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MOON'S

BEE WORLD.

A GUIDE TO BEE-KEEPERS.

VOLUME 1.

APRIL, 1874.

NUMBER 5.

[For the Bee World.]

Notes from Louisiana.

MR. EDITOR:—The March number of your BEE WORLD is before me, and from the many earnest requests of bee-keepers, I am tempted to give in my experience, and my present mode of managing the little bee, asking to be corrected. In the summer of 1872, to please my wife, I procured eight box hives, and with her assistance transferred to frame hives. They done quite well. As I came out in the spring of 1873 with seven good colonies. They swarmed early as the middle of March, but my lot being surrounded by large oaks. I lost most of my new swarms by pitching in the tops out of reach. I put on surplus boxes but could not get the bees to work in them. This spring finds me with twelve strong colonies in good condition—on those I have put surplus boxes, but allow them (the boxes) to rest upon the frames. Those boxes have now been on two weeks, and half of them are filled with honey, and taking advantage of the experience of Mr. Byrd of Cedartown, Ga., I have placed an empty box under each full box, and find them (the bees) hard at work as usual.

In January last I (in order to top my oaks) removed my hives to the center of my yard, where they remained for near a month. I then removed them to the rear of where I had prepared a shed for them. This second removal was quite detrimental to several colonies, as the bees on returning at night would hover around their old stand in the center of the yard. This was done to such an extent that I was at last induced to try and save them by placing an empty hive for them to go into; this they very readily done. Now what was I to do with them? The hive full and large cluster at each end. Now wife was the first to form an idea of how to dispose of them, as follows:

“Lets take a dipper full from the clusters on the outside, and give it to each colony until all are disposed of.” We done it by pouring the bees in under the honey board. We then took the cap and honey board from a weak colony and set those hives filled with bees upon it. It worked like a charm. What do you think of it?

I had no idea of scribbling to such an extent, but before closing must express my high appreciation of the BEE WORLD, and hope soon to send you a

list of subscribers. I would, nor could not do without it. Your valuable experience cannot be over-rated by those interested in bee culture. All novices are greatly indebted to the many contributors to your journal, particularly yourself, Mr. Argo, Mr. Byrd, and many more. Bee culture must and will be business in the South worthy of attention.

Should you find any portion of the above worthy of notice you can use your pleasure in publication of the same. Yours respectfully,

N. JAY WOOSTER.

Centerville P. O. St. Mary's Parish, La.

Bees when moved but a short distance, and especially when flying almost daily. Many of them will return to their old hives, should this occur when the swarms are very populous, it will not injure the old swarms. In such cases we have found where many went back to take a few frames of brood from strong swarms, as many as we think we have bees to cover and keep warm, in this way we can make a few good colonies; but if the old colonies have not bees enough to spare, they had better be put back.—Ed.

[For the Bee World.]

Notes from Shelbyville Ill.

MR. EDITOR:—I have received the first two numbers of the BEE WORLD, and am well pleased with it. Should have granted your request last fall had it not been for sickness. I am pleased with the large clear type you use in the body of the work. The "get up" of the BEE WORLD is good, and I hope you will continue to "stir up the monkeys." We have been imposed upon by reckless and unprincipled men long enough. Such men should seek other fields than the apiary to labor in. Every man that is allowed to write for our bee journals should be honest, upright and truthful. Our papers have too long been the medium through which such men have found their way to the unsuspecting public. But when there is an honest difference of opinion, let us have both sides of the question, and perhaps the truth may be learned by the readers. But in all such discussion, let no hillingsgate find a place.

My bees are in good condition in

winter quarters on their summer stands. All upward ventilation excluded. I went through last winter this way without the loss of a single colony, and the mercury reached thirty-one degrees below zero in my apiary. But oh, the losses sustained by those who pursued the unnatural theory of upward ventilation.

Let us use a little common sense; what bees do when left to themselves? Do they not close all cracks and holes possible, and thus prevent the escape of the warm air? And of warm air there is certainly little enough in a very cold day.

The winter thus far has been very mild, only twice has the thermometer indicated any below zero, and that very little. The ground has not had frost in half the time. We have had considerable rain, and a great deal of cloudy weather. But when nice sunny days occurred the bees could fly, and have been out often. There has been no snow worth mentioning, and therefore there was no loss of bees by their leaving the hive, as would have been the case if there had been snow.

I will close this purposeless scribble by telling you that I hope your efforts may be blessed with complete success.

J. W. JOHNSON.

Shelbyville, Ill., Jan., 27th 1874.

During the few winters when the loss of bees was so great, we saw no difference with hives containing upward ventilation than those without. Neither did we see any difference with bees that we housed. They all seemed to share about the same fate. Bees like all animated nature require a sufficient amount of air, whether at the bottom side or top, and the amount should be governed by the strength of the swarm. A draught of air through a hive containing bees must necessarily be very injurious.—Ed.

[For the Bee World.]

From Southern Georgia.

I have just read the March number of the BEE WORLD. It is very gratifying to me, and no doubt to yourself, to see the interest that is manifested in your enterprise. It behooves us to give you every assistance, so that you may make it an assured success. Who five years ago, would have dared to

predict the present awakening on the subject of apiculture? I think we are entering upon a new era in that respect, and one that promises to us great pleasure and profit. We hear of many advising a diversified industry for the South. Apiculture seems to me to be entitled to a prominent position in the estimation of our people, as with little outlay, its proceeds will chink many of the cracks left open in our wild pursuits of colossal fortune in the cultivation of cotton. I feel assured that if we will but do our part you will not fail to let your light shine, and shine to our great advantage.

Tell our friends from the snow-clad regions that I had a swarm to issue on the 19th inst., and another on the 30th, though we have had considerable unfavorable weather in the mean time.

In one of my colonies I had a fertile worker, but could not find her. I took the hive and bees off some thirty yards, emptied frames and hives of every bee out, then replaced the hive upon the old stand, supposing the fertile worker would not know the way home. What think you of the plan? Do queens ever get too old to lay worker eggs. More anon. Respectfully,

H. L. LONG.

Leesburg, Ga., March 31st, 1874.

Had the fertile worker ever been out of the hive taking them thirty yards, or even one-half mile, would do no good.

Some writers say that queens will get so old they lay nothing but drone eggs. We don't remember now of ever having one. We kept one queen over six years with wings clipped in an observatory hive. She was productive within few days of death, when she was superseded. We have kept them frequently upwards of four years, and to all intents prolific as they were the first year. Again some fail the second year.—Ed

[For the Bee World.]
Variety.

MR. EDITOR:—I have received a number of questions to be answered in various ways, and from the number that I have requested to answer in the BEE WORLD, I am led to believe that you have a prosperous subscription list.

FIRST QUESTION.—I have a queen that at first duplicated herself, and that for two seasons, but last year some of her queens were small and dark, and a few nice and bright like herself. Now does age cause this change?

ANSWER.—A PURE queen will duplicate herself, that is, the young queen will at a certain age have the same appearance as her mother did at the same age, because an old queen like the workers become darker with age. The light delicate coat of hair either is chafed from her body or lays closely packed to the body, giving in either case a darker color than when young. It sometimes is caused in this way, that queens cease to duplicate themselves because they themselves have become darker.

But the main point to be observed in order to duplicate pure queens, is to raise them from the egg only. It is a well known fact among queen breeders that queens can be started from larvæ that has been hatched from the egg as long as three days, and for that period of time has been fed on a food tending to develop said larvæ into a worker bee, now bearing in mind that it requires twenty-one days from the laying of the egg to develop a perfect worker bee.

SECONDLY—That on an average, the egg hatches on the fourth day, and if fed for three days on food, or jelly prepared to raise a worker, said embryo bee has as far as time is concerned, one-third into a worker, and if after that time it is turned to develop as queens. Can it become a perfect queen, which requires different food than the worker?

But hold on, says one, "you counted the four days passed in the egg, when both for queen or worker are alike." All right, we will review your query. From the time the larvæ hatched from the egg until, as a queen cell, it is closed, from five to six days elapse, and during that time the feeding takes place. Now, if for three days of that time, worker food is given instead of royal jelly, it was fed and developed one-half as a worker, notwithstanding

the egg might have been laid by a pure imported mother. A perfect duplicate cannot be raised unless from the egg.

SECOND QUESTION.—How do you take your honey in boxes, or with the extractor?

