The Southland queen. Vol. III, No. 2 June 1897

Beeville, Texas: The Jennie Atchley Company, June 1897

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The SOUTHLAND QUEEN.

BEEVILLE TEXAS,

June, 1897

The Southland Queen.

Monthly. **Devoted to the Exchange of Thoughts on Apiculture.** $1.00

Vol. III. BEEVILLE, TEXAS, JUNE, 1897. No. 2.

BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION.

THE S. A. & A. P. R.R. CO. ANNOUNCES THE RATES TO CAMERON.

The Jennie Atchley Co., Beeville, Tex. :—

Your letter of the 15th inst. received and contents noted.

We are willing to sell excursion tickets to Cameron on the certificate plan. This account of the Texas Bee-Keepers' Association which will meet at Cameron July 16, 17.

A copy of this letter is sent to Mr. L. B. Comer, G. P. A. of the Ft. W. & R. G. Ry. at Fort Worth, Texas, and he will advise you how to proceed in the matter and will also name a Joint Agent at Cameron.

For your information would say that all parties will purchase one way ticket, paying full fare, take receipt at time ticket is sold, and these receipts, after having been signed by your Secretary at Cameron and stamped by Agent, will authorize return tickets at one-third fare, provided there are Fifty certificates presented.

Yours truly,

E. J. MARTIN, G. F. & P. A.

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sincerest sympathy. His brother, John, wrote thus of him May 26: "My dear brother William has gone from us. He died on the 19th

If the mesquite does not come to our rescue some time this month our hopes for a honey crop are gone until fall.

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We have just turned out 1,200 large sized Benton cages for J. B. Case, Port Orange, Fla. Bro. Case is a good queen breeder and deserves patronage.

It has been hard for us to keep sections and foundation to supply the demand. While bees have not done well in this immediate neighborhood it is evident they are doing well in other places.

By all means you must not miss the bee meeting at Cameron, July 16, 17. Just see what Judge Terral has offered, which is part of the programme, and the Judge just means what he says, too. Don't forget it.

We have just received the sad intelligence of the death of Wm. Mueller, of Peters, Texas. He was one of our old customers and a good bee-keeper. He made an order which we received on the 20th of May, dated the 18th, and he died on the 19th. We, one and all, extend to the bereaved our sincerest sympathy. His brother, John, wrote thus of him May 26: "My dear brother William has gone from us. He died on the 19th of May. He was born on June 23, 1871, and came with his parents from Emden, Germany, to this country in January, 1882. He was very fond of his bees and everything that belonged to the apiary."

It has become quite common for customers to order queens by telegram. We have been filling such orders this spring, and they range from 30 to 60 queens, and all have gone promptly so far.

We are glad to tell you that our boiler is now repaired and we are again running on full time, and we will soon turn out all the orders we have on hand. We wish to thank those who have so patiently waited for their goods.

Our bees have been doing better for two weeks, but it now looks as though this was to be an off year with us. Bees have been getting honey enough lately to breed up and make queen rearing go easy, but have not stored any surplus. If the mesquite does not come to our rescue some time this month our hopes for a honey crop are gone until fall.

A SANITARY BEE HIVE.

ARTICLE NO. 6.—THE ACME FRAME —ECLECTIC.

The Acme hive, as I explained in art. 1, is the outgrowth of the principals of the Langstroth, Quinby, Dakin and other hives, but eclectic in construction, and the same holds true for the Acme frame—the best of all combined in one. We have had in our yard in Onondaga county some thirteen different frames whose individuality consisted in varying thickness and width of top, side and bottom bars; with frames whose top bar has been thin, heavy, diamond shaped; frames with middle bars and frames without bottom bars. We have experimented with self-spacing frames, spacing by shingle nails, by tacks, by the ends being wound, by pieces of wood being tacked at the corners, by blind staples, etc.

From experimenting with these has the Acme frame been evolved, and proves itself free from catching on each other in removing and inserting and not liable to crush bees. (See cut in March number.) An interesting history might be written on the development of the frame and the experiments by such authorities as Langstroth, Quinby, Neugborg, Adare, King, Miller, Taylor, Heddon, Lewis, Snow, House, Fuller and others. But the Acme frame is taken from the Albert Dakin self-spacing device of 1862.

The Acme frames are all wood, ⅜ in. thick and are self-spacing as shown in fig. 7; the corners of the frame are 1½ in. wide and are recessed between, on top, sides and bottom, just a bee space and when in position the four corners touch the four corners of the next frame, thus making the space between for the bees to pass and repass just two bee spaces. In a frame constructed this way there is no end shucking, no side shucking. The end bars are recessed the same as the top and bottom bars which allows free passage for the bees all around and avoids the possibility of crushing bees in moving from one apiary to another or in manipulation. The top bars rest on tin rabbets and when in position in hive the bees cannot go back of the rabbet to glue them together. They will slide to and fro with remarkable ease as there is little or no glue to contend with. The idea of spacing the frame at the top as well as at the bottom meets all practical requirements, and is much better than the Quinby close end frame for it kills fewer bees in manipulating. In lifting the frame up out of the brood nest they do not catch in one another, neither do they in replacing, in fact in replacing they will wedge each other apart at the bottom without crushing any bees. We all know how

the old non-spacing frames would often come together at one lower corner while the other lower end was wide apart. This often caused the bees to build out one side of foundation and do nothing on the other side for the reason that the bees could not get there. This accounts for the many blank spots on the combs—the frames are not spaced at the corners of the bottom bar. Turn up any old hive that has not got closed end frames and see for yourselves how they look and you will wonder that the bees do so well.

The union of the two factors, spacing at the top and spacing at the bottom, is the secret of good combs.

The automatic split top and bottom bar foundation fastener is a great advantage and foundation can be put in quick and easy. No wire, melted wax or electricity required. A couple of nails will draw the two pieces of top bar together and hold the foundation secure. Wired brood, Vandusen's medium, is the best foundation to use if one wishes to avoid labor, mussing with wire or wire imbedder wheel, hot wax or crushed combs.

In art. 3, p. 337, I stated, "The summit of perfection in bee-keeping cannot be obtained by using the brood frame of the Langstroth dimensions or with a shallow one-tier section tray." But it can be obtained easy enough by the use of a deeper tray, 10 in. deep, 15 in. long, 1½ in. inside. This will give the Ideal bee hive. This also gives the metric system—one frame answers for all purposes—a brood frame and when empty of comb a section holder. In a deep frame we all know that bees winter far more satisfactorily than in shallow frames. They breed up in spring more rapid. Hence with a frame 10x15, inside measurements, we have the same number of square inches we have in the Langstroth and a trifle less than the Quinby, thus getting between these two great lights and accomplishing better results, as has been proven time and again by Albert Dakin, but Mr. Dakin makes his frames only for brood and I use mine for both section holder and brood chamber. This frame will hold the following: 12 half pound sections, 2½x5; or 8 three-quarter pound sections, 3¾x5; or 6 one pound sections, 5x5; or 4 one and a half pound sections, 7½x5, and all can be mixed in one frame or shipping crate. A shipping case 15, 20 or 21 in. long and as many tiers wide will accommodate any of the above sections.

