

The busy bee. Vol 8, No 12 December, 1897

St. Joseph, Missouri: Rev. Emerson Taylor Abbott, December, 1897

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Special Number.

PUBLISHED THE FIFTEENTH OF EACH MONTH.



A Monthly Journal Keeping and the other

to-Date and Progres-

devoted to Farm Bee Minor Interests of Upsive Agriculture.

Pains.

THE BUSY BEE.



^{20th} Dadant's Foundation.^{20th} Year Why Does It Sell So Well? Because it has always given better satisfaction than any other. Because IN 20 YEARS there have not been any complaints, but thousands of compliments. We Guarantee Satisfaction. What more can anybody do? Beauty, Purity, Firmness. No Sagging. No Loss. Patent Weed Process of Sheeting. Send Name for Our Catalog, Samples of Foundation and Veil Material. We sell the best Veils, cotton or silk. Bee-Keepers' Supplies of All Kinds. LANGSTROTH ON THE HONEY-BEE--Revised. The Classic in Bee-Culture-Price, \$1.25, by Mail. CHAS. DADANT & SON, HAMILTON, Hancock Co., ILL Please mention The Busy Bee. PRICES OF Bingham Perfect **Direct-Draft** Perfect Bee-Smokers and Honey Knives. BINGHAM BeeSmoker Smoke Engine { largest smok- } for doz. each. \$1 50 31/2 Doctor 9.00-1.19 6.50-1.00 5.00 -.90 .. .70 4.75-" wt. 10 oz 4.50-.60 80 0 18, 1882 and 1892 Wonder have narrow shields and wire handles. All Bingham Smokers have all the new improve-ments, viz: Direct Draft. Movable Bent Cap, Wire Handles, Inverted Bellows, and are ABSO-LUTELY PERFECT. PATENTED a month. Cuba, Kansas, Jan. 27, 1896. Dear Sur?-I have used the Conquerer 15 years. I was always well pleased with its workings, but thinking I would need a new one this summer, I write for a circular. I do not think the four inch "Smoker Engine" too large. Yours, W. H. EAGERTY. Corning, Cal., July 14th, 1896. me out Working from three to I have used Bingham Smokers ever since they came out. Working from three to seven hundred colonies twelve months in the year. I ought to know what is required in a smoker. The Doctor 3½ inch just received fills the bill. Respectfully, O. W. OSBORN.

With a Bingham Smoker that will hold a quart of sound maple wood the bee-keepers' trials are all over for a long time. Who ever heard of a Bingham Smoker that was too large or did not give perfect satisfaction. The world's most scientific and largest comb honey producers of Bingham Smokers and Knives. The same is true of the world's largest producers of extrected honey. Before buying a smoker or knife hunt up its record and pedigree. Please mention The Busy Bee. T. F. BINGHAM, Farwell, Mich.

THE BUSY BEE.

The only bee paper in the United States edited exclusively in the interest of the farmer bee-keeper and the beginner.

Devoted to Bees, Poultry, the Home, and other kindred subjects. Fifty cents per year, with valuable premiums.

EMERSON TAYLOR ABBOTT, Editor and Publisher, St. Joseph. Mo.

THE BUSY BEE FREE.

Select \$10.00 worth of any of the goods listed on the following pages, and forward the money to pay for the same any time before March first, 1898, and I will include the BUSY BEE FREE OF CHARGE for one year.

Not good after the date mentioned. Get your neighbor to join with you and make the amount \$15, and I will send the paper to both of you.

EMERSON T. ABBOTT

CASH DEALER IN

Apiarian Supplies, Seeds, Agricultural Books, Etc.







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Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Hats and Trunks

The Largest Stock and Lowest Prices.

503 Felix Street

August Schwien Stove Co.

Monarch Vapor Stoves and Refrigerators.... Superior Stoves and Furnaces Hardware and Tools Tinwork to order.

We solicit correspondence, if you are in need of anything in the above line. We guarantee to save you some money.

419 EDMOND STREET,

St. Joseph, MO.

The St. Joseph Weekly Herald and The Busy Lee will both Le sent for one year for the price of The Herald, \$1.00. The Herald is a family weekly paper, giving all the news of the day and in addition it has a number of special departments which connot fail .0 prove interesting and helpful to every member of the family. It is Republican in politics, but this subject is not pressed to the exclusion of others. If you want to see a sample copy, address Weekly Herald, St. Joseph, Mo.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.



Quaker Cough Drops

FIFTY CENTS WORTH OF MEDI-CINE FOR ONLY FIVE CENTS.

