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Vol. 3,

SEPTEMBER, 1892.

No. 9.



NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER



Official Organ of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers Association.

STILSON & SONS, Editors and Publishers.

The Coming Bee.

J. EDWARD GILES.

AN article on "The Desirability of Producing a Larger Race of Bees," which was published in the *Apiculturist* for March, suggested the possibility of securing a cross between our common races of bees and the recently discovered "giant bees" of India, in such a way as to produce a new race which should combine the desirable points of both parent races.

The particular advantage hoped for from such a cross would be to secure a race which would be able to gather honey from red clover and perhaps from other flowers which now go to waste, so far as the honey crop is concerned, because the bees which we now have are unable to reach the honey. An experiment of the United States Fish Commission on the breeding of fish suggests to me still another possibility in the breeding of bees. According to a recently reported interview, Mr. D. E. Crawford, of the U. S. Fish Commission stated: "We have little doubt now that before two more years we shall have evolved what the seaboard public has been clamoring for for so many years—the boneless shad. Of course I don't mean a shad that is actually boneless, but one that will be to all intents and purposes as boneless as the flounder of this country or the sole of England. This will have been accomplished by

the cross breeding of the shad, the flounder and a peculiar edible jelly fish which is a staple food among the seacoast natives of Japan. Our experiments, while at first rather discouraging, now leave but little doubt of turning out successful. At first the crossing resulted in the production of a lot of jelly fishes with an elaborate outfit of bones, which was just what we did not want, but time and study showed us our mistakes, and now we have a few hundred half-grown shad with less than 18 per cent as many bones as the ordinary sort.

A few years ago, when the belief in the unalterability of species both of animals and plants was generally accepted, the attempt to alter the bony structure of the shad would have been regarded as a hopeless undertaking, but now that so much has been accomplished, no one can say what the limit of possibility is. Professor Goodale, of Harvard University, predicts the time when fruits of all kinds will be produced without seeds. There is ground for hoping that this result may be attained in the fact that the banana regularly grows without seeds, or rather with only rudimentary seeds which appear as dark specks in the fruit, and so do not interfere in the least with our enjoyment of eating the fruit, and if these rudimentary seeds are planted in the ground, they refuse to germinate. Occasionally also an orange is found without seeds, and there are many

other facts which give good reason to believe that before many years we may enjoy the pleasure of eating seedless fruits of several kinds.

If we are to have boneless shad and seedless fruits, it does not seem too much to hope that we may also have a race of stingless bees. It is said that there are at least two distinct races of stingless bees in South America, but these races have not much value as honey gatherers, and moreover they build combs with very thick-walled cells, and probably they would not be worth cultivating as compared with the European, Asiatic, and African races; but there is apparently as good reason to hope that these races may be used to give their one good quality of stinglessness to our common races as there was that the flounder and Japanese jelly fish could be used for the improvement of the shad. If we can cross our present races of bees with the giant bees of India and obtain a race with long proboscis and perhaps increased size (if that should prove to be of any advantage), and cross this improved race with the South American stingless bees, and by these crosses secure a race with all the good points of the Italian bee, with the additional feature of a lengthened proboscis and with the sting taken away, we shall then have a race of bees which it will be difficult to improve. It might be desirable to improve still farther by breeding out the swarming instinct, and there appears to be no reason why the swarming instinct cannot be bred out of bees as thoroughly as the sitting instinct has been bred out of certain races of domestic fowls, but now that swarming can be so thoroughly controlled by the use of queen traps and automatic hivers, this point is not as important as it would otherwise be.

Of course no one knows as yet whether it will be possible to secure a cross between our common races and those

of India or South America, and no one knew whether a cross could be secured between the shad and the flounder until the experiment was tried, but now that the experiment has succeeded, the process seems so simple that we wonder why it was not done before.

It seems to me that this matter is of sufficient importance, and the prospect of success sufficiently great, to justify the agricultural department of the United States in undertaking the cost of the experiments. The cost to the government would be trifling in comparison with the benefits which would be gained if the experiment should be successful; but very few individuals who are competent to do the work would have the means to carry out the experiments at their own expense, because a residence of a few years in South America would perhaps be necessary in order to study the habits of the stingless races in their native country, and to do this might be necessary to domesticate the bees if this has not already been done.