In conclusion let me answer a recent inquiry: "Is not the Acme frame too wide, it being 1½ in.?" No; if you have ever carefully observed how bees build their combs naturally in any place where there is not a frame, and measure where it is attached at the top you will invariably find it to be 1½ in. thick or wide. This being the way the bees build the Acme frame conforms to their habits of building combs. Such a frame is capable of holding stores that will carry the bees through the winter or when extracted there will be much honey. Follow up this measuring carefully and see how the bees

build combs naturally; measure the space between the combs at the top containing sealed honey and you will observe it to be as near ¼ of an inch as possible, the space between two combs or drone brood to be exactly ⅜ of an inch, the space between worker brood to be nearly ½ an inch, and the space between two combs below the brood to be from ⅝ to 1⅜ and even more (this is where bees build naturally). Now let us reverse the order. Take a pin and run it through the honey. At the top it is as near 1⅜ as possible on ripe sealed honey, through sealed drone brood you will find it to be 1⅛, on worker brood 1, on empty combs below the brood 1, and the depth of worker cells ⅞ of an inch. This being the architecture of a bee's nest of combs it is the bee master's wisdom to conform to the natural laws of the bees, and in the mechanical construction of his frame they must be made simple and universal.

The frames are the 10x15x1½, and will take all the above sections and can be used as a brood frame. It can be reversed, upside down, if anyone thinks there is wisdom in doing so, or can be used as a suspended frame and never be reversed. It is the outcome of another group of ideas, as presented by S. Snow, of Fayettville, New York, in 1878.

His frames were of the 10x15 pattern. Close end bars, the top and bottom bars have no projection the way they were hung in the hive, a screw was placed exactly in the middle of the end bars projecting out sufficiently to rest upon tin strips tacked across the ends of the brood chamber at the center. It was very nice in theory, when empty, to look at but when put into practical use it took four hands to manipulate, two to hold them in position and two to handle, for the very reason the honey at the top being the heavier they would revolve in spite of all one could do. He had two other ingenious devices but neither proved successful.

The next reversable hive was by Mr. Shuck, of Iowa. Just what that was I do not exactly remember. I rather guess it did not amount to much as we hear nothing of it now-a-days. Then came the Heddon plan. Then the Salisbury, and now the Vandazenbaker and Dr. Tinker.

I have carefully looked into and studied up the points presented by these eminent inventors and find much to interest me. About 1858, some three years after my commencing to keep bees, Mr. Albert Dakin being my teacher, while manipulating a Langstroth hive we accidentally broke the top bar of the frame which was very heavy with honey and brood, in such a way that it was impossible to replace it, the honey running out. How to save the honey and brood was a question. After a while we reversed the comb and nailed a projecting bar on the bottom bar. In this way we returned it to the hive—brood up and honey down.

Dakin expressed himself in this way: "Teft, in about ten days you can draw out that comb, the brood will all be hatched and you will have a nice lot of honey to eat." In about two weeks Mr. Dakin returned, so we went for that frame of honey. Upon lifting the comb, to our astonishment and amuse-

ment, there was not a particle of honey in it, it was all brood. We returned it of course, and wondered where all the honey had gone to. Upon examination of the surplus boxes (the 10-pound boxes used in those days,) they were nearly all full of honey. Says Dakin, "That beats my time altogether." This set me thinking. I reasoned that if bees will take out the honey by reversing the combs and elevate it to the surplus boxes and at the same time fill the reversed combs with brood, why would it not be a good plan to make hives that the frames all would reverse? So, after long thinking, I built a hive in 1860 and run the first swarm into it in 1861. It proved to be an off year for honey so no reversing of combs took place until 1864. (The war and other business took all my attention in these days).

To make a long story short, when I did reverse the combs, brood up and honey down, to my chagrin they did not remove the honey as in the first instance. Nothing daunted, I experimented to see why they would not remove the honey. I did not discover until 1883 why the bees would not remove honey when their combs were reversed. I uncapped one comb and reversed it and lo and behold the desired result was obtained. The honey went up and the queen filled the empty cells with eggs.

Having found out that this would work I commenced to build the Acme reversable frames. I have spent time and money and many nights of thinking working out the problem of bees elevating honey out of the brood combs and placing it in the surplus sections and having all the brood combs filled with brood. My competitors failed because they reversed the hive and did not uncap the honey, therefore nothing was gained. By reversing combs, one at a time, just at the close of the day, the bees extract the honey and convey it to the sections. This gives the queen more room and we have less combs to handle, and another thing of importance, they will in most instances destroy all queen cells. Any how we get the honey placed where we can sell it in a marketable shape.

An inquiry has been forwarded me asking how to prevent the bees passing into the ventiduct or space between the division board and side of hive, described in previous article. This space is not only to act as a ventilating medium, a protection against climatic changes, a manipulation space and the key note of enlarging the brood nest at pleasure, but is also a place for young bees to cluster in instead of over the outside of hive in hot weather. J. W. TEFT.

South Wales, N.Y.

NOTES FROM JAMAICA.

DESCRIPTION OF QUEEN-REARING HIVE—THE HONEY FLOW.

I have received the "cell stick" you sent me, and have made some very fine cells. I want to tell the readers of the SOUTHLAND QUEEN about the hive I use for rearing queens, and I am having good success with it.

I have been in the bee business for twenty years and have for a

long time wanted such a hive as I will describe. Concerning queen rearing I have carefully read everything that has appeared in the QUEEN, as well as in the Lessons to Beginners. I have looked up Doolittle, Alley, Cook, Cowan, and all the other great guns in our business, and have learnt many good points from each one, but I never have been satisfied with any hive I have seen or read of for queen rearing, so after much study and thought of the queen hive question I have settled (until I find something better) on the hive I want.

This hive is 25 in., inside measurement, the same depth as the dovetailed hive, and the width is just right to allow of cutting an Hoffman frame in two and making two frames which fit in across the hive. This hive will hold 16 frames and three division boards with top bars half an inch wide. Tops and bottoms are made two inches wider all around than the hive body. I put a nice cleat around on the underside of cover so that it fits on like a tool chest cover. I nail on a cleat ⅜ x ⅞ for the body to rest on, and leave three entrances—one in front 12 inches wide, and one 3 inches wide at each end which is closed with a check till wanted. I use full sheets of foundation on half the frames, on the other half I use starters only. To begin work I bring home four frames of bees from one of my out apiaries, shake them off and run them in at the wide entrance. I cut out half a frame of brood from one of the frames, fit it into one of the small ones and give it to the bees as a bait to hold them as they have no queen. The next evening I give them a queen, and if all goes well we soon have that hive full of brood. The division boards are all at the ends up to this time, mind you. At the right time I take a thin tight-fitting division board and put it in between the eighth and ninth frame and note on which side the queen is. In a very short time the bees in the queenless end of the hive start cells. If there are not many bees going in on the queenless side of the division board I move the hive an inch or two and that catches them. I do not allow more than six good cells to be built. Two days before cells are ready to cut out I prepare nucleus ready to receive same. I have another hive, same size as the one described, with four entrances, one on each side and end, three inches wide, with four frames in each compartment. On top of the frames I have tight-fitting pieces of thick cardboard. I should have said that the top bars of the division boards are one-eighth of an inch higher than the top bars of the frames, so that the cardboard covers the frames between each division board and thus only one compartment is opened at one time.