ANSWER.—This does not give us a chance to say how others should do, but it comes right home. We, as well as in a great many other places the honey harvest is very spasmodic, and our method for taking the honey is planned accordingly. If the linden or bass-wood yield an abundance of honey, we use from twelve to twenty frames in our hive, and remove the honey as fast as it is stored; because bees cannot construct comb fast enough to receive it. The course we pursue in September when golden rod yields an abundant harvest. At other times when bees only gather a limited amount of honey, at which time they have ample opportunity to construct combs. We simply change our hive from frames to boxes, and have them put box honey for the following reasons:

Box honey brings us a double price of extracted honey per pound. Secondly, in our home market the retail merchant desires a certain number of pounds in boxes or in comb to supply customers that will not use extracted honey however pure or cheap. Hence, we must have a quantity of box honey to sell, or extracted honey, and I think I can well afford to do it. My extracted honey has for the last two years netted me twenty-three cents per pound. More hereafter,

E. KRETCHMER.

Coburg Montgomery County, Iowa.

Queens reared from the egg are the best, as they are raised and fed as such. From the commencement of their existence, every organ is fully developed as a perfect female, while those fed several days as workers must necessarily partake more or less of the nature or make of the worker bee.

SMALL QUEENS.—The best and most prolific Italian queen we ever saw, or own-

ed, was the smallest one we ever saw, and bred the largest and most uniform workers. We prized her at great value, but lost her in introducing her to a swarm of native bees.

Queens are not different from other stock in regard to their real worth as breeders. Purity of blood and a fine breeder, with a kind disposition is of great worth.—Ed.

[For the Bee World.]

Drone Bees.

About the first of March, 1874, a friend came to see me, and my friend, my wife (Mollie) and myself, were looking at the different stand of bees in my apiary, when Mollie called our attention to one that seemed to be quiet—not any of the bees were at work or flying out. She thought they were dead, but when we moved it out from the place where it stood we found it to be quite heavy, and had plenty of bees. A short time after I moved it to its summer stand, and about the 15th I began to believe it had no queen, and noticed it every warm day, and soon found that there were drones in it. I commenced to examine it one day, but was called off by some of the hands on the plantation.

Last week I took the task in hand, and when I had made an examination, I found that they had a small piece of drone comb 4 by 6 inches on one side of one of the center frames. I took out the frame and found comb of drones from eggs to full grown drones, and I found there were no eggs, or larvæ in any of the worker comb. There was a queen cell on the bottom of the same piece of drone comb full size, and capped. On examination I found a perfect bee in the queen cell; but it was anything else but a queen. There is some mystery about the hive I have never learned from any bee journal, or from experience, or from others. Will some friend bee-keeper that knows the cause tell me?

I love to see the Moon shedding his light through the BEE WORLD, along

the path of the bee-keepers. May he ever be a light to our feet, and a lamp to our path.

W. R. BAKER.

Hernando, Desoto County, Miss.

P. S.—Coming from home this morning, I forgot my manuscript, and had to write these few lines hurriedly. I will try and give all knowledge that I deem worth anything to the WORLD.

I took the comb which had the drone comb attached for the hive and gave them a comb of young brood from another hive. Will examine and give the result in future. Yours truly,

W. R. B.

The queen cell you found is a very common occurrence in a hive containing a fertile worker. Their great anxiety to reproduce their race, and love of a mother, they use every means in their power to accomplish this end. They rear cells for that purpose, and use such means in their power to accomplish the desired object. But they fail for the want of the proper egg. They cannot rear a queen unless they have an egg that will produce a worker. The egg that produces a worker bee will with proper food and care produce a mother bee. We have known them to take drone eggs and go through with the same process, but the law had not been fulfilled. Hence a failure. The comb of young worker brood you gave them they no doubt will rear them a step-mother.—
[Ed.]

[For the Bee World]

Bee Pasturage, Quarry, etc.

MR. EDITOR:—In March number of the BEE WORLD, page 105, is an interesting article upon "Buckwheat as a Honey Plant." The writer treats the subject in a way that shows that he understands it. I have been cultivating buckwheat for some years for bee pasturage, and unless in cases of ex-

treme drouth while blooming, it is a most excellent honey producing plant, coming on just at the time that other pasturage is scarcest with us. I find this to be a cheap mode of cultivating for pasturage: The last time that I plow my corn, I sow my buckwheat. One bushel of seed to five or six acres, and plow under. It usually does well. I believe the protection afforded by the corn against the sun, to be an advantage, at least the bees will work upon it later in the morning than where it stands in an open field.

I am not certain whether I have the variety that Bro. Knight in his communication styles "honey buckwheat" or not. I wish the brother or some one else would inform us through the BEE WORLD where seed of that variety can be procured.

Bee pasturage, honey-producing plants, the cultivation of the same etc., affords an excellent field for labor and observation. Communications upon those questions will be interesting and remunerative to the readers of your BEE WORLD. I hope the fraternity of brother bee-keepers will not keep their light under the bushel; but will speak out. Also on many other topics—in fact on every subject connected with apian science. Then we will have a journal as it should be. It is an excellent one now, but when more bee-keepers become interested and communicative, then it will advance.

Long life and success to the BEE WORLD and its editor.

B. W. STONE, M. D.

Fountain Run, Ky, March 27th, 1874.

Sowing buckwheat in corn is an excellent thing, and it is about the only sure way to obtain a good crop in a very dry, hot season. Plowing it in is another success, as it takes deep root. It is less liable to be injured by the drouth. We hope that many of our Southern bee-keepers will try the experiment of sowing in corn the present season, and raise more of the

honey-producing plants—it will richly pay to cultivate any plant or shrub that is both useful to man and bees.—

[Ed.]

For the Bee World.

Rambling Notes from Ohio.

The BEE WORLD for March is before me, and as usual it is overflowing with good things.

It seems hard to realize that now is the season of swarming in the sunny South, while in this higher latitude, winter still lingers. At this date, March the 31st, we are blest with about two inches of snow.

On page 115, second column and first line of second paragraph, March number, the printer has made me say hiving instead of swarming.

I agree with friend Goodlander in believing that friend Benedict is wrong, recommending the housing of bees in the South during winter. Now, brother bee-keepers of the South, let us have this subject thoroughly ventilated.

Friend Hester's article on hives is excellent, although differing from my view in some of the minor points. Langstroth certainly had the good of apiculture in view when he invented the Langstroth hive. I wish I could say the same of some of the inventors of more recent date.

It seems that H. of Murfresboro, Tenn., still clings to the old-fashioned method of swarming. Well, when as many of his swarms has fled into the "mountains of Hepsidam" as there has of mine, he will give that all up.

T. G. McGaw's article on introducing queens is good, but my advice would be to follow A. Gray's instructions on page 81, February number of the BEE WORLD. We practiced his method last season, and was successful in every instance.

Now, friend Argo, in all seriousness, is Italian queens which are reared by black bees as good as those reared by pure Italian nurses?

Mr. Editor, you have given my views precisely on "fertilizing in con-

finement," and one-dollar-hot-water-kerosene-hybrid-queens.

We have experimented pretty extensively on fertilizing in confinement, and are convinced that such queens could not be reared profitably at any reasonable price. I am aware that a certain gentleman advertises such queens at reasonable prices. Now if he really is in foggyism of a method that is certain, let him accept Mr. Furman's proposition, or at least give us his secret through some of the Bee journals so that the credulous may believe. Hope the gentleman referred to will not take this as an insult, as no insult is intended.

T. N. HOLLETT.

pennsville, Ohio.

Wintering bees in the South—Our experience though somewhat short, teaches us that bees will winter well in this latitude, without the use of quilts, mattresses &c. Even on their summer stands. Our bees wintered on their summer stands without any protection whatever, consuming on an average not more than eight pounds of honey.

Italian queens reared by black bees. Should we differ on this point with any of our brother bee-keepers, we differ honestly. Therefore let us reason together.

1st, the egg is a pure Italian, and purely fertilized, it now needs a little food, and warmth, such as would have been given it by its own race, to bring it to maturity. Now the question arises, does it change the Italian bee by being fed by a native bee? We cannot conceive that it would change the color or blood any more than if we should feed a Durham calf on the milk of a Devon cow; or taking the egg of a light Brahma hen and placing it under a black Spanish, and let her raise the chick. We might mention many like instances, and after all, we believe in the good old rule that "like

produces like' in all established races, kinds of seed etc., unless there is a variation to the natural law.

Let us hear from any one upon this subject. It is by comparing our experience that knowledge is gained.—Ed

[For the Bee World]

Profits of Bee Keeping.

MR. EDITOR:—Many apiaries in Tennessee yields tons of honey, and located too in not the best honey producing sections. They are, it is true in rich valleys and basins, but the native forests have long since been cleared, and corn, cotton and tobacco fields have taken their place, and this yields but little honey, compared with the popular and gum tree.

In the hills and mountain covers, where still stands the giant poplar, and where you find extensive groves of gum, persimmon and red bud, with thickets of blackberry and other shrubbery, and large apple and peach orchards, you see only the log and box hive, and not unfrequently a nail keg with a swarm in it. These give a surplus, per annum of from 10 to 15 pounds, the amount varying according to the season and condition of the bees.