I have not seen the statistics of the last census; but according to the census of 1880 the honey crop for 1879 amounted to twenty five million pounds, or about half a pound a year to each inhabitant of the United States. At an average price of ten cents per pound, the value of the honey crop for that year would be about \$2,500,000. If we had a race of stingless bees, the value of the honey crop would soon be doubled, for many would be induced to go into the business of bee keeping who are now deterred by fear of stings or who live in thickly settled villages, and hesitate to keep bees for fear that their neighbors will consider their pets a nuisance. Even in the oldest and most thickly settled States the number of bees could easily be doubled without exhausting the honey supply, and in suitable places by planting special crops there is no limit to the amount of

honey which could be produced. Some may argue that an increased supply of honey would mean lower prices, and that since it is not easy to find a market for the present supply, it would not be possible to dispose of a larger quantity; but experience shows that as the supply of any article of food increases, the demand always keeps pace with the supply. In the memory of men who are not yet very old, it was formerly very difficult to find a market for tomatoes; but I remember a few years ago talking with a farmer who was then preparing a load of tomatoes for market, and he remarked that it was at that time easier to sell a wagon load of tomatoes than when he first began to raise them to sell a peck. The reason why it is difficult to sell honey is that people generally have not learned to use it. Eight ounces per year for each person in the United States seems a very small quantity, but I presume that a large percentage even of that quantity is sold through the drug stores for medicinal purposes.

I have described what I believe is "the coming bee," and it seems to me that there is nothing impossible or unreasonable in the ideas advanced. If a proper amount of enterprise is shown, I see no reason why we should have to wait many years before the ideal is realized, because breeders are now beginning to understand the science of breeding and are giving up the old haphazard methods, and, therefore, progress is certain to be much more rapid than it has been in the past.—
American Apiculturist.

Some Extra Large Bees.

Mr. J. P. Murdock, of Oxford, Fla., writes me that he has some extra large bees, so large that thirteen of their worker bees measure three inches, seven drone cells two inches, and more than half the bees fail to pass the ordi-

nary perforated zinc. He says these bees are the result of selection in breeding from an Italian queen imported eleven years ago. He has sent me a copy of the Florida Dispatch containing an account of his experience in getting these bees, and of his discovering their unusual size, and I make the following extract from the article:

"Last season all who saw my bees would remark, 'what big bees!' This occurred so often that I concluded to test the matter and see how well I succeeded. So I sent to a number of our bee men of the North a sample cage, and asked in return a similar favor. In the meantime I rigged up a balance, by which I could weigh to sixteenth grains. By this I found the heaviest dozen went a little more than twenty-three grains, and the lightest about seventeen grains. Now a dozen of mine went up to thirty eight grains, more than double the size of some I received. Well, it set the parties who saw these big fellows to 'buzzing' at once, and all wanted to try them. The result is I have at this time a number of these queens North, trying to break the record on surplus. Just here I hear that fellow remark, 'another trick to sell queens.' Not quite, my dear sir. I have the first queen yet to sell for lucre."

I have sent for a queen, and expect to know something about these big bees by actual, personal experience.—
The Review.

A Large Honey Crop.

Reports claim there is the largest crop of white clover in northwestern Iowa that was ever known. The fields are just covered with white blossoms that yield the abundant harvest of sweetness. The corn crop is reported as a failure in that part of Iowa, and the farmers are plowing the corn fields and sowing them to buckwheat. That will doubtless mean a large crop of buckwheat honey later on. From nearly everywhere the reports are that the prospects never were better for a grand yield of fall honey.

The Woman's Committee.

Mr. W. C. Frazier, of Atlantic, Iowa, editor of the *Apiarian Department of the Iowa Homestead*, has had some correspondence with the chairman (or chairwoman) of the committee, and writes us as follows about it:

I send you a letter from Mrs. Olmstead, which explains itself.

The cattlemen, the horsemen, sheep, swine and poultry breeders would not touch a show where a set of women who knew nothing of their business (cattle, horses, sheep, etc., business) were going to act in the capacity of judges. Why should the bee keepers have to? Think of ten women selecting the "grandest rooster," or hunting out a "just perfectly lovely pig," on which to bestow the first premium! To award the premiums in the bee and honey department will require more judgement than to go over the poultry and swine, point by point, and give a reason for the awards. I know whereof I speak. There are perhaps over 300,000 bee keepers in the United States not more than 100 are capable of judging such a show, and not 25 of the capable ones could be induced to assume the responsibility. "Fools rush in where angles fear to tread."