A SURE CURE FOR

Colds, Sore Throat, and all Bronchial troubles. We guarantee Quaker Cough Drops will stop any case of Hiccough in five minutes. These drops are prepared from the formula of a noted Quaker physician, who used it in his practice for over forty years. These Cough Drops can be had at any retail candy or drug store, for 5 cents a box. If you cannot find them in the store where you do your trading, send 5c to us, and we will mail you a box. Manufactured by

DONIPHAN & CO. WHOLESALE CANDIES. St. Joseph, Mo. The "St. Joe" Hive.

LATEST.



BEST.

The most practical and the very best hive out.

Has all the good qualities of the famous Dovetailed Hive, and is far superior to it.

The illustration will give a clear idea of all its parts. In front one of the metal spacers leans against the hive. Inside of the hive, at the back end, where the three frames are removed, is shown the metal spacer in place. Standing beside the body of the hive is a super with one of the sections removed, showing the pattern slats. Here also can be seen the inside boards and the ends of the wedges, showing how the sections are keyed up and held in place. Lying on top of the hive and super is one of the frames, showing the wide top bar and the narrow bottom bar. All frames now have a heavy top bar. Back of the super stands the lid of the hive. This hive is the result of an extended experience as a dealer and a practical apiarist. It combines all the good qualities of many hives. It is so simple that anyone can put it together, and when it is done there is no stronger hive made.

The sections are covered with a honey board, the best covering there is. This should be put on top of the sections, slats down, thus leaving a bee space over the sections. Then the bees will not soil the sections. The joints are square at the end, but are ship-lap on the sides. This makes the parts of the hive easily removed, but the wind cannot blow them off. It is impossible to leave a crack in handling the parts in a hurry, as they will not fit unless started on right. All you have to do is to start them on at the end, and as soon as the parts come even the upper one drops into place.

The writer has long been an advocate of "fixed distances," and has used a hive with a frame spacer in it for years. There is a great rage now for spacing frames by the so-called Hoffman method. I have not found this practical in a hive for general use. Some may be able to handle these frames and not kill the bees, but the writer, after repeated trials, gave up the idea of such a frame years ago. For the ordinary farmer they would be about equivalent to none in a year's time, as they would be all stuck together with propolis.

The "St. Joe" accomplishes the end desired with none of these bad features. It is made of seven-eighths lumber, of good quality, and has no portico, as you will see, for the spiders to spin webs in. The bottom is formed of a thick frame, grooved, so that threeeighths lumber is fastened into the groove, which, being ship-lapped, makes as good a bottom as if seven-eighths thick. It is a loose bottom, with bee space, and is very light and strong.

The frames have a top-bar that is 18 3-4 inches long. It is heavy and is 1 1-8 inches wide, leaving 1-4 inch bee space between the frames. The bottom bar is one-half inch wide and 17 1-4 inches long. The end bar is seveneighths of an inch wide, and 8 3-4 inches long. It can be nailed each way, making a very strong frame and a very good one.

This frame fits the Improved Langstroth Simplicity Hive. The frames rest in metal frame spacers, which hold every frame in its place. The spacers fit in saw kerfs which are cut in the wooden rabbets in the ends of the body of the hive. All you have to do is te drive them down to their places and they will remain there without nailing or further trouble. Bees cannot stick the frames fast, and the construction is such that they will not build burr combs. The frames are spaced with the metal spacer at the bottom of the hive, so they are always in place. The hive can be shipped across the continent without killing bees.

The supers are made with the slats in the bottom cut the same shape as the sections, thoroughly protecting them. The sections are held in place by an end and side board that fit inside the super. There is a bee space in all of the slats of the super, so that the bees will finish the outside sections, and also one between the supers.

The hive should be seen to be appreciated.

PRICES-Sample hive, made up with sections and starters, no paint, \$1.50.

Five or more, no sections, starters or paint, \$1.25.

Add 25 cents for two coats of good paint.

For sections and starters add 25 cents Full sheets of foundation in the brood

chamber, 90 cents per hive of 8 frames.

Five hives in the flat, cut ready to nail, no sections or starters, \$5.00. Ten hives in the flat, \$9.50. Extra

Ten hives in the flat, \$9.50. Extra supers in the flat, 20 cents; made up, 25 cents.

Plain hooks and eyes to fasten on the bottom, 5 cents per hive. For ten hives, 25 cents. Sections for five hives, 50 cents.

All prices for hives include one super only.

I guarantee this hive to be first class in every respect.



Langstroth Simplicity Hive.

Langstroth Simplicity Hives.