What scientific bee-keeping has accomplished? what a correct knowledge of the habits, instincts and nature of the honey bee, together with modern improvements in hives, and implements of recent invention pertaining to bee culture has done. We will instance a few cases and vouch for their correctness of the statements. Much has been done to produce these results, and in no small degree are they due to the books and periodicals, published in the United States and foreign countries, devoted to the much neglected branch of rural economy.

Keeping bees is no lazy man's business. He might as well expect a field to produce a large crop of corn or cotton by simply planting, or scattering seed broad cast on the hard trodden earth, leaving the labor of cultivation

to nature and providence, as to expect or hope for an abundance of honey from an old hollow log, he placed a swarm of bees in, and stuck them in the corner of the yard or garden to take care of themselves.

Mr. J. W. Montgomery, of California, took from one stand of bees last season 402 pounds of comb honey, and the season previous Mr. E. Gallup, of Iowa, an intelligent farmer and well informed bee-keeper, extracted from a single hive, in the space of thirty days 50 gallons of excellent thick honey, and a short time thereafter extracted from the same hive $5\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. Honey weighs 12 pounds to the gallon.—Think of that ye old foggy bee men who cling to a firm belief in KING BEES, log gums and brimstone.

And what say ye fair maidens of Dixie's land—you who boast and are proud of tiny snow white hands, with soft tapering (kid gloves) fingers, when we tell you that Miss Katie Grimm, of Wisconsin, who without assistance extracted in one season, (2½ months) 10 barrels (3700 pounds) of honey. She had no help in opening hives, removing frames, brushing off bees, &c., &c. She also attended at the same time to hiving the swarms as they issued.—She did all this, not because she was a poor girl either, nor a servant, for her father of this world goods has a sufficiency, and now fills the most important and lucrative position in one of the National Banks of that State. The young women, (ladies) of the South except the poorer class, look upon and regard manual labor as degrading. Let me tell you children, you must shake off these notions, or you'll rot down, and soon become the bottom rail.

Messrs. Clark & Harbison, in one shipment of honey from their extensive apiaries in California, sent to the Chicago market last autumn 21,000 lbs. of comb honey. Their crop of comb and extract honey in 1873, amounted to over 60,000 lbs. Compare this yield ye vain king cotton planters of the gulf States, your produce at 12 to 15

cents per pound, and theirs at what they realized 28 cents per pound.

These are sufficient to give your readers an idea of what systematic, intelligent and energetic management of bees has done, in portions of the country not the native home of the bee.— There were no bees in California 22 years ago, and all authorities agree that the bee is of the Southern origin.

Besides the production of honey, many persons are engaged (as you will see by reference to the advertising columns of this journal), in raising bees for sale full colonies, nuclei and pueens.

What are the prophits you might ask in that branch of the business? I will mention but one case, that of Mr. Henry Alley, of Massachesutts, whose annual sales of pueens alone, amounts on an average to something over 700, and he one season, he had orders for more than 1500. He receives \$2,50 each, for pueens.

With this large yield one not acquainted with the business, would suppose that honey would be very cheap, and a market hard to find. We will give you from papers before us, the poutations for March, in some of the cities:

CHICAGO—White comb honey 24@30c.

Extracted choice white, 14@16c

CINCINNATTI—Comb honey 15@25c according to quality.

Extracted, choice, 16@18c.

ST. LOUIS—Choice white comb 25@29c.

Extracted, choice white, 16@18c.

NEW YORK—Honey in small glass boxes 25 cents.

Some houses in Chicago, and in fact in all the cities east, deal largely in honey, and we have before us an advertisement of one honey house in Chicago, wanting 10,000 lbs. extracted, and 5,000 lbs. box honey. Another, a company at Des Moines, advertise that they can sell 10,000 lbs. of honey for those that have no home market. The poutations above are not far from what the prices has been for a number of years, and nice pure honey, will always command rumerative prices, for it is claimed to contain medical pro-

perties not found in another sweet.— It possesses an agreeable flavor peculiar to itself, and all efforts to manufacture an artificial alticle as good as the natural product, has yet failed.

The production of cane sugar is annually decreasing, while the consumption of honey is increasing, and will soon become a portion of mans daily diet, as it was in the time of patriarchs and prophets, for "what is sweeter than honey.?" H.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

[For the Bee World]

Berlepsch on the Culture of Rape.

DEAR BEE FRIEND:—YOUR appreciated letter of January 19th, is at hand. In reply to your puestion, I would say that I can answer you with certainty. During the years between 1841 and 1858, I was a practical agriculturist.— I cultivated Rape (see pamphlet) to a large extent, and can in consepuence thereof, and from knowledge otherwise gained, testify most assuredly, that in all Germany there is no plant yielding more honey than rape. I know of instances, occuring in my own experience where a very populous colony of bees, during the time rape was in blossom, gained a weight of twenty pounds and over in one day.

On the tenth day of May 1846, there was near me a sixty-five acre field in blossom. The weather was excellent, and my strongest colony, which I placed on a platform scale, gained that day over twenty-one pounds in weight. I know only of one other plant that can be compared with rape as a honey yielding plant, and that is esparcet.— It is probaly the best fodder yielding plant for cattle and sheep. It flourishes on the poorest soil, if only not wet, and from ten to fifteen years without re-sowing, and yields enormous puantities of fodder.

Concerning the value of rape as a farm crop, I can say it is very great, often yielding a net income of \$32,00

per acre, the soil however must be rich and well tilled.

AUGUST BARON VON BERLEPSCH.

Letter to H. O. Kruschke in *American Bee Journal*.

From all accounts we get of this plant it must be very valuable, not for honey alone, but for fodder, this is one item to be considered, when we cultivate honey producing plants that we have an eye to farm products, cultivate those that will benefit both the bee and other stock. We have no doubt that rape will be cultivated largely before long in the South, the seed is cheap and can be obtained by H. O. Kruschke. See card elsewhere.

[Ed.]

[For the Bee World]

Bees in Indiana.

EDITOR BEE WORLD:—The *Journals* have all been received, we find each and all of them, filled with choice reading matter, on bee culture. The manner in which you conduct the *BEE WORLD*, is not only a credit to yourself, but useful to every bee-keeper, and we trust that the South will appreciate the worth of such a journal, and nobly sustain it; let me further say, that the prospects at present indicate that we in the State of Indiana, will have one of the earliest seasons that we have ever had, bees in our apiaries are carrying in pollen rapidly, and this on the first day of March, a thing we never saw before at this time of year, our bees are in excellent condition, with but little loss. We will close by wishing you abundant success, and three cheers for the *BEE WORLD*. May its welcome pages live, and continue to live with its name *BEE WORLD*, for centuries to come.

Fraternally yours,

J. W. HICKS.

Battle Ground Tippecanoe County, Ind.

The mother bee passes about three days in the egg, and five a worm, the

worker then closes her cell. She immediately begins to spin her cocoon, which occupies nearly twenty-four hours. From the tenth to the twentieth hour she remains almost in complete repose. She then passes four to five days as a nymph, and on the fifteenth to the sixteenth day she came fourth a perfect mother. Should the swarm be strong and the weather warm, it will make from one to two days difference in hatching. The workers will rear a mother from larvæ that has passed five to six days, fed as a worker. In this case the mother will hatch on the tenth to eleventh day. We have found such mothers not as good as those from the egg.

[Ed.]

[For the Bee World]

Superiority of Italian Bees.

I see in March number of *BEE WORLD*, on page 116, friend Nesbit gives his experience of ten or twelve years with Italians, to prove the superiority over the native bee. But why dont he tell us how long he experimented with the native bee previous to that time?

My experience with native bees begun in 1858, and with the frame hive and Italians in 1866. This is just sixteen years experience with bees, eight with the native bee and gum box hives eight years with the frame hive and Italians.

In my writings for the bee journals, the last four years, I have said all along that I did not fear the moth, that they never trouble me. I should have been more definite and made myself better understood, thus: since I begun with the frame hive and Italians, I never fear the moth for they never trouble me I did not mean to say I had never feared them in the whole sixteen years, but only since 1866, or the last eight years, for the moth did trouble me the first eight years, and that was no little trouble, for one of the stands I pur-

chased to start on, was destroyed by the moth the second year, besides another one, and two the third year, and so on until I put my bees in the frames and Italianized them.