W. C. FRAZIER.

The letter referred to by Mr. Frazier as having been received from Mrs. Olmstead, of Savannah, Ga., is dated July 1, 1892, and reads as follows:

Your letter of June 25 has been received and contents noted. As I understand the relation of the various committees from the Board of Lady Managers to exhibitors, it is two fold: *first*: to endeavor before the opening of the Exposition to awaken interest, and induce exhibitors to make a display of their wares, works, arts, etc.; and, *secondly*, in connection with the Gentlemen Commissioners, to pass judgement

upon the relative merits of competitive exhibits during the time that the exposition is opened. I can well appreciate that the bee-keepers would prefer that only those ladies should be upon the committee in "Bees and Bee-Culture" who are practical apiarists, but if you will consider how the Board of Lady Managers was formed you will see that it would be unreasonable to expect them to be specialists and experts. Mrs. Palmer, in making her appointments, was obliged to use the material she had. At the same time, I would say that a capacity to judge of results, is not necessary allied to the ability to create. The committee on fine arts, might well judge of the merits of pictures and statues, without being able to paint the one or chisel the other. I do not profess to be a skilled bee-keeper, but to the best of my powers I am informing myself on the subject, and hope to be able to do my duty when the time comes. I trust that you will send a fine exhibit to the fair, and that I shall have the pleasure of meeting you there.

Very Respectfully Yours,

MRS. CHAS. H. OLMSTEAD,

Chairman of Committee on Bee-Culture
(Lady Manager for Georgia.)

We do not understand that the Commissioners, either gentlemen or ladies, are to award premiums in any of the departments of the World's Fair, but that various Superintendents will be appointed who will have in charge particular portions or exhibits of the Fair, and will aid in making the awards upon competitive exhibits. We may not be correct in this, but such is our understanding of the matter. Perhaps Dr. Mason can give us more light.—*Am. Bee Journal*.

Butterflies to the number of 150,000 will be shown in the Pennsylvania exhibit at the World's Fair.

Scientific Bee Culture.

BEE-KEEPING has reached an exact stage and considerable scientific knowledge of bees and plants must be had before success can be assured. The apiarist must not only know the natural history of the bees, but he must be a patient observer, watching his pets carefully, and ready at a moments notice to improve upon their condition. There is such progress in this industry that annually new methods and instruments are adopted by the best bee-keepers, and the result is bees are producing more honey, better honey, and with less cost and labor to the owner.

A point that has not yet been fully settled is the relation between the bee-keeper and the fruit grower. The value of the bees in fertilizing flowers and fruits is not disputed, and it is a question if pomology could advance with such rapid strides as it does if it were not for the bees. Apiculture is the handmaid of horticulture, and the question remains whether the two ought not to be conducted together. The fruits and flowers must be cultivated for profit, and when they are supplied the richer nectar is prepared for many colonies of bees. The fruit-grower now loses all this nectar or allows his neighbor's bees to carry it away. By having several colonies of bees near his orchard, he would not only gather the fruit, but the nectar in their flowers also. Little additional labor would be required for this, as the bees demand but very little attention in the fruit season.

In the winter time the orchard is quiet and bees will give employment to the grower. They need to be wintered carefully, and disease warded off. The winter is the hardest time for the bees, and thousands of colonies have died in one severe month of cold weather. But these diseases can be mastered and the bees wintered proper-

ly. Thirty years ago the old box or straw hive was the only thing used for wintering bees, and a few of the colonies would survive every season. But today we have movable frames, summer and winter hives, and well protected bee cellars where the small insects can live tolerably happy.