These are the Langstroth Simplicity Hives, made by the G. B. Lewis Co., and I sell at their factory prices, which are as follows for hives in the flat:

i To			11/2 story,		8 fr. 2 story, Each.	
In Lots In Lots			75c 73c	85c 83c	90c 88c	1.00 98c
In Lots	of	15	 71c	81c	86c	96c
In Lots In Lots			69c 67c	79c 77c	84c 82c	94c 92c
In Lots	of	30	 65c	75c	80c	90c



Dovetailed Hives.

These are the regular dovetailed hive with all the latest improvements and with gable cover. They are manufactured by the G. B. Lewis Co., whose work is guaranteed to equal that of any factory in existence. I sell at factory prices, which are the same as those given for the Langstroth Simplicity for the same quantity.

Remember, these prices are net for the quantity named, and no discounts will be given to anybody.

These hives are packed at the factory, and shortage, if any, must come from there.

Brood Frames.

St. Joe, heavy top bar, per 100, \$1.50; 500, \$6.50.

Hoffman frames, 100, \$1.75; 500, \$7.50. Langstroth Simplicity, triangular top bar, 100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.50.

Beeswax.

I pay the market price for beeswax at all seasons of the year.



Sections.

I keep the superior section manufactured by the G. B. Lewis Co., and sell them at factory prices, which are as follows:

The second se	2 in., or 7 to f	a line and high			1000 C
No. 1, White No. 2, Crean	e	\$.50 .40	$1.75 \\ 1.50$	$\frac{3.00}{2.50}$	$8.25 \\ 6.75$

If you want more than 3,000, write me for special prices. Large consumers will consult their own interest by writing me before they buy, saying how many they will want. I can save you money on sections.

Be sure and say how wide you want them, and how many openings. If you do not say. I will send 1 7-8, 2 or 4 openings, whichever is convenient.



Italian Queens.

Select, tested, \$2.00; tested, \$1.50; after July 1st, \$1.00.



Porter's Bee Escape.

The inventors say: "We guarantee it to be the best escape known, and far superior to all others." Price, each, 20c; per dozen, \$2.25.



Perforated Zinc.

Per sheet, 20x84 inches, \$1.00. Zinc queen excluder, for 8 or 10 frame hive, 15 cents each; 10 for \$1.20. Bound zinc honey boards, 20 cents each.



Bee-Entrance Guards.

Price 10 cents each; 10 for 50 cents. These are placed in front of the entrances for various purposes. They may be used in swarming time to prevent the queen from going out, or on the hives whose drones are not such as you want to breed from at a time when you are rearing queens.



Extractors.

Muth's Standard, large size, holds 75 pounds of honey below the frames, \$10.00. No. 2, same as above, without receptacle for honey, \$8.00. These will be shipped direct from the factory at Cincinnati.

PRICE LIST.



The Cowan Rapid Reversible Extractor.

No. 15. for Langstroth frames, \$10.00. The Novice Extractor. No. 5, for Langstroth frames, \$7.00.

Honey Kn: res.

Novice Honey-Knife, 75 cents each; Abbott, 70c; Bingham, 70c; Muth, 50c. Postage extra.



Bingham Uncapping Knife.



Much Honey Knire.

Comb Foundation.

I keep Dadant's only, and will duplicate their prices. I keep in stock the following grades. Prices are subject to change without notice.

Name of Grade.	Prices 1 lb	per lb., 10	lots of 25
Heavy Brood Foundation Medium Brood " Thin Surplus "	45 45 55		41 41 48
Ex. Thin surplus "	60	53	51

For 100 pounds or over, write for wholesale prices.



Clark Smoker, 50 cents; by mail, postpaid, 70 cents.



Clark Cold Blast Smoker. Crane Smoker.

Price \$1.25; postage 25 cents.

Corneil Smoker.



A very good smoker for the money. Price, 80 cents each; by mail, 25 cents extra.

Subscribers are what count in the prosperity of any kind of a paper, and we are determined to have them, so here is another special offer. We will send the Busy Bee one year to anyone who will send us 50c to pay for the same, and mail them free of charge one Porter Bee Escape as a premium. The escaps sells for 20c, and everyone who has bees will find it very valuable.



Bingham Smoker.

"Doctor," 90 cents; "Conqueror," 80c; "Large," 75 cents; Plain, 60 cents. Postage, extra.

Honey Jars.



1 lb., per gross, flint glass, \$4.75; 2 lb., per gross, with corks, \$6.25; 1-2 lb., per gross, with corks, \$3.65; dime jars, with corks, per gross, \$2.75; 5 oz. jars, 30 cents per dozen; 1-2 lb. 40 cents per dozen; 1 lb. 50 cents per dozen.