But some may say, "Bob if you had had your native bees in frames, the result would have been the same, you could then get inside to pick out the moth." Not so, for I have since that time had native bees in frames all round the neighborhood. Many farmers has hired me to tend to his bees, and yet the moth has made havoc among them, just the same as in box hives or the old gum. Very few native bees are now alive in my neighborhood, but I do not mean to say that the moth destroyed them, most of them died by starvation and dysentery. I have yet to experience the dysentery or (bee cholera). Friend Nesbit experienced it very bitterly winter before last. Will he please write his experience for the next BEE WORLD? If I am not mistaken his bees made a clean escape in the fatal winter of 1868 and 9, the same time that mine died, while no less than about two hundred and fifty stands died within two miles around me. My bees were Italians, so were the bees of two of my brother-in-laws that also escaped. Among all that died not one was an Italian stand.

If the disease was bee cholera, as many persist in saying it was, then it went around me on all sides and within less than a quarter of a mile, and still did not touch my bees. I do not pretend to say this was because my bees were Italians, though I believe that was the case. But I do say give me one Italian stand in preference to three of the strongest native stands, unless I could get an Italian queen at once to Italianize them.

R. M. Arco.

Lowell, Ky. April 7th, 1874.

We believe that the dysentery so-called, resulted from poor food, some thing they gathered, had it been cold weather, the same complaint would followed for centuries past. The Ital-

ian bee suffered from its effects in some places.

[Ed.]

Hives.

EDITOR OF THE BEE WORLD:—Dear Sirs:—In the March number there was an article written by Mr. T. G. McGaw, from which I beg to dissent, at least that portion which recommends the Langstroth hive, although there is no patent now on it. It seems to me that it is true economy to select that hive which comes nearest to combining all the improvements of modern apiculture, even though we have to pay for the right, provided the price is not extortionate. I lay down this proposition, that a good hive should have not only the improvements above mentioned, but should at the same time be simple and easily constructed, for the simple reason that a great many desire to use hives who cannot prepare for all the fancy notions approved to some hives I have seen, nor can they procure them, short of a distant manufactory. I ask is not this proposition correct?

Now lets us see what improvements have been conceded to be valuable.

None will deny that frames are essential to success. The same might be said with reference to regulators for the entrance, a separate apartment for surplus honey, and any points giving additional facilities for the bees in performing their varied duties. Then let us examine the question of frames. Some prefer to have them supported from the bottom, some to one side as the leaves of a book, some braced or supported from every corner others suspend by the top peice, now which is the best? The first being supported from the bottom has objections, so many to the casual observer even, that I need not enumerate then. The second was found by Huber (I think), years ago to be very unsatisfactory. In order to give a frame proper inspection, you should be able to look directly into the bottom of the cells, when they are on hinges they cannot open at right angles to each other, hence your inspection will not be full without removing

them from their hinges. In opening such hives the frames are more or less disposed to incline to one side or the other, or to fly together, thus imitating and even killing the bees. The third class from the very fact that they are supported from so many different points makes them more difficult to be removed, and more difficult to construct and adjust, also to handle.

"WIRE GRASS."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

[For the Bee World]

Sketches from Tennessee

MR. EDITOR:—Believing that all useful appliances in the management of bees should be made known, that others may have the benefit of the same. I will try to describe a little implement which I have made for the purpose of moulding.

COMB GUIDES.

Every practical bee-keeper knows the importance of nice, straight comb in every frame, and to induce bees to build such has caused more perplexity and brought forth more thought, perhaps than anything connected with the moveable comb system. Nice, straight comb cut into strips and fastened to the top bars of the frames forms the most certain of all comb guides; but the difficulty of procuring the combs, and the trouble and time required to fit and fasten them in the frames is a hindrance to their general use.

The beveled edges are bunglesome, and the bees do not always follow them. Consequently they are unreliable. Then the most reliable guides attainable are the wax guides. They are in the reach of all, and the facility with which they may be put on, renders them every way preferable. The machine of which I speak is made as follows:

Take a piece of hard smooth grained wood about one and a half inches broad, about three-fourths of an inch thick, and one-eighth of an inch less than the length of the inside of your

frame. Dress with a plane until smooth. Make the edge to mould against perfectly straight, and cut off one corner of the straight edge on a bevel of about thirty degrees, until that edge is about one-sixteenth of an inch thinner than half the breadth of the top bar of your frame. Nail, or screw this to a second piece of board nicely dressed, about four inches wide, and three or four inches longer than your frame, with the beveled edge of the first, facing toward the center of the second board. Screw two buttons on the second board a few inches apart, and so as to fasten the top bar of your frame against the beveled edge of the first described piece. It is best to have a hole at the lower end of the mould, that if too much wax is applied it will pass off. Wet the mould each time before the wax is applied that it may not stick. In moulding, elevate one end a few degrees, and with a spoon, pour a little melted wax on the upper end, and you will be surprised and delighted at the rapidity with which you can form comb guides.

CROWDING HIVES.

As a goodly number of persons inexperienced in bee culture are engaging in that business, it will not be out of place to caution such in reference to crowding their hives into too small a space without any mark of distinction by which bees may make their locality. When hives are so situated the bees become muddled and confused, and some of the hives get more than their share of bees, while others grow weaker. To give the readers of the BEE WORLD an example of crowding hives, I will instance a case of my neighbor Capt. Jones, whose fancy having been touched by the description of a hexagonal apiary, and acting upon the suggestion placed his in a similar manner. The hives all being alike, and there being no mark by which the bees could distinguish their hives. They became bewildered, entered other hives, and now some are entirely destitute of bees with plenty

of honey in the hives—some with so few bees that it would require several such to make one of Hosmer's swarms, while others are so full of bees that it looks like they could contain no more.

WANT OF STORES.

Bees destitute of stores may be preserved. I have two good colonies now that run out of stores—one about the 1st and the other about the middle of February. They swarmed out, tried to enter other hives, but by closing the entrance to those they were trying to enter they clustered outside. They were placed back in their own hives, fed plentifully with sugar syrup, and are now strong and doing well. Bees wintered here better than usual, and are generally in good condition.

S. D. McLEAN.

Calleoka, Maury County, Tenn.

There can be nothing more injurious to the success of an apiary than to crowd hives too near each other. The strongest will soon be in possession of nearly all swarms near them. The strong swarms are continually fanning and humming, which attracts other bees as they return from the fields of labor, and they frequently set up the humming noise which attracts all near them.

It often happens, and in cities where yards are small, that hives are very closely packed. For the good of both the apiarian and the bees, no two hives of the same color should stand beside each other.

Bees in spring, having quite a brood on hand, and get out of honey, they become discouraged and come out and leave their brood. They frequently enter other swarms and are destroyed. Feed all such with a little sugar syrup, and all will go well.

For the Bee World.

Improved Bee-Keeping.

Probably improvement in bee-keeping is more apparent to the imaginative than to the reflecting. It is doubtful whether bee-keepers themselves realize what success in the business is. The friend of whom I purchased my bees at the commencement of my experiments in 1860, might be by some counted one of the successful ones. At his marriage his father-in-law, gave with other things one hive of bees. From that stock he kept bees in his apiary some fifty years or more, until the time of his death in the last ten years while I was acquainted with his apiary. Three times they reached the point where the field could not sustain them, and most of them perished.

In the winter preceeding his death all perished but two colonies. He began with one colony and ended with two. He used swarming hives, and at an average of two swarms to a hive would soon reach thirty swarms, or a little more, and in the following winter almost all of them die off. This is the history of one of the best bee-keepers in the estimation of his neighbors, and I think few will be found who can trace their stock back fifty years from one hive. I have no doubt that he failed of pay, for his expense and trouble.

There is a way. With a hive with sufficient room for all the product of the queen to work, and not swarm. One hundred, two hundred, or three hundred pounds may be secured from one colony. I can from my own experiments only go as high as two hundred pounds surplus in small boxes. My best colony has given me one hundred, one hundred and forty, one hundred and forty-five and two hundred pounds in four of the seasons since I hived it. One season I confined it to the breeding apartment to procure swarms from it obtaining two new swarms.

In the management of bees, important facilities are afforded, by the in-

roduction of moveable comb frames. experts avail themselves of those advantages in artificial swarms, raising of queens, and extracting the honey from the comb, but the great portion of farmers will choose not to use them. I have used both bars and frames, and having no occasion for artificial swarming, raising queens, or extracting honey frames answer every purpose, just as well. My best colony that I have ever kept, that has given me the most surplus, and continued the greatest number of seasons, has bars instead of frames. But it is objected that they will swarm.

I have a hive with a breeding apartment of 2000 to 2500 or more cubic inches with side and top chambers for from eighteen to thirty-six surplus boxes, according to the size of the hive, in which the breeding apartment may be used as a swarm, if swarms are needed, and which may be used as a nonswarmer without fail, if the following conditions are observed:

1st.—Have the hive placed where it is, effectively shaded from the sun, where there shall be no heat from crowding of the bees, or any other cause.