My queen hives are thirty feet apart, so I never lose a queen by her going in the wrong hive. The ends of the queen box first mentioned can be used for rearing young queens if only a few are wanted.

If more cells are needed I hunt up the queen put her and the

frame she is found on on the other side of division board, and in a few days you have your cells again. You can always regulate the bees on either side of the division board by moving the hive an inch or two one way or the other. With thought and strict attention to dates, I think you will find this as good a queen-rearing hive as there is in use at present.

Our honey flow began the first of December and is still on. To-day orange trees are in bloom for the second time. Coffee has given two sets of bloom and another one coming.

Next year I want to exchange queens with parties in the northern states. I can send them in April, May or June, and I would want mine in August or September.

"MANCHESTER."

Mandeville, March 19.

PROGRAMME

OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

Everybody is invited to attend the Bee meeting to be held at Cameron, Tex., July 16, 17. Judge Terral says that ALL visitors from a distance are invited to his home. He has plenty of grapes and wine, and if there is not room in the house he has a big yard. Please consider this a special invitation to you and if you want to learn about bees and hear bee folks talk, better come to this meeting or you may regret it.

☞No hotel bills; everybody is invited.

It is understood that S. D. Hanna is our critic and each address will be criticised by him.

Following is the programme:

FRIDAY.

1. House called to order by President E. R. Jones.
2. Prayer, by Rev. A. J. Peeler.
3. Welcome address, by Judge J. M. McGregor.
4. Response, by E. Y. Terral.
5. Enrollment of members.
6. Election of officers for the ensuing year.
7. Report of special committees. Adjournment for dinner.

EVENING SESSION—2 P.M.

1. Collection for expenses.
2. "What hybrid bees are best for comb or extracted honey?"
3. "Best Race of Bees for Texas," Willie Atchley.
4. Paper, by C. B. Bankston.
5. "Comb Foundation," E. J. Atchley.
6. "Honey Dew," C. B. Bankston.
7. Contradictory, S. D. Hanna.

SATURDAY—8 A.M.

1. Essay, by Mrs. Mary Gordon, Belton, Texas.
2. "Ancient and Modern Bee-Keeping," by E. Y. Terral.
3. "Lesses of Bees," E. J. Atchley.
4. "Extracted Honey," A. C. Aten, Austin, Texas.
5. "How Bees Deposit Pollen in Cells," E. R. Jones.
6. Question Box.

A Test—"So you are the music teacher that answered my advertisement?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, sit down and play a couple of duets, so I can see what you can do."—Ex.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

C. B. Bankston, the subject of this short sketch, was born in Quitman, Clark county, Miss., October 4, 1860. At the age of eight years, with his father, he came to Burleson county, Texas, where he grew to manhood. His mother died when he was ten years old, and his father lived until August, 1884, when death claimed victory over him.

He was a rattling, careless boy, and he says he never studied any while at school, as he had a contempt for school books. Not until he reached the age of twenty-one did he realize the necessity of education. The first book he became interested in was Brick Pomroy's "Nonsense." It is said he committed nearly the entire book to memory. He is still an ardent lover of witty literature, such as the works of Mark Twain and the late William Nye.

He was a diligent student of "Nonsense" for two years, when he began to read papers. The first article ever written by him to a newspaper for fear it would find its way to the waste basket, he signed the name "Cousin." This was printed in the Rockdale Messenger. Since then he has written quite a number of articles to various papers. He is a great lover of literary societies, and has made many public speeches in these, being very careful in preparing his speeches, whatever the subject may be is certain to make his points clear, and has never yet failed to make his audience laugh. He is a member of the Methodist church; was elected president of the Epworth League and was very active in discharging his duty. He has since held different positions of public trust and is at present superintendent of a Sunday school. He says he never measures his love for a person by their clothes or their wealth.

He is a widower, has two children aged six and eight years respectively.

He does not remember when he first fell in love with the honey bee. It is said the only time he ever cursed in the presence of his father was when he found his first bee tree. He swore for joy. He was so carried away by the study of bees that he would lay awake of nights studying about some little weak swarm of bees that he had kept on fooling with until they had nearly played out. Mr. Bankston says he always had a burning desire to go into the bee business all his life, but had never been so fortunate as to learn anything on the subject, though he did not know at that time that there was such a business as practical bee-keeping. But finally he saw an advertisement of Judge Terral's, and he grasped the opportunity at once. He immediately sent for a queen and introduced her in two hours after the old queen had been removed. By a very hard struggle

he obtained the address of an American bee journal, subscribed at once and through this paper became acquainted with the Atchley family. With Jennie Atchley as teacher he soon learned all of the important rules for keeping bees in the South.

Being entirely without means he talked bee-keeping to the merchant with whom he was then trading until finally he was induced to invest in bees and gave him a position keeping them. This merchant was Mr. J. E. Nolan, of Thorndale, Texas. He began rearing queens from them, and has since been an active and progressive worker in that line.

A BEGINNER'S TRIALS.

A POOR HONEY YEAR—TROUBLED WITH ANTS AND WORMS.

I will you some of my experience in bee-keeping. A year ago I bought 12 colonies in box hives. I gave you an order for hives and some other supplies. Put the hives together and transferred the bees into them in the spring. Last year was a hard one on the bees as well as the farmers. During fruit bloom it rained continually so that no honey was gathered. It then turned dry and we had no rain of any consequence from May to October. I received from you two Italian queens and introduced them successfully. They soon filled the brood with eggs and raised some fine young bees, but before I knew it ants got into the hives and my queens and bees were gone. With starvation and web worms I am now down to three colonies. Don't you think that is enough to discourage a beginner. But I am going to try it again this year.

E. S. McCALL.

Wells, Tex.

FROM OLD MEXICO.

DR. STELL'S REPORT — ITALIANS LAZY—HONEY YIELD.