Alley's Drone Trap.

Price, 50 cents each; by mail, 65 cents. Write for prices in the flat. Say how many you want.



Parker Foundation Fastener, 25 cents each.



The Miller Feeder. Price, nailed up, 25c each. In the flat, 16c each; 10 for \$1.46,



Spur Wire Imbedder, 15 cents. Daisy Foundation Roller, 15 cents. See Cut Above.

That Sewing Machine.

If you need a machine, now is your time to get one very cheap. We guarantee ours to give satisfaction, as we have thoroughly tested it ourselves and know what it is. viii.



10 cans in one box\$ 1.30

PARKS' SECTION FORMER.

It will do first class work, and as much of it as a machine costing more. The sections are square made on this machine and it cannot get out of order. Price \$1.00.



Van Deusen Hive Clamp, 5c per pair; 10 pair. 35 cents.

Miscellaneous.

Wood Separators, plain, 100 45 cents; 500, \$2.00; slatted on one side, 60 cents per 100; 500, \$2.25.

Tinned Wire, 1 lb. spools, No. 30, 25c. Rubber Gloves-Ladies', \$1.40; gents',

\$1.50. Giay Simplicity Feeder, 15 cents; 10, \$1.30.

Wire nails, 7-8, 1 lb., 10c; 3-8, 1 lb., 20 cents; 5-8, 1 lb., 15 cents, 2 for 25 cents.

HONEY FOR SALE.

Parties who want a fine quality of clover honey, either comb or extracted, can procure the same by addressing the undersigned, stating how much they want, and kind, when prices will be quoted, which will suit the times.

> EMERSON T. ABBOTT, St. Joseph, Mo.





Square Cans, 60-pound.

1 box, 2 cans, 75c; 1 can, boxed singly, 45c; 10 boxes, 2 cans each, \$6.50; 10 cans, boxed singly, \$4.00. Shipped either from Chicago or St. Louis.

Shipping Crates.



Single Tier Crates, of the latest nondrip pattern, at the following prices:

To hold 24 sections, 4 1-4x4 1-4, in the flat, with glass, in lot of 5, 17 1-2 cents each; in lots of 10, 16 1-2 cents each; in lots of 20, 15 1-2 cents each; in lots of 40, 14 1-2 cents each; 50 or more, 12 1-2 cents each.

These are crated in lots of 25, and to get the benefit of the 50 price, they must be ordered in full crates.

Twelve pound crates will be 2 cents per crate less. Most prefer the single tier 24 pound crate.

Read our premium list in another column. The machine we offer is first class, and you are sure to be pleased with it. It never fails to please. We have tested it.

THE BUSY BEE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Vol. 8.

DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 12.

WINTERING BEES.

By C. P. Daidant.

The wintering of bees in this climate is the greatest stumbling block encountered by progressive bee-keepers. Not that it is usually difficult for bees to winter in this climate, but because there has been more loss, during unusuany cold winters, in the bee business, from this cause than from any other. Yet the reasons that have caused ill success in wintering are easily found, and the remedy would be easily applied, if we could only forsee the probable temperature of the approaching winter.

In ordinary winters, with a warm day every few weeks, there is no difficulty in wintering a hive of bees in the open air, if they only have sufficient food. From 25 to 40 pounds of honey is generally enough to take a colony not only through the winter, but to carry them from the last bloom of fall to the full bloom of the following spring, and this includes stores enough to enable them to rear brood during several months of cool spring weather, when the amount of bloom is inadequate to their needs. This amount of honey, is, of course, a necessity in wintering, that is, it is absolutely indispensable, whatever the circumstances may be otherwise. But, in hard winters, such as we have often experienced in this latitude, when the thermometer remains for months below zero and furious polar winds sweep over the earth, when the snow covers the ground, the days are short and the sun powerless to thaw the ice, it is then that our bees may suffer, if not properly sheltered, or provided for. The quality of the honey which they consume has also a great influence over their health. A good grade of honey, light in color and free from ferment, or of floating grains of pollen, which are often found in dark Loney, furnishes an article of diet which leaves but little residue after ligestion, and their bowels are therefore not overloaded by their dejections, as is the case if their provisions are composed of dark or unripe honey. Or worse yet, of honey dew, of the juice of fruits such as apples, grapes or peaches, which is sure to work and ferment, and sours in the cells long before the cold weather compels the bees to remain in the hive. When the occasional warm days give them a chance to take flight, they take advantage of it to empty their intestines. and but little narm results: but when the winter is so severe as to compel them to remain for as many as 50 or 6. days without a flight, they become unable to retain their dejections, if the honey that they have consumed was at all unfit for winter diet. When once they have been compelled to void their dejections in the hives, their doom is sealed. They daub their combs, the walls of the hive, the entrance, and even one another with these excrements that they have become unable to retain, and, disgusted at the stench, and at their own filth, unable to cleanse themselves, they disperse about the hive and perish.