2nd.—Place the surplus boxes in close connection with the bees in the breeding apartment, so they may pass from the sheet of comb in it to the guide comb in the boxes as readily as they can pass from one sheet of comb to another.

3d.—Place the surplus boxes, before the bees have made any preparations for swarming, they will then go contentedly to work, and give one hundred or two hundred pounds of surplus, more or less, according to the field and season.

If the number of colonies in such hives are properly proportioned to the field. The keeper may secure from one-half to three-fourths of the honey furnished in his field.

If he uses the swarming hives it will take from four-fifths to nine-tenths of his products to supply and winter the old colony with her swarms, and every few years they must reach the

point where from one-half to three-fourths, nine-tenths, or all of them must starve to death, as the case may be.

From my experiments thus far, and from my observation I come to the foregoing conclusions without hesitation or doubt.

JASPER HAZEN.

Woodstock, Vermont.

—o—

In an old agricultural journal out of print we find this:

A Swarm of Bees.

B patient, B prayerful, B humble, B mild.

B wise as a solon, B meek as a child. B studious, B thoughtful, B loving, B kind,

B sure you make matter subservient to mind.

B cautious, B prudent, B truthful, B true,

B courteous to all men, B friendly with few.

B temperate in argument, pleasure and wine,

B careful of conduct, of money, of time.

B cheerful, B grateful, B hopeful, B firm,

B peaceful, B revolent, B willing to learn.

B punctual, B gentle, B liberal, B just,

B aspiring, B humble, because thou art dust.

B penitent, circumspect, sound in the faith,

B active, devoted, B faithful till death.

B honest, B holy, transparent and pure,

B dependent, B Christ-like, and you'll B secure.

—o—

For the Bee World.

Notes from Kentucky.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been confined to my room nearly the whole of March, and a swelling in the right side rendered writing so painful, that all the

writing I undertook was to answer my numerous correspondents. But now having nearly recovered my usual health, I again take up my pen for the BEE WORLD.

Besides the BEE WORLD I take the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, Novice's Gleanings, besides numerous other agricultural and live stock journals, that contain a bee department. These journals all come out this year in an improved dress, which is just as they should be. But the great South, the "home of the honey bee," whose climate is emphatically adapted to the culture of the bee, only has one of these journals published in her midst. Most of my Southern correspondents do not seem to be aware of the existence of the BEE WORLD, but those that are aware of it, can at once see the great advantage of having a journal on bee culture published in their midst.

The nature of the bee is everywhere the same, but the mode of culture South, is necessarily different from that of the cold North. Hence the propriety of one of the journals at least, being situated in the South. Southern correspondents tell me that all the light they could get from the Northern journals was adapted to culture in a cold climate. How to winter safely, being the "burden of their song." I am very glad the South now has a journal in her midst in which her people can communicate and compare their own experience, in their native climate.

The South will by experience soon find what hive is best adapted to the Southern climate, and I hope she will have the patience to let "patented hives" alone for the present, and give the Langstroth hive a fair trial—yes, a fair and impartial trial will convince any one of its superiority over all others; and yet it is now public property. There is no patent on it. Believe no shark that tries to sell you a patent on it.

Here I presume, the readers of the BEE WORLD will expect me to say how

my bees wintered. I believe I can say splendidly—having only lost two small nuclei; though they are no stronger in bees than last spring, which all know, was a remarkably backward spring. But when it is considered what a remarkably poor season last year was, and how thin they were in bees in October, when fed on sugar syrup. They may well be said to have wintered splendidly, to do as well as they did under the existing circumstances. The peach is now in full bloom, but so changeable and fickle is the weather, that my bees can get no good of them; so I am using stimulating food. I fear the peaches, cherries, pears and plums are all killed. The last few weeks has been very discouraging for bees as well as for farming—cold rains every two or three days. The best plan under the present circumstances, is constant use of stimulating food, so as to get the bees strong in number when the white clover comes in, which is our main dependence in this section.

From letters just received from the region of New Orleans, I learn that bees are now swarming there, but the weather is very changeable there like it is here. But one difference is, we here are gathered around our fires yet, just the same as in February.

I am highly pleased with the Ladies' Department. Bee culture is one of the best occupations a lady could take hold of. I have often wondered why the ladies don't fall into rank faster. Are they afraid of the everlasting stings? I can suggest one effectual remedy, which is this:

Get the Simon pure Italians, and you can soon train them not to sting. If they do not believe it let them visit me, or friend Nesbet, or any prominent bee man, and we will soon convince them of the fact. I have no confidence in black or native bees. As to the Southern gray bees, I have never seen them. Will some Southern man, while removing a gray queen from a good stand, in order to introduce an Italian. Send her to me by mail. I will give them a fair trial, and

see how I like them, or how they compete with Italians, if at all!

You well know that when the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL was published at Franklin, Ky., I made an attempt to find who 'EVA' was, in order to send her an Italian queen. Well, ha, ha, ha! You all know who she is—so do I.

R. M. ARGO.

Lowell, Kentucky, April 3d, 1874.

Friend Argo, you made a mistake in the name, (EVA). You mean Miss EMMA L., of Gainsville, Ala. This was the name you asked so many times to know, and which I was unable to give you. Her article is found in the November number of the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, 1872, page 114. The article is headed "A Voice from Alabama," and giving such remarkable results, and a young lady of only sixteen years—most all felt an interest to learn who she was. Several young men wrote to us, no doubt after they had written to her address, and lo, no answer came. To find out who Miss Emma was, they were sensible chaps—a young orphan girl sixteen years old, that could clear from all expense in one season \$1,147,21, was worth having—a regular gold mine that. Well, the poor fellows never found her. We done our level best to give them information, but when we got where she was she was not there. We found one person who knew her, but he refused to give her name, but said she had married, done well, and had moved to Kentucky.

Now friend Argo, if you are not careful, this lady bee-keeper will be competent to give you a few extra lessons, and if you know her name, it will not create any excitement among the young men now, as she has already taken to herself a better-half. Well

that fellow was a lucky chap. I wish I knew who he was.—Ed.

—O—

For the Bee World

Introducing Virgin Queens.

EDITOR BEE WORLD:—After all that you, "Novice," and a dozen others have said about introducing virgin queens, our friend Argo does not seem to know how it can be done. Hence he has laid aside that good thing called the Queen Nursery. He says he cannot persuade his bees to accept an unfertile queen unless hatched inside the stand where he wants to introduce her. Then he adds, "In this case the bees will accept her," &c.

Who would have thought friend Argo would thus tell how his bees could be persuaded to accept a virgin queen, and in the next breath ask us how it can be done?

If friend Argo can get ALL HIS QUEEN CELLS ACCEPTED in the practice he has advised, he must have more submissive nuclei than it has been my fortune to have. "In this case," he says, "the bees will accept a virgin queen." It is positive, THEY WILL DO IT. In what case will they do so? Why, in case she is hatched among the bees, she is to be introduced to. Is that a fact, friend Argo? If so stick to it, for "facts are stubborn things." My experience goes to confirm it. But friend Argo wants to know how he can contrive to use that "good thing," the Queen Nursery, and not violate or oppose the above fact. Well, if he will open both eyes and ears, I will try again to explain the mystery. See first number of the BEE WORLD, pages 5 and 6.

Let friend Argo go to his hive, No. 4, and cut out his NINE queen cells, and put one into as many cages of his queen nursery, (and a little food for the virgin queen to live on after hatched.) Now put the nursery into the place of one of the combs from which the cells were cut; let it remain until the cells are hatched. Then put a queen cage, containing one of the vir-

gin queens, into as many of the combs in hive No. 4, as you have virgin queens in the nursery. Now close up hive No. 4 until the worker bees are at their regular business upon the combs. Then prepare a nuclei for each of your virgin queens, by taking two combs of mature brood from other hives without the bees—the bees being brushed off. Place them in the nuclei hive far enough apart to admit a comb between them. Now open No. 4, and lift out one of the combs with cage, virgin queen, and all the adhering bees, and place it between the two combs in the nuclei, close it up until the next day, and so prepare a nuclei for all the virgin queens in No. 4. On the next day open the cages and let the queens escape among the bees they were hatched among. Many prefer perfuming them to make assurance doubly sure.

Friend Argo must now see that we have introduced no strange worker bees into these nuclei, except forsooth, some of the mature brood should hatch.

JEWELL DAVIS.

Charleston, Ill., March 27th, 1874.