The bee-keeper prepares for winter in summer, and his hives are overhauled and prepared for their winter occupancy, the same as he fixes his own house for resisting cold weather. The bee cellars are cleaned out and freshened by fresh air and disinfectants. Foul and untidy hives in the bee cellars very often breed the diseases which kill the bees off in such numbers during the winter. These are all avoided in preparing ahead of time. Bee breeding is pursued upon the same scientific basis now as cattle breeding, and the same law holds good in either case. By breeding and selection the bees are improved, and extra queens from Australia and Japan are imported to aid in this important work. Through such efforts the bees are improved, so that one cannot afford to lose a colony in one winter through neglect or ignorance.—Helen Wharburdon, in the *Wis. Agriculturist*.

September.

EVERY successful business man always, one or more times each year takes an inventory of his stock on hand, of his assets and his liabilities. This work is generally done at the close of the year, after the active operations are over. With the first frosts which we may expect this month the active operations in gathering honey will cease in our apiaries. Honey that has been gathered must now be cared for and kept from robbers intrusion. What better time to take an inventory of success or failure, with our mistakes fresh in mind, we are better prepared to carefully calculate the cost

of our bees and honey; we are better prepared to rightly calculate whether this or the other style of management has yielded the greatest net income.

Theories are well in winter, but we are now ready to face theory with practice and results.

Have you practiced natural or artificial increase? Now is the time to compare results. Has some colony failed to fill their hive, is so, look for the cause. Has some colony been unusually strong and active, find out why they were so. Have you old, superanated queens; replace them with young and vigorous ones this month. Have you small, weak swarms; if so, unite them, two or a dozen, until you get a good one. One good colony now is worth any number of weak ones, as they are sure to winter-kill. If you have strong colonies of bees, with scant stores, feed them now so that they may cap it over for winter; don't wait until zero weather before feeding. Have you surplus honey in crates or sections, if so, take them off; don't wait until next March and then complain about its being soiled.

The summer has been a busy one and all need rest and recreation; September brings its holidays as certain as July its fire-crackers. If you have some fine honey or bees, fix up and take them to the fairs so as to compare them with your neighbors. Learn by comparison. Rub against your neighbor bee keeper, get his views in exchange for your own and if you do not learn something to your advantage, it must be that the bump of self is wonderfully developed, at any rate, try it.

Bee Matters Not Plain Enough.

We have often wondered how many times, this year, "Pa" has been asked this question: "Ain't you got some kind of a little book on bees, that tells a beginner how to do?" Then they go on and say they don't know anything

about bees, that they have one or two hives but never get much honey from them.

This summer a man came in to buy a hive, and in talking, found he knew nothing about the different bees; said he had read about dividing, the brood, queen cells, etc., but had never seen any. One of us "boys" lit up the smoker and went through a hive, showing him the brood, drones, queen, etc., explaining how the division should be made. He being an intelligent man soon saw the principal, went home and made his division, and now has his bees in good shape. If he had not seen the process done before, how long would he have had to read before he would attempt the job himself? No man, whatever his business, will lose by giving a little stray knowledge sometimes, and especially the bee keeper, for in most cases the man you help will have to have a few supplies, and then he comes back to you for what he needs.

There are other things in this world besides money, and we sometimes do things without getting paid, but, should we, if we know anything, useful to our neighbor bee keepers, keep it shut up, when if we "spoke it out," it might save him a great deal? Make matters plain, practical, and useful, as well as scientific and theoretical; they all go together, but for the average bee keeper, we believe the first named the best.

Those who have a few bees here in the west, are perhaps of limited means, and keep bees only for their own use. There have been times when if we had had a little 5 or 10 cent book, on tending bees, we would have gladly given it to our customers and others who cannot afford the "way up" bee books and papers.

Millions of dollars are invested in high class poultry in the United States and the value of poultry and eggs sold in our markets exceed the value of the iron and steel industries.

Introducing New Queens and Improving Your Stock, Destroying Drones, etc.

BY M. H. DEWITT.

I have often noticed, toward the close of the honey harvest, on looking through a colony of bees, that the drones would be clustered on the outside combs and in the corners of the hive. This is the first indication of their destruction. Soon after this the bees can be seen chasing the drones out of the hive. Now when you see a drone coming out of the hive, with two or three bees holding him, making him "scratch gravel," you may know that the honey season is coming to a close and you had better stop putting on any more sections and making any more artificial colonies, and make preparations to feed all colonies that have not laid up stores enough for winter. See that each colony has at least 20 pounds of good honey in their hives and a good young prolific queen.

