Maryland.....	37
Overstocking.....	38
The Honey Market.....	39
A Partial Review.....	41
Honey Localities.....	42
Question Box :	
Comb Foundation Moulds, etc.....	42
Queens, Supplies, etc.....	43
Editor's Corner :	
North-Eastern Convention.....	43
Items.....	43 to 47
The Smoker Question.....	44
Dadants' Pamphlet.....	44
Mistaken Ideas.....	45
Read the Advertisements.....	45
March and April Management.....	45
To Correspondents.....	46
Catalogues and Price Lists.....	47
Honey and Beeswax Markets.....	49

GIVEN'S

Foundation Press

—AND—

WIRING MACHINE.

The latest improvement for making thin and heavy foundation. The only invention to make foundation in the wired frame. All Presses warranted. Send for catalogue, and sample of fdn.

25 D. S. GIVEN & C., Hoopston, Ill.

ATTENTION, BEE-KEEPERS!
ATTENTION, BEE-KEEPERS!

We are now booking orders for our Queens. We intend that they shall be second to none in the world. No better guarantee could be given than the fact that

A. I. ROOT

Has bought of us for several years, and we have orders from him booked for next season.

Prices for 1882:

1 Tested Queen, after June, \$2.00; 6 for \$11.00
1 Untested " " May 20, 1.00; 6 for 5.50

There are no black bees in our vicinity.

Orders booked now if 10 per cent. is sent with order, balance to be paid when queen is ready.

We also offer a fine stock of Northern-Grown

GRAPE-VINES,

Including the WHITE ANN ARBOR, now offered for the first time, PRENTISS DUCHESS, POCKLINGTON, and, in fact, all the choice new and the best old sorts; also berry plants of all kinds—all at extremely low prices, post-paid. It will pay you to send for our descriptive price-list.

F. L. WRIGHT,

Plainfield, Michigan.

HEAD-QUARTERS

—IN—

THE WEST.

Having fitted up our shop with new machinery, we are prepared to furnish all kinds of

APIARIAN SUPPLIES.

Simplicity, Chaff, Langstroth and other hives.

SECTION BOXES,

One-piece or dovetailed \$4.50 per 1000.

BEEES and QUEENS. See special offer on queens in price list.

Dunham foundation at bottom prices. Job printing done on short notice. Large new list free.

BRIGHT BROS., Mazeppa, Minn.

SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO

GEO. H. COLVIN,

Dalton, Lackawana county, Pa. and get his price list of seeds, grain, seed potatoes and apiarian supplies.

A NEW POTATO,

"The Belle," 35c. per pound, postpaid. 3 4

100 COLONIES

Of Italian Bees, in

Simplicity Hives,

For sale. I make a SPECIALTY of

Full Colonies and Nucleus Hives.

Prices of Full Colonies:

1 colony in April.....	\$14.00
" " May.....	12.00
" " June.....	10.00
" from July to October.....	8.00
10 colonies in April, each.....	13.00
" " May ".....	11.00
" " June ".....	9.00
" from July to October, each.....	7.50

Safe arrival at express office guaranteed.

Prices of Nuclei:

1 2-frame nucleus and queen in April.....	\$4.50
" " " " May.....	4.00
" " " " June.....	3.75
" " " " from July to Oct. 3.00	
1 3-frame " " " in April.....	5.50
" " " " May.....	4.50
" " " " June.....	4.00
" " " " from July to Oct. 3.25	

For 10 or more of each 20 per cent discount off the above prices.

Albino, Cyprian and Italian Queens,

Comb Foundation, Smokers, Hives, Frames, Extractors, Section Boxes, and every thing needed in a first-class apiary, at the lowest rates a good article can be sold for. Send for prices to

E. T. Flanagan,

BELLEVILLE,

"Rose hill Apiary." St. Clair Co., Ill.

Best of references given if required. 1 12

FOUNDATION

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL. Dealers in bee supplies will do well to send for our wholesale prices of foundation. We now have the most extensive manufactory of foundation in the country. We send to all parts of the U. S. We make **All Standard Styles**, and our wax is nowhere to be equaled for cleanliness, purity and beauty. Extra thin and bright for sections. All shapes and sizes. Samples free on request.
38 **Chas. Dadant & Son, Hamilton, Ill.**

Dodge's Feeder.

Cheap, Practical, Economical

AND PROFITABLE.