I had nine colonies spring count, increased to eighteen only. Ten colonies gave me 1,800 pounds of section comb honey which was sold for one dollar each, keeping back 50 pounds for table use. I could have sold 10,000 pounds if I had them. Yes; I am having an easy time with my bees and have no trouble in selling all my honey the moment it is taken from the hive. I have no plan to obtain comb honey, only to be certain that all colonies are strong and give them plenty room for the surplus when the honey flow is on. No two colonies worked alike, that is there was a difference in the mode of working. The pure Italians with me proved lazy and worthless while the hybrids were great honey gatherers and workers. The Italians seem to be very much like a "tenderfoot," afraid to leave the door. I suppose these bees could not learn Spanish sufficient to ask their neighbors about their honey fields, etc. The blacks and hybrids understood each other and gathered honey nicely. I have everything ready for this year's

work, and nothing to do in my apiary until the spring honey flow begins. Wishing all the good readers of the QUEEN a prosperous year and a good honey market, I am, yours, etc., W. M. STELL.

[We will add that Dr. Stell sold his honey elephant, weighing 8 pounds, for $20 Mexican money, which is $10 in American money. Dr. Stell is located at a mining camp 500 miles from a railroad, and gets $1 per section for his honey, and received $1,750 from ten colonies in Mexican money, or $875 American money, or $87.50 per colony. This is the largest sum known on record to obtain from ten colonies of bees in a single season. Dr. Stell is where money is plenty and the 500 miners located there have silver to pay for honey.—ED.]

SPRING MANAGEMENT.

BEE-KEEPERS' REPORTS—OUTLOOK IN MICHIGAN.

Such, I think, was the heading of an article in your valuable paper which struck me quite forcible. It shows how little we bee-keepers are apt to know about the condition of our colonies between the first of March and the first of May—what a contrast they will sometimes present. Those that appear strong in March by May are weak. Bee after bee dies off, dwindling down to a few if not all dead, while others are strong and ready for the season's work. What a difference there is in these spring reports? "About the first of April my bees were all right, but in May half my bees are dead." Such has been the cry.

Up to date I have lost 15 out of 75 colonies; one-half of these were nuclei and late swarms. They are all packed in chaff and are there to stay for ten days or two weeks yet. In this latitude I find it is best to keep them in winter quarters until warm weather has come to stay, as it seems to me they will breed up much better with a high temperature in the hive than when the temperature is low and sudden changes are sure to come. Bees have been gathering pollen quite rapidly for two weeks. The first dandelion made its appearance on the 7th and yesterday the cherry trees began to blossom. Spring is some ten days later than last year, though we have had plenty of rain. Farmers are now sowing their oats. Clover is in abundance, mostly of the alsike variety. Opposite my apiary there is some four acres of alfalfa that looks quite promising.

The average temperature for March has been 30 deg. The highest was on the 25th when it went up to 56 deg. at sunrise and at noon was 80 deg. in the shade.

Friends of the South, how does this report compare with yours?

I winter on summer stands packed in chaff. JACOB MOORE.

Iona, Mich., May 9.

Alum dissolved in hot water and applied to furniture or to cracks in the wall is certain destruction to vermin.

DRAWN COMB.

IT WILL NOT PROVE A BAR TO BEE-KEEPING.

Some of your readers may think that I was somewhat hard in condemning drawn comb in my article in the May QUEEN; but a trial has more fully convinced me that I am right. Bro. Root sent me six samples, and after putting them into the sections nicely with a Daisy foundation fastener, we gave them to the bees. In one instance the bees completed the sections all around the drawn comb and left it untouched. I have now placed them over another strong colony and hope to get them completed after a while. In one instance the bees did accept it, but it was three or four days later being sealed than any other sections around it that were drawn from thin foundation starters, so I am bound to believe that I can produce more comb honey from thin foundation than from drawn comb. The section which we succeeded in getting completed was placed on the breakfast table, and Mr. Editor, such chewing, such fish bone, such gobs of wax I never experienced before, it was harder to cut with a knife than comb built on thin foundation.

I see in an editorial in the May issue of the QUEEN that Bro. Atchley sounds its praise, especially for extracted honey producers, and believes it will prove a boon to comb honey raisers. It may do for extracted honey, but I don't believe it will do for drawn comb as the bees won't accept it until everything else around is used up. I know it will not do for comb honey producers. There are four things that will prohibit it coming into general use and they are: 1st. Wax will advance in price because of the increased quantity required for drawn comb. 2d. It will not go as far to the pound as thin foundation. 3d. A box that would hold 100 pounds of thin foundation would not hold more than twenty-five pounds of drawn comb, therefore freight would be four times as much. 4th. The comb honey consumers would become so disgusted with the hard fish bone and great gobs of wax that they would quit buying comb honey, and in twelve months our comb honey would not bring more than half what it now brings.

I wish to say that we are opposed to drawn comb strictly from a business point, believing it to be the greatest enemy, the most disastrous idea that has as yet been introduced into our ranks. In conclusion I wish to say that Bro. Root & Co. have our highest regards, and we thank them kindly for the many accommodations we have received at their hands and hope for a continuation of the same, and believe that when they see that it is not what a confiding public want that they will quit manufacturing it and so announce in their valuable journal.

O. P. HYDE.

Hutto, Tex., May 31.

[Bro. Hyde, if we are not mistaken, the A. I. Root Co. are not yet manufacturing deep cell foundation for sale. They are only

experimenting and sending out samples for bee-keepers to try and report on, and if they make a success of its manufacture and it proves ALL that they claim for it, no doubt they will offer it for sale. We offer the same caution as before—let's go slow in condemning a thing before it hatches. Let us hear from others who have tried it. We will soon be ready to report our success with deep-cell foundation. We say, as some of our friends have intimated, if it is a good thing it WILL go, if not it won't be long heard of.—ED.]

REARING QUEENS.

HOW TO FIX CELL CUPS IN HIVE—DEEP-CELL FOUNDATION.

We are getting very little honey this season, though flowers are plentiful. In regard to rearing queens, I like the Atchley method of moving cradle and all better than any way I have ever tried. I sometimes get as many as 19 out of 20 cell cups received, and some cells that are 2 inches long look as if there was food enough left to rear another queen after they had been hatched. In place of the hollow ended stick I use a wire circled at the end so it will fit all round in the bottom of the cell. This is much better than the stick, as it never hinders you from seeing the little bee and then you know that you are not mashing it and you can press the cocoon in the cell cup just as firm as you please. Why others have failed is more than I can tell. I believe I can do anything with bees that anybody else can, so if at first I don't succeed I try again. Moving the cocoon is much more convenient than to have to wait for royal jelly to be stored in a cell before you can get your cells started. I have tried the drone cell plan Mr. Jones speaks of in Gleanings, but it is not to compare with the Atchley plan.

The Roots have been rearing queens in the good old fashioned way, as they call it, but I call it the bad old way. I have tried it lots of times and the result was a lot of little queens that were not worth anything. That very thing has caused Root to lose lots of orders that I know of. As for their stock of bees I don't think that Roots can be beat, for I have had some of his queens in my yard in 1892 and 1893. The bees were gentle and good honey gatherers.