The bees in driving the drones from the hives, seem to act as though they were stinging them, but I think they do not often, if ever, sting them. I think they die from hunger and exhaustion, for by the bees withholding their food, and keeping them out of the hive, they soon die from hunger and cold.

If August were a good honey month, the bee keeper would soon become rich. The hives are crowded with bees, but they have nothing to do but idly fly about and consume their winter stores. During this month and the whole of autumn, after the honey flow ceases, great care should be taken to prevent robbing. If your colonies are equally strong, there will be little danger of loosing any from this cause, but the weaker ones are usually tried by their greedy and more populous neighbors. The entrances of all hives should be contracted and especially those which contain weak colonies. In working with the bees the hives should not re-

main open longer than possible. If bees do not get a taste of honey they will not be near as troublesome, but if they once get a start, they are almost sometimes uncontrollable. In this case all work should be suspended until they become quiet again. If robbers are very numerous, a bee tent will be found very useful while manipulating the hives. Italians are not as bad to rob as blacks.

Now is a very good time to improve your stock of bees, by getting good queens from some of the many advertisers; now is the time to italianize your poor stocks with fine queens, as it will not interfere with honey gathering. And during the earlier part of the month the apiarist should go over all his colonies and see that every one has a good laying queen. If any are missing they should be supplied with one at once. Do not defer it as it is very important that they should have one at once in time to have plenty of brood by the time that cold weather begins, and each hive should be examined and if it lacks stores for winter it should be supplied at once, don't fail to see it is done.—*Sang Run, Md.*

Wintering Bees.

It will soon be time to think about how to winter our bees. How? That is what each bee keeper must ask himself before very many weeks shall have passed. The frosts will soon come, cutting off the supply of honey from the field; robbing is then liable to commence and the weak swarms must suffer the consequences. About the first thing is to have all swarms about the same, no weak ones, and in this way they can defend themselves through the fall before being put into winter quarters.

How to winter? Whether in the cellar, the Chaff hive, the outside winter case; on the summer stands, or the shed

Continued on page 135

—THE—

Nebraska Beekeeper.

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STILSON & SONS, Editors and Publishers.
York, Nebraska.**Conventions.**

North American Bee Keepers Association. President, Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa. Secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.

National Bee Keepers Union. President, James Heddon, Dowigac, Mich. Secretary and Manager, T. G. Newman, Chicago.

Nebraska Bee Keepers Association. President, E. Whitcomb, Friend, Neb. Secretary, L. D. Stilson, York, Neb. Next meeting, Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 7-8, 1892.

Oct. 7, at Salt Lake City, Utah; John C. Swaner, Sec., Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jan. 13-14, 1893; S. W. Wisconsin, at Boscobel.

ABOUT two years ago, when we put in our new outfit, we bought a No. 3, Pearl Press, and the way it has stood the wear is amazing. Our entire paper for this time has been printed on it, besides this, thousands upon thousands of catalogues, circulars, bills, envelopes, badges, letter heads, etc., have been done on it. There has not been a cent paid for repairs, and a break or smash-up has not occurred. The "boys" (if they don't know much) manage to keep the press in fine shape, and do some good work sometimes.

Since August 1, two issues of our paper have been run; one catalogue, requiring eight and one half days of press work, at a speed of 1,000 per hour, and with all of this, several lots of picture, business and color cards have been run. If our paper is not quite on time, please do not hit us too hard, we'll try and keep in sight of the procession, and we have the satisfaction of know-

ing that there are more to follow.

If the friends will kindly help us to get our list up to the 5,000, which we spoke about sometime ago, we want to purchase another Pearl; a No. 5. of the Golding Co., Boston. We have "tackled" jobs, almost bigger than we were, yet nothing has left us, unfinished. We want to make the BEE-KEEPER, a paper that will be heard from, even if we are small, and live "out west." We have learned to "despise not the day of small things," and feel confident in saying the same of the other bee keepers in this western country.

There seems to have been a greater amount of business done among supply dealers and bee keepers this season than ever before. Among our regular contributors, we have received but one or two articles for publication in the last two months; most of them being too busy with the bees to write. We are glad to know that the bee keepers have work to do, for the outlook is that the honey crop will amount to \$ \$ when it is all gathered.