It is therefore, of the utmost importance that the food gathered be of good quality. In case of a shortage of the honey crop, and it is always at such times that the bees feed most on fruit juices, it is necessary to feed them either the very best grades of honey or a supply of feed made by diluting honey with the best quality of granulated sugar, which furnishes them the purest possible sacharine matter, or that which leaves the least possible amount of residue. If, in addition to this, the bees are wintered in a repository, such as a good cellar, where they are kept in dark and quiet. they may be brought through very safely, while the bees that are left to themselves all perish. Thus it is that some people manage to have "luck with bees" while others claim they never have any luck with anything at all

It is always best to winter bees on their summer stand, in this latitude at least, if they are in good condition, strong and plentifully supplied, and if the apiary is in a well sheltered spot. We believe that the north and west winds, which blow with such terrific force during the coldest months, are the most injurious to bees, and we have been in the habit of sheltering our hives on all but the south side, with forest leaves held around the hive with a lattice work of lath and twine. which we remove in spring. But a good board fence, or an armful of cornfodder, will make suitable shelter. Better yet is a box covering to fit over the hive, leaving only the entrance exposed. But in exposed places, or when the food supply is deficient, it is often best to put the hives in a cellar. Almost any cellar that is not damp and cold may be used for the purpose. and we often put bees among the potatoes and the carrots without their being inconvenienced by the usual odors of a family cellar. We always, however, take pains to partition off a corner for the bees, by using an old carpet or a few sacks hung like a curtain, to exclude light.

Noise is not objectionable, but jarring should be avoided. For instance, we would not put a hive on a shelf hanging from the ceiling or against a post supporting the stairway, as the jar caused by the inmates walking about would be sure to make the bees restless and cause them to seek to escape. The temperature the most acceptable to them, is that in which they keep the quietest, about 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The only objection we have to a cellar is when the winter happens to be mild. It is then very difficult to keep them quiet, and a great many of them are lost, if they have any chance at all to see daylight. But destitute hives are much more easily fed in the cellar than out of doors, and for this reason the cellar is most suitable to hives that are short of stores. The eastor of the Busy Bee has a method of feeding bees with sugar candy, which we consider very practical and we would suggest that he give it in connection with this article.

Hamilton, Ill.

The method referred to by L.r. Daidant is the one briefly mentioned in the November number. It simply consists in giving the bees cakes made from

granulated sugar by melting it up into syrup, boiling the syrup, being careful not to let it burn, until it will harden, and then pouring it out into bread pans, moulding it into thin cakes which will weigh five or six pounds. One of these cakes should be placed directly over the cluster of bees after it has formed. Lay two or three sticks about one-half inch square across the frames and place the cakes of sugar on the sticks, cover all with a heavy cloth, an old grain bag is very good. Tuck the cloth down closely around the edges of the hive and put over the cloth several thicknesses of newspapers, put on the lid and your bees will be in good shape for safe wintering. None of the paper or cloth should be left to extend outside of the hive, as they will become wet and carry dampness into the hive. This is the most practical way of which I know for feeding bees at this season of the year.-Editor.

BEE-KEEPING FOR FARMERS.

Prof. A. J. Cook, in discussing this in Gleanings, says: "I have been emphatic in the position that the ranks should be swelled by any who would go at the work earnestly, intelligently and with the persistence that could not fail.

One fact alone, it seems to me, settles the matter, to wit: Some of the very brightest and most successful apiarists have not been specialists, but, rather, amateurs; or at least the beekeeping part of their work was their avocation, and not the main part of their work. Langstroth, Bingham, the Oatmans, and even the senior editor of Gleanings, became noted as beekeepers before it was their leading pursuit. I believe that the majority of those who have had the best success, and have done the most for the pursuit, have been those who have made bee culture only the pick-up work. I perhaps feel more sensitive regarding this matter, a- bee-keeping has never been my leading pursuit; yet it has been a very great pleasure to me, and a source of no little profit as well. I know of several farmers who have cared for their farms well, and at the same time have made large profits from bees. I have a brother who has a large well-tilled farm; and although he cares for the farm himself, yet ne

keeps a good-sized apiary, and for three successive years he made more from his bees than from all the rest of his farm. With such examples before us, is there any wonder that some of us believe that others than specialists may well keep bees? I am sure that my brother would laugh at such a proposition.