Now for the deep-cell foundation that Root is sending out. I have never seen any, but I am satisfied that it is a great thing. I know from experience that bees prefer deep-cell foundation. Weed is getting at it right when he takes the wax out of the bottom of the cell and puts it in the wall. I find the whitest comb is nearly pure wax while dark comb has got more or less fibre or tough web that is spun around young bees. For my life I can't see how this deep-cell foundation could be called adulteration if it is made of pure beeswax. What is the difference whether the same bees that gathered the honey made the wax or not, so long as it

is the product of the honey bee? Is it adulteration to feed bees on extracted honey for them to put in sections? L. L. SKAGGS.

Click, Llano Co., May, '97.

P. S.—I will tell how I fix my cell cups in the hive for convenience. I make a top bar of 1-inch lumber 2 inches deep, and a frame length inside; now make 2 end bars as long as your frame is deep outside; with an awl make a hole in each end bar ¼ inch from end; now you can drive a No. 8 wire nail through this hole in the top bar at each end, this nail is to hang on the rabbets same as other frames; now make another the same length as your top bar and wide enough to fill out the bottom of the frame less 2 inches just under the top bar for the cells to be built in, and nail the end bars fast with as many nails as you choose, but the top bar must not have but one nail at one end so it will revolve. You can turn it up and drop wax along the bottom side, and as soon as the wax is on the wood set your cell cup in it with open side up. That will stick them to your top bar, and when you put them in the hive you can turn them down and then they will hang straight down. I think that is the way that all queen cells should hang. This makes a frame of wood all but the 2-inch space for the cells. So when it is not in use you can hang it in some empty hive where it will be handy and by this plan you don't have any honey dripping or combs to cut holes in to get the cells off, and the cells are just right to put in a cell protector without any trimming.—L. L. S.

A BEE STORY.

STRANGE IF TRUE—A SWARM ONE-HALF QUEENS.

A box gum man who has kept bees for many years and knows a queen when he sees her, told me that several years ago about the last after-swarm that came out for him was not larger than his two fists and was proportioned about as follows, viz., workers one-fourth, drones one-fourth, and the strangest part of the story is that the remaining half were all queens. The bees were blacks, and hung on a limb for a day or two and disappeared.

He says he has asked many bee-keepers if they had seen the like, and all but one answered, "no." That one, a box gum man, said he had seen the same thing several times. Do any of our bee-keeping friends believe this can be possible?

I have seen a greater proportion of drones than the above swarm contained, but never more than a single queen. I tore up a log gum that had cast six swarms that season, the last being two days before the tear-up. In the gum I found no queen, two sealed queen cells, about three quarts of drones, and I don't think more than 200 workers in the entire outfit. There were no eggs, no drone brood, and only a piece of worker brood comb of about 8 square inches to which the queen cells were attached. The gum contained probably about 50 pounds of honey. GEO. MOTT.

Campbellton, Tex.

SOUTHERN BEE-KEEPING.

GATHERED SWARMS—SOME REMARKS ON HONEY FLOW, ETC.

[BY L. STACHELHAUSEN.]

If I have more fertile queens on hand than I have use for in the spring and even later in the season, I use them to form artificial swarms in the following way:

For this purpose I use a box with wire cloth bottom and cover similar to Alley's swarming box described in his book, "Thirty Years Among the Bees," with only a small difference. The cover of the box has an opening about 9x1½ inches in which fits a square tin funnel.

With this box and the funnel on it, I go around the apiary and take from the strongest colonies one or two combs from the supers and brush the bees into the funnel, from which they will roll down into the box. Then I go to the next colony and so on till I think I have enough bees in the box for a large swarm. The funnel is now taken off and the opening closed with a wooden block. The swarming box, with its bees, is now brought into a dark cellar. It is necessary to be careful that no queen is brushed into the box with the bees, and before the bees are brushed off, they should have plenty of time to fill themselves with honey. If they have not they should be sprinkled with sugar syrup while they are in the box. In a very short time the bees will show the uneasiness of queenlessness. About four hours afterwards a fertile or unfertile queen is dropped into the box among the bees. Very soon the new swarm will cluster on the wire cloth cover and can be hived about sunset the same day like a natural swarm.

This way of forming swarms and introducing queens is described in Doolittle's book on queen-rearing, but I used the plan many years before I read it in this book. The advantage of this plan is that we can form new swarms without weakening the old colonies to any extent.

The reader will see that all my artificial swarms are in the same condition as natural ones. I give them no brood or very little. Years ago I tried many different ways to form artificial swarms, but as a rule they did not give as much satisfaction as natural swarms. Since I have used the above described method I estimate the artificial swarm as fully as good as the natural one, and some years all my young colonies are formed artificially before any one of the old colonies will swarm naturally.

REMARKS.

In my former articles I described my ways of spring management and increase of colonies, and I will have something more to say about the management of swarms and parent colonies, prevention of prime and after swarms, etc., but before this I wish to tell our readers that it would be a great mistake

to follow a given plan on every and all occasions. In bee-keeping our best plans must be governed by circumstances.

In February and March my bees gathered no honey at all. Persimmon, in other years a good honey flow to stimulate breeding, did not bloom at all this year. Mountain laurel, abundant here, had only a few blossoms and did not give any honey. (By the way, this honey is surely not poisonous.) To stimulate the bees I fed some honey in the open air and in the hives, what I generally do not do at all.

About the first of April a very good honey flow commenced from mesquite, and I believe mesquite honey is the best we can get in Texas and fully as good as clover honey. This and a moderate flow from different flowers lasted till the horsemint commenced to bloom.

The difficulty here is to get the different kinds of honey separated. Some of it looks green and is of inferior quality, while more is yellow but fine tasting, and all this is more or less mixed with mesquite honey. My bees gathered honey from hoarhound, but I could not find out which kind of honey it was. Horsemint came in earlier than usual, a few days before the first of May, and is still in bloom. During the horsemint flow all other honey sources are neglected by the bees.

Strong colonies gathered surplus honey the first week in April and from the way in which mesquite put forth its bloom a good honey flow was to be expected. Under these circumstances natural or artificial swarming meant loss of this flow. Consequently I made only a few artificial swarms, devoted a few colonies to queen-rearing, prevented all swarming of my other colonies and managed them for honey production. The prevention of swarming was a success, as I only got three natural swarms from about 100 colonies.

Nevertheless, I wish to increase the number of my colonies and I am doing this by building up nuclei, which I formed for queen-rearing, or rather I let them build up of their own accord to form strong colonies. After the honey flow is over I divide these nuclei and expect to have them strong enough to fill two of my shallow cases this fall.

The reader will see that the difference in the honey flow caused me to follow the plan for management recommended by northern bee-keepers. Even the few artificial swarms I formed received empty combs or full sheets of foundation as soon as I found that the honey flow was unusually good, while in other years I used to give them starters only. It is a final rule with me that every colony which can gather more honey than is needed for the brood must have empty combs or at least, if such combs are not at hand, full sheets of foundation.

"My task in life," said the pastor complacently, "consists in saving young men." "Ah!" replied the maiden, with a soulful longing, "save a nice looking one for me."