We have found the queen nursery to be an almost indispensable article in the apiary. We have used them for several years. They are both simple, easy, and convenient to handle. We have kept queens in them for five weeks—letting them out in the hive where we had removed the old queen, as fast as they become fertilized, which will be almost daily. Take the first, one out, let loose from the nursery as fast as we let the caged ones out. In this way we need not stop breeding in only one or two hives at a time, as the case requires, and those need not be deprived of a laying queen more than ten or twelve days. When we have kept them caged so long it has been in cases where we were keeping them for safety. We have kept

them in cages and bees would feed them, but in all cases, better place a piece of honey in each cage, in case the bees refuse to feed them.—Ed.

[For the Bee World.]

MR. EDITOR:—The WORLD came to hand, and as might be expected, we were right glad to see it.

On page 107, our friend Henderson gives us a good plan to have bees when they settle on a fruit tree, but it seems to us it is rather too much trouble. How he expects us to dip bees off the top of a tree, is past our comprehension. When we let our bees swarm, (we swarm artificially now, and we think it the best plan) we have a large tin pan tied to a long pole. We hold this under the cluster and give the limb a sudden jar with another pole, and before the bees can rise, we have them down in front of the hive in less time than they could be dipped. When the cluster is near the ground, of course we do not use the pole, but hold the pan under the cluster with one hand and shake with the other. In this way we get the whole cluster at once. We prefer a tin pan, because the bees cannot stick to it, but roll out like so many peas. A dipper is very useful in the apiary to dip bees with, and we earnestly recommend its use.

We always have poultry to run in the apiary, even if "Our Discovery" does object to it so strongly. We always begin to stimulate our bees about the middle of March, by feeding them with a small quantity of sugar syrup every day, (in the South it had better be done earlier.) We make feeders of four slats about four inches long, two inches wide, and three-eighths of an inch thick, (the surplus frames in Colvin's Langstroth hive is a first thing,) after these slats are nailed together we nail a piece of heavy muslin on the top, letting it swag a little, and after some syrup is poured on, we cover it with a piece of glass, (just putting it on loose, so it can be raised at any time) and place the whole over

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good reason why you or I should always be off on a tangent of SIMPLICITY OF NEW IDEAS at the expense of worth, in value, nor can we approve of bee journals being devoted chiefly to the hive hobby as their sole pillar and main support.

Certainly while I am growing fastidious about the bee literature which appears in our bee journal—wishing to see it equal, if not superior to all other literary productions. Yet I find right here, some ready to find fault, and ready to step before us and say, this does not tally with the dictionary, spelling-book, and grammar. We are all liable to err, and marvelously quick to see these little faults in others, while our journal is the very pink of perfection. This may be compared to "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

Mr. Editor, which among all of our bee journals is to assume the office of censor? Of course all the rest must adopt its style, and show up the good qualities or imperfections of those not censorers—they not being models. Now, if there is a rival journal that wishes to pitch into another of like pursuit, it makes itself so much of a "busy body" in other persons matters, as never to see a good feature in it, or even allow one word of praise to be said in its favor, no matter how many good things it may contain, or the object of its publication.

Perhaps no one dislikes more than I do to have the printer or journalist make me say what I did not intend, or for my articles to appear clothed in miserable bad orthography and syntax. But is it right, therefore to be publishing these faults against the good motives of the editors of bee journals continually?

I have been induced to make these remarks in consequence of a growing tendency on the part of some to complain, and find fault.

JEWELL DAVIS.

Charleston, Ill.

You are right, brother Davis, the BEE WORLD is not the organ of any

party, or patent; it speaks for itself, on all questions pertaining to bee culture.

As a vehicle of news from its birth, it has spared no pains, or expense to make it a welcome visitor to the honest and intelligent reader; and thus far it has been well received.

It is true our little Medina man commenced as usual, a "howl." He seems to be somewhat effected about the BEE WORLD. Why, it is not gotten up in the style he would like to see. Consequently he cannot class it among the list of bee journals.

It would appear that this young man has been so accustomed to fault-finding the disease has now assumed a "chronic form." Yet this is no news to us, nor do we think, to the bee-keepers of this country.

This Anti-Saxon brother, if we may so call him, has done more blowing and fault-finding than all the bee-keepers of our country—so much so at least, should he continue his growling and fault-finding, he may worry our good nature, and if such should come to pass, we may have, or at least take the opportunity to express a few matters of interest to the bee-keepers of America. They will be read with much interest.

If the world had waited for "HIM that is without sin, to cast the first stone," the first stone would never have been cast.—Ed.

[For the Bee World]

Bees in Georgia.

MR. EDITOR:—Thinking that it may not be altogether uninteresting to all of your readers, since I am confident that your WORLD has many interested perusers among the "Young America." I have concluded to give you a few

rambling thoughts about bee matters in general.

Before you came down into this part of the country, bee culture was comparatively unknown. True, many of our farmers kept the common box hive, which their fathers, and their fathers' father before them had used, never dreaming that it was possible to improve on it. But this was not on the principle of bee CULTURE, but rather a system of war on bees. It was "To the victor belongs the spoils," and so when robbing time comes around—with the aid of smoke and veils, and at the expense of many stings, and great destruction to the bees, a tolerable supply of honey, plentifully mixed with dead bees, and bee bread was obtained; and the bee must not only be robbed, but must be killed, if he does not take care to get out of the way.

But since your advent among us, I am happy to say, things have changed a great deal—people have learned to look upon the bee in an entirely different light, and they now look upon him, not as an enemy to be robbed, but as a faithful servant, or rather friend, who supplies us with the most pleasant food. It has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the most skeptical that bees may not only be robbed without killing them all out, but that they may actually be handled.

The Italian bee hitherto unknown in this section, is now in general use, and we have learned that bees may not only be kept in the city, but may be made a source of profit and ornament. The moveable frame hive, another great invention, has also been introduced here through you.

This hive, I believe was not used about here at all before—although there were several different kinds here. The reason was, that there was no one willing to undertake to learn the superiority of this over the box hive. I say superiority, for there can be no question but that it is vastly superior, since the workings of it have been seen.

I have seen a good many different

hives, but have never seen but three in actual use, and of those three, I am inclined to think that the Thomas Hive is the best—combining as it does, simplicity with excellence. Of course I do not say this, thinking that I am capable of judging, and especially, since there are so many older heads than mine to decide which is the best hive; but probably there may be some other young bee-keeper, who may give his views on the subject, and so we may both be benefited by an interchange of views.

My bees are almost entirely Italianized, and work hard whenever the weather permits, which is not very often now in rainy April. When I have had a little more experience with my bees, I will give you something more to the point than this.

Meanwhile, I am glad to see that you have not adopted the plan of another bee paper I have noticed, viz:—withholding the address of the contributors, and merely giving the county or State in which they live.

And now let me congratulate Mr. Moon on his excellent BEE WORLD—the WORLD on its splendid BEE MOON.

Yours truly,

J. H. A.

Rome, Ga., April 24th, 1874.

—O—

For the Bee World.

Letter from Charleston.

EDITOR BEE WORLD:—I see that the bee-keepers of Alabama and Georgia are alive to the interests of apiculture, and have formed an association for the purpose of building up that long neglected interest. I would like to be one of their number, and will if it will be consistent with your constitution to admit residents of other States—how about this? The fee for membership I understand is only 50 cents—ladies admitted free. State lines ought not to be a barrier in the way. I would like to see the association covering the entire South, the native home of the honey bee. I am glad that you have pitched your tent here in the South, and established the BEE WORLD here in our midst. It is the

pioneer journal I believe, and should be; and I hope will be well sustained. A man of your practical experience can make the journal of great value to its readers. When and where will the next Convention meet? I want to attend it for the purpose of picking up some crumbs of information, as I suppose some will be scattered around promiscuously, and profusely. Dr. Brown of Augusta will no doubt be there, as he is a practical man, and one who takes a lively interest in bee culture. Also John H. Newton of Athens, Ga., and a host of others. Will the association admit South Carolina into the union? If they will the old State will do her part, and would be pleased to have the next convention to come to our city. She will extend the convention a hearty welcome. By the way, are you having any of the Thomas Hives manufactured in your city—if so, what is the price for them.

H. B. C.

Charleston S. C., April 13th 1874.

—o—

[For the Bee World.]

Bee Diseases.

EDITOR BEE WORLD:—I see that many are still in doubt as to the true existence of the bee disease. Having seen Hester's verses, Dadant on the subject, I concluded to say a few words concerning this great pest that has swept off hundreds, yes thousands of stands of bees

Having had considerable experience with the disease, I took three of my best Italian colonies and introduced the disease, with honey saved for the purpose of testing it. In about two hours the bees began to drop from the cluster. Then I set No. 1 on No. 2, and let the dead drop on the cluster—they too began to die. Then I set No. 3 under No. 1, and 2, and in twelve hours there was not a living bee to be found.