The fact that the pursuit of beekeeping does not occupy one all the time, and the further fact, that in off years, there is litue or nothing to do, makes it all the more desirable that bee-keeping alone should not occupy one's entire time. By a little planning one can combine bee-keeping with some other pursuit, so that neither will interfere with the other. This not only has the merit of keeping one well employed all the time, but also gives variety to the work, and so makes life more enjoyable. A variety also is recreative, and so rests one and makes his work more productive, and at the same time adds greatly to one's health and vigor.

In the face of the many noted examples, I need not say that it is quite possible for one to master beeculture even though he is deeply absorbd in other work. The very study required not only brings keenest pleasure, but often gives a discipline that makes one more capable in other lines of work. I am sure that there are lawyers, doctors, etc., who do better work in their practice because of the restful pleasure that they get in the care of their bees. I have known some remarkable cases of just this kind. A perplexing law case is not a very effective sedative. Any thing that will help one to forget the disquieting experiences of the daily life will add to one's effectiveness as well as to his length of days.

There is another argument, from the standpoint of economy, that should have some weight. The bees are needed in every garden and orchard to do the work of pollination. If the specialists are depended upon, many a fruit-grower will suffer. Not a few California fruit-growers now arrange to have bees in the orchard. They find that this pays well. The pomologist may well study to care for bees, and then he may be independent, and keep his own bees.

The argument on the other side is, that the specialist will learn and practice better methods, and so will do nothing that will harm the pursuit. But does he do this better? I have been in a great many bee-yards, and I have seen as much perfection among the so-called amateurs as among the specialists.

In view of all these facts, I am, as I have always been, in favor that all who feel moved to do so, and will take hold of the matter with vigor, shall embark in the bee business."

The editor of the Busy Bee is glad to be able to reinforce his position by the above statements, coming as they do from one of the leading apicultural writers of the land. My position always has been that bee-keeping is a branch of agriculture, and as such it belongs to the farm, and the quicker this fact is recognized and carried into practice the better it will be. The farmer needs the bees, and one bees belong to the farm and therefore every farmer should keep a few bees.—Editor.

THE RURAL SCHOOL.

Prof. W. M. Hays has an excellent article on this subject in the December 1st number of Campbell's Soil Culture and Home Journal from which we select the following:

Our common schools are our greatest free institutions. They have made possible all our glorious free institutions. In the few generations of our national life common schools have become universal.

Though rapid strides have been made in its development the rural school presents our hardest educational problem. The development of agriculture and industrial education in colleges and schools has required a great struggle, but for a decade the horizon has been brigh ening. Our rural schools .ave made wonderful progress in the essential elements of education, but they are weak on the industrial side. They do not do enough toward dignifying industrial and agricultural labor, processes of agricultural thought and rural life. They lead to making our cities large in proportion to our country population. But this is a very minor mistake in com-parison with their failing to arouse their pupils to greater consciousness of the possibilities in farm life.

Education has reached an industrial people, and yet pays little attention to the industrial thoughts of technical agriculture. The forms of thought, the theories of education, the text books, etc., are yet mainly the work of the professional teacher of the old academy and literary college. Our educators feel fearful lest the concrete. practical, industrial thoughts of this matter of fact and scientific age crowd too harshly upon the recognized essential elements of common school education. They do not want to get the cart before the horse. Possibly they have too long failed to recognize that there was need for the cart. They have kept upon the three R's, upon the artistic in languages and the eminent in merary life, and have failed to recognize that .ne average child's life is to deal largely with home industrial and agricultural questions. Apprehending that such a course would best prepare the child for his life work, they have paid ten times as much attention to preparing the child for higher education as they have to educating him especially to do well the work, in which he is most likely to spend his life.

The great questions are: How shall we change the form of instruction so as to arouse an interest in the farm youth for farm and domestic science, in higher art in their work, and in developing the home and social life on the farm, and thus in themselves? How shall we give a better connection between the rural schools and the rising agricultural thought. literature and schools promised to future generacions of farmers? How shall we so change the rural schools that parents as well as teachers and pupils may have a greater interest in them?

New York nas inaugurated a new line of state aid to rural schools by providing outlines for teachers to use in giving nature studies and instruction in rural affairs, and even the city schools are eagerly using these new practical helps to increast and instruct children in regard to the things around them. The New York legislature gives a fund of \$25,000 annually for this work in the rural schools and the experiments under way are attracting national attention.