Rural Teacher—What current events of great interest can you give me this morning?

Small Girl (eagerly)—My ma has just made twenty tumblers of jelly.

MILAM COUNTY NOTES.

WORK OF THE BEES—WILD BEES—FIGHTING BEES.

I say "Dear QUEEN," because it is from the heart. The QUEEN has grown in beauty and queenliness, until she is loved by all who read her pages. We had an unusually peculiar season this year for apiculture. Bees, as usual, commence gathering pollen and a little honey in January and February. March loomed up with warm weather and bees were booming. It seemed as though we would have a honey flow before we were prepared for it. We naturally looked for better times in April but were sadly disappointed. We had a few swarms the first few days in April which were suddenly checked by cold nights, and the rest of the month bees were on starvation allowance. They had nothing to do and would follow the apiarist by dozens all day long, buzzing about his head, delighted in trying to crawl in his eyes and ears. Stinging people passing the road was their favorite pastime. Some people have a perfect horror for bees, and as soon as they hear a bee they take their hats and commence fighting right and left. Some people pass our apiary at a gallop, fighting bees with their hats. Robinson Crusoe said, when he turned the goat loose, "That hunger would tame the devil." I know not whether that be true, but I do know hunger will not tame bees but make them more vicious. We have had a very good honey flow for the last three weeks from Indian head and horsemint. Wild china, too, has furnished a fine flow. Hoarhound has been blooming for more than a month and, I believe, always furnishes a good flow of nectar. I don't know of but one locality that supplies a surplus of hoarhound and that is taken up by bees from the woods.

Bee trees are plentiful this year. I have been out several times with an expert, and he never fails to find them. I have added several colonies to my apiary from the woods, and have standing in the forest, along Little river, several trees to cut. We had a fine rain last night and as June is the principal honey month in this country, we are looking for a good time yet. We have a fine demonstration this year of the difference in localities for an apiary. The post oak, or timbered country, remote from bottom or swamp lands, is not yielding much honey though horsemint is plentiful everywhere. At some places along Little river the flow is moderate while at other places the honey is "slushing."

E. Y. TERRAL.

Cameron, Tex., June 2.

GOOD FOR A "TAR HEEL."

I have been in the bee business three years and am well pleased. Have thirty five colonies of Golden beauties which I like best, as they are gentle and winter well on the summer stands. Have already taken out forty-three as nice sections of honey as anyone ever saw

from several colonies, and it continues to come in so fast that they have no time for swarming, having had only five so far.

I had a fine looking queen that did good work in her line last season but had not laid an egg up to the time I killed her a few days ago, although I kept her colony built up by adding brood and they stored lots of honey. Tell me through the QUEEN why she did not lay this spring.

C. R. RHYNE.

Longshoals, N.C., May 22.

FRIEND RHYNE,—I am not in the habit of answering questions through the journals, and yours is of such a nature that I will have to copy Dr. Miller's favorite answer, "I don't know." I would guess that she was injured by cold during the winter, and especially if she was in a weak colony. I have introduced queens sent through the mails in cold weather that were received in such a chilled condition that it was with much difficulty that they were revived, and although they remained in the hive and looked plump they did not deposit an egg. Possibly Mrs. Atchley can throw some light on the subject. W. H. PRIDGEN.

Creek, N. C.

[do not know of anything further to say than to mention that queens sometimes become egg bound after laying for a time. Again, some queens only receive a partial mating and soon lay out all their eggs. This is mostly caused by such queens being raised from worker larva too old and they are not fully developed queens, though they appear all right at first.—ED]

MISSISSIPPI ITEMS.

I now give you a report of my apiary to date. I wintered 25 colonies all in good condition, tho' I fed two or three colonies a little on account of late brood rearing. We had an unusually early spring, so honey and pollen came in good time. Swarming began the first Sunday in April. Three of my Italians sent out two swarms each. Only five blacks have sent out any swarms—one each. I managed to Italianize four blacks by tearing down all their queen cells and substituting Italian queen cells. One Italian colony absconded after being hived three or four days.

As my number now stands I have 46 colonies—32 Italian, 2 Holylands and 12 blacks. So far I have taken 55 pounds of saleable honey, the prettiest I ever saw, gathered from black gum and catalpa.

Having demonstrated the practicablity of getting section honey, lots of people throughout this county are adopting the frame hive. There seems to be great interest awakened among those who have bees in the system I have adopted. One man, who has two frame hives, told me a few days ago that he had taken 48 pounds from one hive. He has excelled me so far. R. A. WHITFIELD.

Westville, May, 1897.

Chollie — I suppose you think you know a thing or two?

Miss Kostique—Well, I'm acquainted with you and your friend, Gussie Saphead.

OUR SCHOOL

* Instructor *

Mrs. Jennie Atchley.

LESSON 23.

(1) Please inform me of the best device or machine for extracting honey from combs on a small scale? I am not a professional bee-keeper, but have kept enough bees for 40 years to supply my own table and for those on my farm. I used to take the American Bee Journal and Gleanings long ago, and now I have lost all track of their addresses. Will you kindly give them to me?—L. R. Stout, M.D., Cleburne, Texas, June 8.

(1) DOCTOR, — The best and cheapest machine we know of for your purpose is a 2-framed Novice extractor, which you will see listed in our catalogue. The addresses you desire are,—Gleanings, published by The A. I. Root Co., Medina, O.; American Bee Journal, G. W. York, editor, 118 Michigan street, Chicago, Ills.

(2) I have a few chaparral shrubs growing in my yard, the roots of which were sent me by a Texas friend, and I wish to know if it is much of a bee plant? My bees work upon it all the time and it is blooming profusely through the month of May. Will it grow from cuttings?—R. P. Johnson, Smithville, Ga., May 30.

(2) Chaparral is good for bees in some seasons, but as it blooms very early in this section (January,) the bees have but little chance at it as a rule. I do not know if if it will grow from cuttings or not, but I believe it would, as I notice it springs up very quickly when cut down. It grows natural all over the hills of this country. If it would bloom at a time when bees can work at it, I believe both the black and white chaparral will furnish honey and an abundance of pollen.

(3) Do you consider Cyprians a better bee than Italians? Are the 5-band Italians any better than the 3-band for honey, and if so in what respect? I keep bees for the honey they gather, and I want the best regardless of color. I look upon your judgment in this matter as the best source of information. R. Dallas, Ore., May 20.

(3) The Cyprians are better for honey in this locality, and the best word in their favor is that they have strong colonies at all times through the season, and when a honey flow comes they are ready for it, while the Italians will stop breeding at every little check in the honey flow, and at some of the best honey flows the Italians do nothing on account of not being strong enough to gather honey. The 5 bands are no better than the 3 bands as a rule, and if I were running for extracted honey with either 3 or 5-band bees, I should

expect to extract from the brood chambers, as the 3 bands will persist in filling every available space below with honey before they will enter the supers, and the 5 band are much the same, with, perhaps, a slight bit more tendency to deposit in the supers. If I had my choice I would have Holylands or Cyprians crossed with imported Italians for honey and all general purposes.