Several friends have suggested that I go ahead and find out, if possible, the cause, and also a cure of the disease that has caused such losses in the United States. I am unable, pecu-

niary to go ahead and investigate the matter, as I would like, but am willing to do the best I can, if bee-keepers could possibly discover a help for this fatal complaint it would encourage many to again take hold of apiculture. The proper time to test it would be in the summer.

H. GOODLANDER.

Leesburg, Ind.

Would it not be a good plan for any one that feels interested in this matter, aid friend Goodlander pecuniary to help him make such investigations as he may deem proper, to ferret out, if possible, this terrible complaint. Any one feeling disposed, can aid by sending whatever they feel willing to give to Mr. Goodlander in his experiments.

ED.

—o—

SECRETARY'S OFFICE BEE-KEEPERS ASSOCIATION,
OF GA. AND ALA., ROME, GA., April 23d 1874.

To the bee-keepers of Ga. and Ala:

At the last annual convention, the following resolutions was adopted:

On motion it was, resolved to hold the next annual convention at Oxford, Ala., on the third Wednesday in Aug., 1874.

The following executive was elected, whose duty it is to make all the necessary arrangements for the accommodation of the convention, and as far as possible, secure reduced rates, of passage for delegates to and from the convention, on Railroads and Steamboats.

PROF. W. J. BORDEN, Chairman, Oxford, Ala.

W. M. McPHERSON, Oxford, Ala.

P. M. JOHNSON, White Plains, Ala.

COL. W. G. GAMMON, Rome, Ga.

Those who want to become members of the association, can do so by remitting the fee, fifty cents, to Capt. C. O. Stillwell, Cashier of the Bank of Rome, Treasurer, Rome, Ga. Ladies' are admitted free, by simply forwarding me their names and Post Office address for enrollment. We hope all that are interested in bee culture will do so and as many as can attend the convention.

Our Oxford friends will extend to them a cordial welcome.

The convention promises to be one of great interest, as many topics will be discussed pro and con.

Essays are requested from all those who has had any practical experience in the management of the honey bee. It is to be hoped that the Chairmon of the Executive Committee, will confer with this committee, and have their "House put in order."

The bee-keepers of other States are fraternally invited to meet with the the convention and participate in the discussions. It has been suggested that the bee-keepers in each county in Ga. and Ala., form a county convention and send up delegates to the convention. We think the rule is a good one, and one that will be of mutual benefit to all concerned, and we hope they will do so at once, and appoint their delegates. The Executive Committee, will no doubt be able to get the fair reduced over the Railroads and Steam boats for delegates.

Yours &c.,

THOS. J. PERRY, Sec.

We are much pleased to see the interest that is now being manifested in this noble science apiculture, we shall look forward with great pleasure to the contemplated meeting of the Georgia and Alabama Association, we have no fears but every effort will be put fourth by its officers to make it one of the most interesting gatherings, of the kind that has ever met in the South. We hope to see many ladies in the convention. Here is a field of labor which is both useful, pleasant and healthy for the ladies. Out door exercise is just the thing for many that has been housed up all their lives, until their constitutions are nearly destroyed. Let their be a general gathering, as many topics of great interest will be discussed. [Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

Convention.

EDITOR BEE WORLD,—If I am correctly informed the next convention of the bee-keepers association of Ga. and Ala., will meet in Oxford, Ala., on the third Wednesday in August next. If that be so I shall try and be on hand, and hope to bring several with me. We hope to meet many of our Alabama aparians there, who will be willing to dispense light and knowledge to us, the uninformed, and in order that no one shall be taken by surprise. We shall invite the next convention to meet in the city of Athens, Ga., in 1875.—We shall also offer an amendment to the convention, so as to provide for a semi annual convention, instead of annual. We hope to see this puestion discussed in the BEE WORLD before the convention meets in August. The BEE WORLD is a welcome visitor to our house, for it imparts the information the South has long needed, and I humbly trust that every bee-keeper in the South will patronize it. What say you to the changed proposed?

OGLETHORPE.

Near Livingston, Ga., April 23d. 1874.

We are pleased to see the deep interest now being manifested in apiculture, and the welfare of the association. We hope to see, a general attendance. The constitution can be amended so as to allow of semi annual meeting of the association, where the association meets only once a year. It does not give so good an opportunity of learning as when they meet ofner. We hope to see a general turn-out at this meeting. Let the South be well represented. [Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

THE APIARY—THE QUEEN BEE.

The bee is considered by naturalists as belonging to what are called per-

fect societies of insects, and the different associations, or colonies of bees, comprises three descriptions of individuals, and are distinguished by an appearance and cast of character peculiar to itself. The queen bee, as she is generally called, I consider the mother bee. This name is more appropriate, to designate the function which properly belong to her in the economy of the hive—not from any power of enacting laws to the rest of the colony, nor from any useful labor which she performs, such as building combs or the storing of honey, etc., but her position is simply the laying of eggs, from which the young are reared, and she thus becomes the means of extending and perpetuating her species. She is very easily distinguished from all other bees in the hive. Her body is long and tapers gradually to a point; her wings are short, reaching but little beyond her middle, and ending at about the third ring of her abdomen; her wings are very strong sinewy; her head is rounder; her trunk or thorax is more slender and not as long as the worker bee; her legs are longer; they have neither brushes nor baskets, for the collection of pollen; she differs in color from all other bees in the hive; the upper part of the body is a bright black; the under surface of the legs are of a dark orange, or inclining to a copper color; the hind legs are longer and somewhat darker than the rest.—Speaking of the common black bee, many people at the present suppose that the queen governs and controls the entire colony. In discussing this point, my experience will necessarily lead me to differ, on some points, from writers whose *ipse dixit* is generally received as orthodox. I firmly believe

the queen to be a creature of the colony of worker bees, and a subject to their power and control, from the time the egg is deposited from which she is reared, up to perfect maturity, and through her whole life. It is a conceded fact, I believe, by all practical and scientific apiarians, that the worker bees have the power to rear themselves a queen at any time, when destitute of one, and they have eggs that produce worker bees. These eggs can be taken from any part of the hive when in the worker cells, and they will produce the results when cared for alike. Some have called these eggs royal eggs that are found in the worker cells that produce the queen. This foolish idea has sprung from such men as Huish and some others. I believe that Huish did advocate this idea, while Huber wrote to the contrary. The egg that produces the worker is of a female character or nature, and that the workers have the power at will, and when necessary to make use of the means given them, to take such eggs and develop such a bee as is called the queen at any time. This is done by the quantity and quality of food given, and fully developing a perfect mother bee. This is done in the larvæ state. The amount of food and quality and quantity to bring fourth a full grown queen is placed in the cell before it is sealed up—enough to mature and develop her before she emerges from her cell. They seem to fully understand the amount necessary. Remove the queen from the swarm for a few minutes, and see the confusion there without a mother. As soon as they properly understand that they have met with a loss, which will be but a few moments, what do they do? They don't break up keeping house, nor do

they despair. In a few minutes you never would suspect anything wrong. Examine the hive in from twelve to fifteen hours and see the number of queen cells in rapid progress. You would find perhaps, from five to fifteen. The cause of raising so many is a mystery to many. They seem to lay in for enough while they had the eggs to do with. When these queens are hatched they are all destroyed but one, by the workers generally. Sometimes the queens gets together, and the battle is severe until one conquors, which is done almost instantly. There is no sovereign power by the queen in the hive. There is perfect hostility between the pueens, while the workers seem to like them, and will feed a good many queens if they are kept in the wire cages, so that they can't get out or the queens get to each other. We have often seen the workers drive the young queens out of the hive after the second swarm came off, and either sting or smother them to death.

[Ed.]

How IT PAYS.—The Star Spangled Banner for April, contains five columns of fine type, exposing the swindling concerns of the day. It gives an account of the collapse of the notorious Union Furnishing Co., of Chicago, the arrest and closing up of the Magnolia, Iowa, Gift Swindle, a full expose of the Tricks and Traps of America, and innumerable other ventilations of the Quacks, Swindlers and Hnmbugs that prey upon the public. The Banner has long stood at the head of the as an expositor of swindling, and this number is worthy the attention of everybody. Six cents buys it of any news-man or it will be sent by address—
Banner, Hinsdale, N. H.

Ladies' Department.



For the Bee World.

Questions.

EDITOR BEE WORLD:—A few days since while visiting a cousin, I had the pleasure of reading the BEE WORLD. I notice that it is published in the interest of bee culture, and judging from your correspondents that this branch of industry is not alone attended by man. I see you have lady correspondents, and lady bee-keepers. For some time, I have felt quite an interest in this department, but it was on the old fashioned plan, of keeping bees in the log or box hive, and robbing or murdering had to be resorted to obtain the honey, and then it came in a very bad condition.