Sample by mail..... \$.30
Per dozen, by express..... 2.00

Catalogue and Price-List of bee-keepers' supplies and small fruit plants sent free. Address
34 **U. E. DODGE, Fredonia, N. Y.**

Head-Quarters

FOR THE

Golden Italians & Original Albinos,

Bees and Queens. Send for Circular.

J. M. C. TAYLOR,

Lewistown, Frederick Co., Md.

WARRANTED

1882



1882.

PURE ITALIANS,

— AND —

Apiarian Supplies.

My queens are bred from best imported stock. I did not have a single report of a hybrid queen last season, and therefore will warrant them pure this season. When not pure I will send another one. I am also wintering several

Extra Tested Queens,

For breeding purposes, which I will sell in spring. I warrant safe delivery and satisfaction. Send for **FREE CIRCULAR AND PRICE LIST.** Address

L. C. McFATRIDGE, M. D.,

CARROLL, CARROLL CO., IND.

BEE-KEEPERS,

IF YOU NEED CHOICE, EARLY, TESTED ITALIAN QUEENS, FOR BREEDING PURPOSES,

IMPORTED QUEENS,

FULL COLONIES,

NUCLEUS COLONIES,

SMOKERS, VEILS,

A hive adapted to the southern climate, the best made Dunham Comb Foundation, in large or small quantity, or anything needed in the apiary, send for my catalogue and price list for 1882, giving directions for introducing queens, and containing remarks on the New Races of Bees. Address

3 **J. P. H. BROWN, Augusta, Ga.**

100 COLONIES

— OF —

BEEES FOR SALE!



[NEW HONEY SCALE.]

Also, comb foundation and all useful supplies for the apiary.

Circulars sent on receipt of address only, by

JAS. HEDDON, Dowagiac, Mich.

A BARGAIN!

If you wish to purchase **Italian Bees and Queens** early, and wish a bargain, you should send your name on a postal card for my new price-list. Address

W. S. CAUTHEN,

2 3 Pleasant Hill, Lancaster Co., S. C.

Send your address, written plainly, for my new **Illustrated Catalogue of**

BEE-KEEPERS' SUPPLIES

A full and complete Price List.—32 pages.

ALFRED H. NEWMAN, CHICAGO, ILL.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

29th Year. +1882+ 29th Year.

CHARLES H. LAKE, Manager.

SECTIONS! Perfection Boxes! HIVES!

ITALIAN CHOICE QUEENS.

BEES. SEND STAMP FOR CIRCULAR AND PRICE LIST.

SUNNY SIDE APIARY,
259 Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

BEES FOR SALE

I will sell and deliver on board cars in Cincinnati, Ohio, during April and May, 1882.

200 Colonies of Pure Italian Bees,

Warranted in good condition in every respect. 50 colonies are in 2-story Simplicity hives, and 150 colonies in 2-story Everett Langstroth hives.

PRICES:

In lots of from 1 to 25 colonies, each.....	\$9.00
“ “ 25 to 50 “ “ 	8.70
“ “ 50 to 100 “ “ 	7.75

Or I will deliver in 100 colony lots in Chicago, Toledo or Cleveland, at 25 cents per colony additional to above prices.

DANIEL KEPLER.

Address me at Napoleon, Ohio, until February 15th, after which time I will be at Coulterville, Hamilton county, Tennessee. 14

S. D. McLEAN, Columbia, Tenn., has colonies, queens and nuclei for sale. Send for circular.

MUTH'S Honey Extractor,

Square Glass Honey Jars, Tin Buckets, Langstroth Hives, Sections, etc.

The following from Dr. J. P. H. Brown, well known as one of the best informed and most intelligent apiarists in the U. S., shows what is thought of our extractor by those COMPETENT to judge:

"We believe those who buy this machine will have no cause to lodge complaints of bad workmanship and bad material. When you buy one of those cheap extractors that are only stuck together to last till sold, you are only throwing your money away. Muth's extractor is as cheap as is consistent with good work and good material. It has a large capacity for surplus honey below the revolving basket, which is a great convenience."

Illustrated descriptive circular sent free on application, or enclose 10c. and get in addition my pamphlet entitled "Practical Hints to Beekeepers." Address **CHAS. F. MUTH,** 976 & 978 Central Ave., Cincinnati, O.

Just Received:—A lot of Bokhara clover seed from Europe, which I will sell at the lowest possible prices. 312

REV. W. BALLANTINE, Sago, Muskingum Co., Ohio, breeder and shipper of Italian and Holy Land queens. Send for circular.

In answering advertisements don't forget to say you saw them in the INSTRUCTOR.