Among the premiums offered by the Nebraska State Fair this year, on bees, honey, etc., is one for the most honey stored by a single colony this season. The first premium is \$15 and certainly some bee keeper who has a good swarm can make it pay to send in his report. If this premium is taken, we hope to give the amount of honey stored, plan of the way it was worked, kind of hive used, etc., in our October issue.

Friend Hutchinson of the "Review" has let the smoker men have his last two issues in which to ventilate their different smokers, and even giving us the faces of the manufacturers of some of the best ones. The subject has been well ventilated, fuel and all.

We want an answer to the following questions, from all who can do so, that read this article, or who attend the State Fair.

Name

Post Office

- 1.—How many colonies of bees
- 2.—How many colonies of bees, spring count
- 3.—How many pounds of box honey this season
- 4.—How many pounds of extracted honey this season
- 5.—What kind of hive do you use
- 6.—What variety of bees have you
- 7.—Where do you winter bees
- 8.—Do you use comb foundation in the brood nest
- 9.—Do you use full sheets or only starters
- 10.—Do you raise plants especially for honey
- 11.—If so, what kinds
- 12.—Do you let bees swarm naturally or divide
- 13.—Where do you market honey
- 14.—Do you use separators
- 15.—Do you have any disease among bees

Wintering Bees, continued.

and straw packing, all come before us. On which one to decide, is the great trouble. One plan may do well in one place, and, the same, tried in another place may not work at all. The question of how to keep bees from swarming and going off, has bothered a great many persons, but it is now so completely under the management of the bee keeper, that he need not fear of losing his swarms. Can the wintering problem be settled, and brought to as sure a plan as has the swarming question?

Some bee keepers are very successful wintering in the cellar, others in Chaff hives, some in one way, some another. The best plan is to study our situation, and find out the plan adopted by other

bee keepers around us, an exchange of ideas on the subject may enlighten us a little.

In the October number we hope to print the different essays and papers that are to be given at the annual meeting, at Lincoln, Neb., Sept., 7 and 8, in full. We also hope some of the friends will give hints on wintering bees.

We hope to meet our many friends who visit the State Fair. Our "abode" will be in the Honey Hall, and will be glad to have a friendly visit with all.

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For particulars, catalogue, address
Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, N. J.

The Home and Garden.

The Pleasure of Flowers.

Some Hints How We Tend Them.

MANY people consider flowers are a needless, costly expense, we say yes, but the expense comes in not having them. To have flowers, we do not mean a little bed, raised up a foot or more in the middle, with a few dried up plants around the border, and the ground scraped clean with a hoe. Flowers want room, cultivation, etc., we set in rows 3 or 4 feet apart and use a horse and cultivator, this stirs up the ground and gives air to the roots. The Balsam, Zinnia, Dahlia, Hollyhock, etc. grow to immense size if given a chance.

This day and age no one has any excuse for not having flowers, the seeds or bulbs can be bought so cheap, and besides you do not need some of everything in your collection. Hardy plants are an addition to any place, the Peony Almond, Iris, Spirea, Tiger Lily, or a Rose help to give a cheerfulness to any place. One rose bush on our grounds, four years old, measures over four feet across and the same in height, and in June is a solid mass of flowers; we also took a dollars worth of slips from it last spring. We set a field to roses and lilies this year, setting four by seven feet. They were tended well on the start and made a fine growth, but later the continued wet weather prevented cultivation until too late, and now we must cut off the weeds and mulch the bushes, which will protect them in the winter.

We received several seeds and plants last spring for testing, and they did about as follows:

Flowering Plants and Bulbs.

We received from the Storrs & Harison Co., of Painesville, Ohio, several valuable and ornamental species, such

as are worthy of cultivation by any one. Following is a list of some of the best: The Caladium is a grand, ornamental, foliage plant; its large green leaves, resemble elephants' ears and are about as large, giving it a Tropical appearance; its roots are kept in a dry cellar through the winter. Of the Dahlias, the John Sladden is among the best, being nearly black and of such large size; it continues in blossom for a long time; Beauty is of large form, pure white and very perfect in shape; Miss Browning is a clear yellow, medium in size, and somewhat delicate in form. The Ceres Gladioli is very handsome in color, almost pure white, very large flower. Richardia Alba Maculata, is a species of Lily, the flowers are white, like the Calla, the leaves are spotted with white; it has a bulbous root which is set in the open ground in the spring and after frost is put in the cellar for winter. The collection of Roses and Geraniums which we received were simply grand, and show the generous treatment a customer receives from them.