(4) I wish to ask a few questions through the QUEEN as you said you would take pleasure in answering the questions of your scholars. I am not only a young man but still younger in the bee business. Have six colonies in old fashioned box hives and wish to transfer them to the latest improved movable frame hives. In your transferring lesson (Profitable Bee-Keeping) you advise fruit bloom time as the best part of the season to transfer bees. Could I transfer now, with a reasonable degree of success, and get my bees ready for winter? Do not wish to keep my bees in these hives any longer, as I believe the framed hives are the only ones that there is any profit in, and really do not wish to keep bees unless they are in the latest improved hives. Want to start right or not start at all, and shall take great interest in my bees. I certainly shall take delight in raising honey for my pretty wife and sweet babies. There is an abundance of flowers everywhere this spring.—A. H. Porter, Carlton, Tex., May 15.

FRIEND PORTER,—I gave in my transferring lessons fruit bloom as being the best time of year to transfer, but it can be done at any time of the year successfully when the weather is warm and bees gathering honey. As a rule about fruit bloom brings a season when bees have least brood and honey to contend with, and it is not so much trouble to do the work. We transfer bees at any time of the year, but it is not safe when there is no honey coming in if there are any other bees about, as robbers will be so bad that they may take all the honey from the colony you transfer, unless you use great care. I am in hopes that you will raise plenty of honey for your pretty wife and sweet babies.

(5) I have a few questions that would likely interest your readers or the beginners, myself included. Please answer the following in the June QUEEN and oblige: a. When a queen is mated is she mated for life or does she mate several times during life? b. What is pollen, larva, etc? c. Can a queen lay worker and drone eggs at will? d. Give the quickest method of building up weak colonies? e. Can queens be mated in confinement or in any way except the natural way? f. Which goes out with the swarm, the old or young queen; I mean the first swarm? g. If the young queen goes out with the swarm is she mated before leaving the old hive? Those questions may seem foolish to you, but there are a great many people that cannot

answer them, myself included.—P. J. Foster, Throckmorton, Tex.,

(5) a. When a queen is first mated she is mated for life and never leaves the hive unless accompanied by a swarm. I have a few times seen queens crawl off from the hives without any bees with them, but robbers, ants or something else was the cause. b. Pollen is a sweet substance gathered from flowers, and what is implied by the old term bee-bread, and the bees carry it on their legs or pollen baskets. Larva is the young bees just emerged from the egg to sealed brood; after the eggs are sealed we call it brood and when hatched young bees. c. Yes; a queen has the power to lay either worker or drone eggs at will, just as we can move the right or left hand at will. d. The quickest way to build up a weak colony, aside from turning bees in with it, is to give the frames of hatching brood from other colonies. e. No way has yet come to light where queens can be mated in confinement or be mated in any way other than the natural one—by flying to the free and open air. f-g. In most cases the old queen goes out with the first swarm, and in fact when the bees swarm first there is no other queen to go out except the old one, as the young queens will not hatch for from one to fifteen days after a swarm issues naturally. I have noticed a few times where bad weather kept the bees from swarming the old mother queen was so old that she failed to tear down the rival cells, and a young queen would come out, kill the mother, and lead off the first swarm, but as a rule the old queen issues with all first swarms. There may be from one to a dozen young queens with any second swarm, and none of them are mated till the swarm is settled at home, and then the reigning queen will fly to meet a drone at about four to ten days old. What I mean by the reigning queen is the one that is successful in the combat for life, as all queens are killed after the swarm is hived, except one, and the killing is done by the queens themselves. A virgin queen can sting a rival so quick that the eye can hardly catch the operation.

(6) I am thinking of getting a few colonies of bees, but I know absolutely nothing about them. I want your paper, the SOUTHLAND QUEEN, that I see advertised in the Texas Stockman and Farmer, as it will likely give me all the information I need. Can I plant and raise flowers for the bees after the wild flowers have all disappeared? Will the orchard be a good place for the bees, it slopes to the north with a hill on the north side across the little valley and a rock fence on the east? Would these be protection enough for the bees? Excuse so many questions as I am so anxious to learn all I can about bees. In England honey is sold

in the comb in boxes weighing a pound, and they said it was just as the bees made it. Can that be so? If it is true, can the same be done here? People near here put sticks through goods boxes and flour barrels for hives. Should hives be placed on the ground or elevated. Mrs. H. E. Evershed, Henly, Tex.

(6) You can raise some flowers for the bees, but I hardly think it will pay you, as when it is too hot and dry here for wild flowers it is also for tame ones, and unless you can irrigate you will find it hard to raise them at such times. Yes; the orchard will be all right for the bees, and the hill and rock fence will be all the protection your bees will need in your locality if you use good hives. Yes; the honey you saw in England was what we call section honey, and the boxes contain one pound more or less. The same can be done in this country. You can place your hives on or near the ground if you have high ground for them, or if it is rainy and there is much moisture you had better put bricks or something of that sort under the hives to protect the bottom from rotting. Here we place our hives right on the ground, but it does not rain very much, and then there is no room for spiders or snakes, in fact we often set our hives down on the ground without a bottom board at all and they do all right.

(7) Here I come again to bother Mrs. Atchley. I now have 14 colonies, will have 40 or more soon, and I cannot sell all the honey these bees will gather here. Where will I find a market? What honey I do sell here is extracted. Have fixtures to run ten colonies for section honey and if I produce any at all I do not know where to sell it. Will you kindly give me some counsel on where to sell and how best to put the honey up?—Chas. W. Fager, Ingleside, Texas.

(7) FRIEND FAGER,—I never had as much nice section honey as I could sell, and would just like to have more than I knew what to do with at any one time. Now you go ahead and raise all the nice 1-pound sections you can and let me know when you get it ready and I will find you a buyer.

Three places, at least, are known where green snow is found. One of these places is near Mt. Hecla, Iceland; another, 14 miles east of the mouth of the Obi; and the third near Quito, South America.

Luling, Tex., June 4.—Yesterday a number of farmers went bee tree cutting in the Johnson pasture about a mile east of the village. They cut six trees and secured about 200 pounds of new honey, made from mint and chineta blossoms and as fragrant as a bouquet of flowers. John Deskin acted as master of ceremonies, and while a large number of the crowd have swelled heads this morning, all of them carried home a fair share of sweetness with them.

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E. J. Atchley, Editor and Business Mgr.
— Assisted by —
Willie, Charlie and Amanda Atchley.
Mrs. Jennie Atchley, Ed. and Manager of School for Beginners.

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BEEVILLE, TEXAS, JUNE, 1897.

IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

We have been asked by a great many to describe the different races of bees, especially the Holylands, Cyprians and Syrians. We will briefly touch on them here.