Pennsylvania is trying to supplement her schools by providing a Chautauqua course of home instructions of reading and examinations in agriculture.

The teacher's thought largely manages the school and we must reach the teacher. Why not try agricultural instruction in some of our summer institutes? Agricultural colleges could have summer normal schools for rural teachers and the state might well afford to maintain throughout the year at their regular colleges a course of study designed to train country school teachers for their work. The state can well afford teachers of the pedagogics of agriculture. State superintendents of public instruction should have an assistant whose sole duty should be to build up the rural schools in their general work, and especially to inaugurate the study of nature, and of rural subjects. Michigan Agricultura college and other colleges who turn out so many agricultural professors, should provide us graduates for this line of work.

The interests of the state are so great that it could well afford to pay a bonus for teachers in rural schools who would especially prepare them-selves in this subject. In Minnesota a girl's agricultural high school is just coming into existence and those rural districts which secure graduates will be blessed till some fortunate young farmer provides even a more perfect life for the teacher, whose schooling has been in part, along the line of domestic and agricultural science and art. Preparing teachers for rural schools may well become the greatest function of our girl's agricultural high school. Reach the teachers and a few suitable provide them with books and other helps and they will develop agricultural instruction; they will give home industry a very dignified place in the minds of their pupils, and they will not fail to induce thousands instead of dozens or hundreds of farm youths, before settling down to farm life, to take a course of study in the school of agriculture.

So far as the pupil is concerned the efforts should be made to entertain as well as to instruct. It is even more important to inculcate a liking for the literature and thought relating to agriculture and domestic affairs than to teach many facts.

The success of the kindergarten in our city schools should lead us to think more along the lines of doing and seeing in our rural schools. The spirit of observing every day surroundings and processes will thus be inaugurated.

Our school managers seem to fear that the child is already satiated with farm and home affairs and needs and desires stories of city life, and general literary and abstract thoughts only. Experience years ago in teaching some practical things in a country school allayed all my fears along that line. Teachers in city schools who have brought plants and other natural objects into their schools find that the little folks are especially anxious to learn of plants and first of all they desire to know of economic plants. Wheat and how it is made into flour and bread; cotton, how it is grown and how the fiber is manufactured, are of peculiar interest even to the young mind.

The free rural schools, as I said in the first part of this paper, have developed into a most useful institution, but if a small per cent of their energies could be directed more toward dignifying industry and home life. and toward creating an interest in agricultural education we would see better farming, and better living in our rural homes. The movement to solve the question of agricultural education is upon us, and many eyes are turned to the rural school. Here is the great foundation. Instill into these schools the spirit of activity in farm improvement, farm thought, farm living and a love for the farm and the battle is well nigh won. Our agricultural colleges can reach thousands, our agricultural high schools can reach tens of thousands, our rural schools can reach the millions.

I am a graduate of the first university in the land; but I find as much dignity and refinement in digging in the field as in anything I do. In fact, if the truth were given a chance in this matter, it would be known that farming gives the soundest, sinerest fineness to the heart; and this will be the root of our entire civilization of the future, as it has always been in the past. Life blossoms best in town. It germinates best on the hills.—E. E. Cressy in Christian Register.

A Rather Large Swarm.

A swarm of bees came flying down Lawrence street at 2 o'clock this afternoon, apparently in search of a home. When they got to the Sixteenth street crossing something or other in the appearance of the landscape suddenly seemed to strike their fancy. The leader of the swarm, or the guide, turned three somersaults in the air and came down on the endgate of an express wagon that was standing on the Lawrence street side of Haswell's drug store.

Then, of a sudden, a female scorcher discovered what the meaning of the admonitory shouts was. She ran plump into the midst of the swarm. The bees. finding a new and evidently more agreeable roost offered by her back and soulders, turned from the express wagon and began flocking to her. Probably 400,000 bees were perched on her back by the time she had crossed Sixteenth street. She screeched a few times, scorched harder yet, and by the time she had crossed Sixteenth street she had succeeded in shaking herself clear of the impious "bugs."-Denver Times.

It is generally estimated that there are 40,000 or 50,000 bees in a good strong colony, so that this afflicted lady had to bear the burden of eight or nine good swarms. I must confess that I am just a little incredulous about this statement, but it is as near the truth as much of the matter which is published concerning bees and the honey industry in the daily papers.