We set out our Geraniums, Coleus and Ornamental plants in the open ground in May, giving plenty of room and cultivation to each one; they grow very large, flower freely and have better foliage than if left in the pots all summer. For winter plants, layer the outside limbs next to the ground and when well rooted, take up and set out in pots and place in the house.

Flower Seeds.

We received a fine collection from Mr. J. J. Bell, of Windsor, N. Y., but our bees, paper, and other work kept us so busy we did not find time to plant and tend them; we can say we know the seeds are good, for we have dealt with Mr. Bell in the past.

Gladioli.

Our collection came from M. Crawford, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and numbered 100 mixed bulbs, costing \$1.

50; the many colors, all shades and tints of the rainbow, the profusion of blossoms have well paid all they cost, and made handsome contrast to the other flowers.

Vegetable Seeds.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., of Philadelphia, Pa., sent us a lot for testing, and mostly "Novelties" of their own. We planted a few and this is our report of them: Long Keeper Tomato, very fine, rich flavor, bright color, and very firm; ripened among the first of the standard sorts, an excellent, new variety. Long Cardinal Radish, has proved with us all they claim for it; about the size of the Chartier, fine red color, very crisp and tender, looks well when bunched for market; in earliness, it is ahead of any long sort we know of. Thick-Head Yellow Lettuce, is a new sort, very large, thick heads, cannot tell as yet whether it will stand our hot winds in the early summer, without wilting as do some other kinds of head lettuce. The cabbage seed came up well but we failed in setting the plants, so have not got very many cabbages growing. The seeds all grew fine and we thank the firm for the collection.

Sharing With Others.

Have our readers who live in the midst of ample gardens, containing a profusion of bright sweet flowers and verdure, ever thought to share them with those who have them not? Have you ever passed through a large city hospital and seen the pale, discouraged faces of the inmates turned upward from weary beds of pain and sickness, and realized how much they need what you could easily spare? A basketful of fresh blossoms, bunched into little nosegays and distributed right and left in a crowded hospital ward, would bestow unspeakable blessing and aid the doctors and nurses wonderfully.

But there are places outside of hospitals and asylums where kind-hearted

flower-growers could do a blessed work. We refer to parts of large towns where poverty and wretchedness make their abode. Think of all the women and children in these places who are cut off from the beauties of nature, who would feel grateful and receive much benefit in soul and mind if given some spare flowers from your hands. Well may we, who are surrounded by a wealth of flowers that God has given, ask ourselves who bestowed on us the exclusive right to possess and see fade before our eyes these treasures which are so much needed by others? Let us try to share them with the unfortunates of our towns and cities.—*American Gardening*

If you are more interested in the welfare of your undertaker than you are in that of your family, drink liquor during the hottest part of the day.—*Farm Life.*

If you are interested in your own welfare or that of your family, and of the Eternal welfare hereafter, don't drink any of "Hells' Fire" in any part of the day.—Ed.

The love of woman is phenomenal. When a child she loves her father; at a later date, her big brother; soon after someone else's brother; then her husband and finally her loving, dutiful son—and occasionally but not often her second husband.

We are after your money, and in return will give full value in good reading. 50 cents pays for The Nebraska Bee-Keeper one year. For \$1.35 we give the American Bee Journal with our paper. For \$1.25 the Nebraska Farmer and our paper. For 85 cents the Breeder and Fancier and our paper. For 65 cents the American Farm and Horticulturist with our paper. If you pay your money, take your choice.

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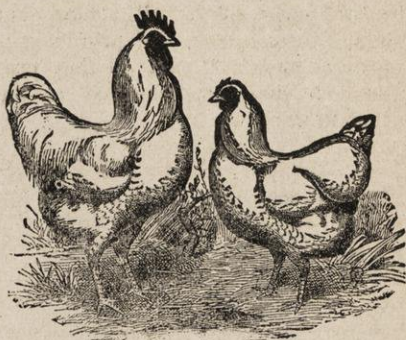
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