I wish to ask you if I can handle the Italian bee with more safety from being stung, than I can the black bee. I find sometimes it is quite difficult to handle the black bees without being stung, which neither is pleasant, or very agreeable. Will they store up more honey than the black bee? Will they protect themselves better from the moth than the black bee?

If you will answer these simple but useful questions, you will confer a favor on a novice in bee-keeping. I will report again soon.

Very kindly yours,
Miss N. A. W.

Mobile, Ala., April 7th, 1874.

First—you can handle the Italian bee much easier, or with less liability of being stung than you can the black bees. Their disposition is by far the

best, but they are not destitute of that disposition which is implanted in most all living creatures.

Second—they will store up more honey than the black bees. They are both stronger and better workers—will stand the cold much better, and can penetrate the depth of flowers much farther than the black bees.

Third.—As to the moth ever troubling them we never knew, or heard of a case, neither did we ever hear of one being robbed by the black bees.

Take them all in all, they are the bees to raise.—Ed.

Literary Notices.

ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE. This large and reliable monthly, so beautifully illustrated, is on our table. No farmer ought to be without it.—Only \$1.50 per year. Address, Journal of Agricultural Company, St. Louis, Mo.

NEW ORLEANS CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, comes regular on time. Wish we could place it in the hands of every family. A most excellent paper.—The organ of Ala. Miss. and La., Conferences, of the M. E. Church South. Rev. Linus Parker, D. D. Editor.

AGRICULTURIST AND FLORAL GUIDE, Mexico, Mo., by our old friend, and beeist, G. W. Church, formerly editor of the apiculturist. The journal is one that will be highly appreciated by all lovers of agriculture, and the floral department.

THE GEORGIA COMMONWEALTH, published at Atlanta, Ga. This large weekly displays an unwonted amount of energy in its management, and bears the impress of a masterly hand, under the combined labors of Col. Sawyer and Judge Hood. The people may look for a welcome companion at the fireside.

Kruschke Bros., twenty-two page pamphlet, describing rape culture, its value as a farm crop, honey plant, &c. has been received. Its a valuable little book to any interested both in bees and farming. Send 10 cents for a copy, to Kruschke Bros., Berlin, Wisconsin,

EDITOR'S TABLE.



An Apology.

No doubt many of our readers are anxiously looking for the journal.—Without entering into details, let us say: The poor facilities for publishing the journal, and the uncertainties of getting it out on time compelled us to make preparations to do our own work. This preparation was not commenced until nearly the middle of the month. To prepare an office for such work, and the material to run it, is no small job, but we are now doing our own work, although a little behind, but readers be patient, and we will make you twice glad. In our great haste to get the journal out, we cannot give it the attention we hope too, when we have more time.

Honey Plants.

KRUSCHKE BRO'S.—These gentlemen are deserving of much credit for their zeal and energy, in introducing in this country, rape, as a honey plant. From the best authority we can gather, rape is considered one of the best farm and honey plants grown in Germany. It is said to be one of the best farm crops raised.

We would advise our bee-keeping friends to obtain some of this seed at once. Address Kruschke Bro's, Berlin, Wisconsin.

Mr. A. I. Root, more particularly known as Novice, says, in April number of GLEANINGS, if we had been over his experiments detailed in vol. 1, we would not have misunderstood his remark. We believe we have been over some such experiments, and very candidly think we understood him.

Our attention was drawn to this more particularly from the fact the articles very much reminded us of the inscription we once heard of upon a sign. "All kinds of twisting and turning done here." And now the young man says we will do him a favor if we will show Mr. K. his error, etc. * * * * We have no dispute with either you or Mr. K., neither do we wish to find any fault of your very wise anticipation of the journal.

Your criticism reminds us of those words that are so familiar with every little school boy. We cannot but repeat them, but in kindness:

"What's your jargon o'your schools,
Your Latin names for horns and
schools;
If honest nature made you fools,
What says your grammars?"

A set o' dull conceited hashers,
Confuse their brain in college class-
es.

They go in stirks, and come out
asses—

Plain TRUTH to speak,

Give me a spark of natures fire;
That's the learning I desire;
My muse, though homely in attire,
May touch the heart.

The long continued rainy weather will prove very disastrous to many swarms of bees, unless they are fed at once. They have large broods on hand, and their stores of food exhausted. They will either swarm out, or

perish in the hive. Feed them at once. Let no time pass without a thorough inspection of all the hives.

Swarming commenced about the 20th of March, and up to the 10th of April the weather was remarkably fine, and bees done splendid, but lo, a cloud of sorrow came. They, as well as the farmers have been overtaken with sad disappointment, but rally to their rescue. A little time and expense will save them, or the most of them.

Do Bees Destroy Grapes?

This question comes to us, asking if bees destroy grapes. We have made both grapes and bees a specialty—having cultivated grapes on the same farm, quite largely, and such varieties as the most tender kinds. We have experimented with them some, to see if they were such rascals as some reported them to be. We have placed a few clusters of the Delaware grapes in a box of bees without any food, and they starved to death. They never touched the grapes at all. We have also placed, or hung clusters of grapes on the side of the hive where the bees was hanging out for weeks, and they never touched them. We have had grapes by the bushels to hang on the vines until winter—not pretending to gather, only what we wanted, and not a grape was ever injured.

While attending the State Fair two years ago in Indiana, a man informed us that he, a short time previous, would have been qualified that bees did puncture grapes. He said no one could convince him otherwise. He finally discovered a small bird, still smaller than the humming bird, to work around his grapes. He killed

fifty-three of these birds, and no more grapes were injured. A lady also gave about the same experience. She destroyed large numbers of these birds, and no more grapes were injured. Bees will starve to death before they will puncture grapes—but stop, says one, we know better—we know they will. Well who are these bee-keepers? Are they practical, scientific men in apiculture? We hear from many good writers whose name is by far greater than their experience, much like some so-called practical farmers, who say that bees injure their buckwheat by taking out the sweet. Bah, what foolishness! Bees was made to carry pollen from flower to flower, and gather the sweets that are constantly secreting and passing off in the atmosphere. They cause the fructification of the fruit, and will suck the juice from the fruit when broken, for its sweets.

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Saplin clover, nine dollars per bushel. All kinds of grass, and other seeds for sale. Send along your orders to

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FRYING SIZE.

Early in June I will be able to fill orders for Young Birds, of all, six varieties of my pure bred stocks, viz: Light and Dark Brahma, Buff, White and Partridge Cochins, and Black white-crested Polands. Price \$1, each, boxed and delivered to Express R. I. as directed.

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My stock is all from the BEST selections of Imported and Prize Birds.

R. T. HOYT,

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Italian Queen Bees

FOR 1874.

Thirteen years experience in propagating. I shall breed direct from imported mothers, warranted pure and fertile. Those purchasing bees of me will get what they bargain for. Send for my circular.

WM. W. CARY,

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Prolific Italian Queens.

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I will furnish full stands in Langstroth's Hives, early in the Spring, at \$15,00 per stand, and QUEENS at \$5,00 after 1st of May, purely tested, and in their highest grade of purity.

Also Eggs from the following six leading varieties of POULTRY:

	Per doz.	Per doz.
Light Bramahs	\$2 50	Ruff Cochins - - - \$4 00
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I have a few pair of light Bramahs at \$5,00, and a few extra Cocks yet to spare; one part Cochin Cock, eight, months old \$5,00, White Leghorns \$3,00, and a few others.

My Poultry was selected with care from the best strains in the country.

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ALSIKE CLOVER SEED for sale. Per pound, 30 cents; per bushel \$15.00. Address

HENRY HUFF
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ITALIAN QUEEN BEES



Imported and home-bred from imported mothers. PURE as the PUREST and CHEAP as the CHEAPEST.

Southern Bee-Keepers will consult their interests by sending for my price

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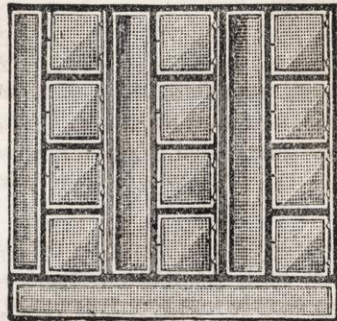
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500 HONEY EXTRACTORS.

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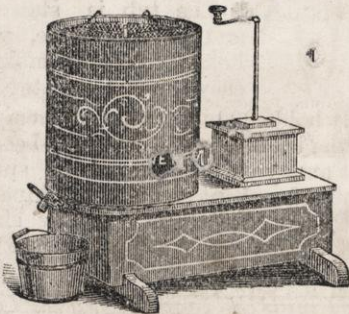
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