The Cyprians are natives of the Island of Cypress, whence their name. They are a yellow race of bees with few exceptions. The bees and queens are slender, somewhat smaller than the Italian. They nearly always have a yellow shield just behind the wings; are quick upon the wing; very strong, excellent honey gatherers; winter well, and are, as a rule, proof against robber bees.

The Syrian bees are found in that portion of Asiatic Turkey which lies north of Mount Carmel. They are about the same size as the Cyprians and their qualities are about the same. Their disposition is also much like the Cyprians, and differ very slightly from them in appearance, being a little more yellow when first imported, but when bred in this country for a while no one will, as a rule, be able to mark a distinction between the two. For a few generations they are grayer or have more of an ash color than the Cyprians.

The Holylands, or as the natives call them, "Holy" bees, are found in Palestine south of Mount Carmel. They are marked somewhat like the Cyprians, but their hair is so light at first, or when first imported, and for three or four generations, that they appear to be beautifully striped. Their size and shape is much like the other races above. They are very active

and fly far in quest of food, being the best bee for this country we have as yet tried. Now, taking it all and all, we are yet standing to our old statement that the three races of bees given above are practically and identically the same, with a little off color on account of different localities. The pure Italians are quite different when bred in this country a while. We are aware that most of the bee world is against us on these points, but when this matter is sifted down as it ought to be, the three races as above will be found to be one and the same.

Do not ask us to exchange queens with you after you have clipped their wings, as you had just about as well clip their heads off as they are not worth by half or two-thirds as much, commercially, as if their wings were not clipped.

THE BUSY BEE is the name of the Nebraska Bee-Keeper now. The first issue of the paper under its new name, is before us and from its appearance and make-up we guess it will be a great help to the craft. Emerson T. Abbott at its head is proof of its worth and usefulness.

BRO. PRIDGEN, of Creek, N. C., says another bee-keeper put in his appearance at our house on the 16th of April, and the judges say that so handsome a little fellow is not often found. He and his mother are both doing well. Hurrah for "tar heel" apiaries. May the little fellow prove a blessing to his parents, a shining light for all around him, and when he does this he is sure to make a good bee-keeper.

WE are glad to add to our X list this month the Constitution, a new paper just started at Cuero, Tex. A. J. Carothers stands at the masthead, which means that we are to have a paper of great merit, as Bro. C. is an old paper man, and we are sure he will not leave any stone unturned to make the Constitution what she ought to be—a paper for the people and by the people.

E. R. JONES, of Milano, Tex., writes under date May 18: "I have been sick for a little over a month, but am able to work again, and my wife has been sick also, and I tell you we have had a tough time of it. Our prospects are very slim for a honey crop this year as it has been so cool this spring. Horsemint is yielding a little now, but it has been too cool and dry for it." Bro. Jones, we know how to sympathise with you in your afflictions, as we were all sick for two months in early spring, and some of us not fully recovered yet. We hope you and your family may soon regain your former health.

WE will receive soon a new stock of imported Italian queens, through the A. I. Root Co., purchased from a different apiarist to the one we have heretofore dealt with, and raised by a good queen breeder. We are also looking for a shipment of Cyprians and Holylands direct from their native lands this month. The queen we had mailed at Jerusalem, which arrived this month three years ago, came with only one dead bee in the cage.

Texas Conventions for 1897.

South Texas Bee-keepers' Association.

Meets at Beeville, first Wednesday and Thursday in Nov., 1897. No hotel bills to pay. J. O. GRIMSLEY, SECY.
Beeville, Texas.

Central Texas Bee-keepers' Association.

Meets at Cameron, Texas, July 16 and 17, 1897. No hotel bills to pay.
S. D. HANNA, SECY.,
Temple, Texas.

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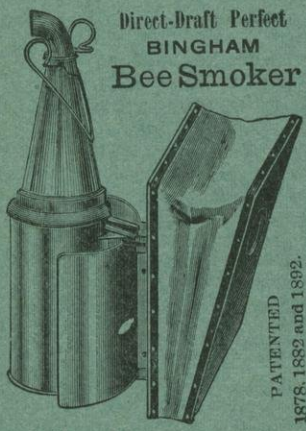

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Doctor,	3 1-2 inch stove	9 00 "	1 10
Conqueror,	3 "	6 50 "	1 00
Large,	2 1-2 "	5 00 "	90
Plain,	2 "	4 75 "	70
Little Wonder,	2 " wt. 10 oz.	4 50 "	60
Honey Knife,		6 00 "	80

All Bingham Smokers are stamped on the metal, patented 1878–1892. Knives, B. & H.

The four larger sizes have extra wide shields and double coiled steel wire handles. These **Shields** and **Handles** are an **Amazing Comfort**—always cool and clean. No more sutty or burnt fingers. The Plain and Little Wonder have narrow shields and wire handles. All Bingham Smokers have all the new improvements, viz: Direct Draft, Moveable Bent Cap, Wire Handles, Inverted Bellows, and are in every way **Absolutly Perfect.**

Fifteen Years for a Dollar! One-half a Cent for a Month!!

DEAR SIR,—Have used the Conqueror 15 years. I was always pleased with its workings, but thinking I would need a new one this summer, I write for a circular. I do not think the 4-inch Smoke Engine too large. Yours,

January 27, 1897. W. H. EAGERTY, Cuba, Kansas.

ROOT'S GOODS

Before placing your order for this season be sure to send for Root's

1897 Catalog ready Feb. 1.

Our 1897 hives, with improved Danzy cover and improved Hoffman frames, are simply "out of sight." Acknowledged by all who have seen them to be a great improvement over any hive on the market of last year.

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Cheaper and better than ever; clear as crystal, for you can read your name through it. Process and machinery patented December 8, 1896, and other patents pending. Samples of the new foundation free.

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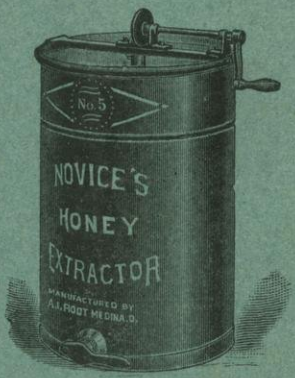

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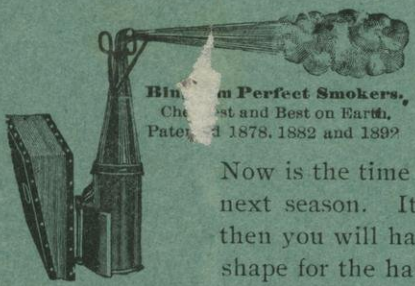
The Jennie Atchley Co.,

Beeville, Texas.



Bingham Perfect Smokers.
Cheapest and Best on Earth.
Patented 1878. 1882 and 1892

Now is the time to begin to prepare for the next season. It is best to order early and then you will have plenty of time to get in shape for the harvest when it comes.

Our 1897 catalogue is now ready. Write for it. It gives full instructions in Bee Keeping. The fact is, it is a complete book on Bee Keeping. FREE.