Every success attained lays a new responsibility on him who attains it. We have a right to expect more of him who has shown his power to do. No man can fall back on his old record, except as an incitement to do as well, or better, when he tries again. What we have done ought to be our lowest standard for what we expect to do, and what is expected of us in the future. In this light, every success we have won makes it more incumbent on us to do better next time, unless we would seem to have ceased progress .- Sunday School Times.

THE BUSY BEE.

A Monthly Journal Devoted to Farm Bee Keeping and Other Minor Interests of Progressive Agriculture.

REV. EMERSON TAYLOR ABBOTT, Editor and Publisher.

Price, 50 cents per year, payable in advance.

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COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editor solicits communications on the subjects treated in this paper. All such will receive careful attention and be given a place in the columns of the paper, if the Editor deems them of sufficient interest to the general public to warrant their insertion. Write on one side of the paper only, as plainly as you can. If you have something of real interest to communicate, do not refrain from writing simply because you think you may not be able to clothe your thoughts in proper language. Tell what you know the best you can, and the Editor will look after the rest.

Editorial.

Now is a good time to read up on apiculture. Send us \$1.25 and get Langstroth on The Homey Bee, and the Busy Bee one year, both for the price of the book. When you are in the city, call at the office of the Busy Bee, 108 South 3d street, and see a sample of our Premium Machine. It will stand inspection. You will never be able to buy a better one for the money, if you live a hundred years.

Bees need to be let alone at this season of the year. Set a board up in front of the entrance to the hive so the bees will not fly out when the ground is covered with snow. If they do, many of them will be lost, besides they will be quieter if the hive is darkened than they will be if the sun is left to shine directly into the entrance. The quieter they keep the more bees you will have in the spring.

Do not let stock run in the lot where your bees are during the winter. Neither is it a good idea to have them located near a public road where they will be disturbed by passing teams and vehicles. For the same reason they should not be located too near a railroad, for the jar of running trains will disturb them very much if so situated. What they need is perfect quiet, and whatever disturbs them in any way will be found detrimental to them.

The Busy Bee wishes all her readers a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year," and asks to be remembered. While you are remembering your friends, she hopes that you will not forget her. She is the friend of all beekeepers and lives to help them, and the more they help her the better she can help them. If you get an extra copy of the paper, hand it to your friend, and ask him to join with you and take advantage of one of the many liberal offers found in this number. We shall be sorry to miss the names of any of our readers, but according to our rules, this is the last copy of the paper some of them will receive, unless we receive their order for continuance before the next issue. Read our offers and see which one suits you the best, and then send in your subscription.

YOUR PAPER FREE.

We want communications on all subjects treated in the columns of the Busy Bee, and I make the reader the following liberal offer. Send me an article on a subject of your own selection suitable for any department, preferably bees or agricultural education in the public schools, of not less than 250 words or more than 600 words, and I will send you the paper free of charge for one year. This offer is not made to professionals but to every reader of the Busy Bee who has an idea, and can put it on paper so it can be read. Write on one side of the paper only and as plainly as you can. Never mind the spelling or grammar, we will fix that.

What I want is ideas, and many people who have never written an article for publication in their lives have some very valuable ideas. A member this is a farm paper, and you should have that class of readers in your mind when you write. The paper will be given for all articles we can use. If not used, they will be returned, if the writer so requests, and encloses return postage.

OPEN TO EVERYBODY.

For the _est article on any subject relating to farm bee keeping received before January 30th, 1898, accompanied with 50 cents to pay for a year's subscription for the Busy Bee, I will give a crate o. five St. Joe hives f. o. b. St. Joseph, price \$5.00. For the second best, 1,000 No. 1 sections, \$3.00. For the third best, 500 sections, \$1.60. All articles entered for competition to become the property of the Busy Bee.

Each article must be plainly written on one side of the paper only, and mailed to me, fully prepaid, on or before January 30th. Each article must contain at least 600 words and not more than 1,000. Each article must be accompanied with 50 cents for the Busy Bee one year, and also the real name of the contributor. Nothing will be published except over the writer's real name. Give your nearest freight depot.

Ine articles will be judged for the information they impart, and for general neatness and literary merit. If you are already a subscriber, get your neighbors' subscription for one year and send it along with your article and that will pass. Remember, if you do not comply with all of the rules you will lose your article and it will be barred from competition also.

A DRONE TRAP FREE.

If you do not have a Drone Trap. you need one. If you have one or more, you will find use for another one and I propose to give you one absolutely free. Here is my offer: Send 50c for the Busy Bee one year and 15 cents to pay postage on the trap and I will send you the Busy Bee one year and the trap by return mail. The price of the trap is 65 cents, post-paid, If you will send an order for some other goods to go by freight, the trap can go with them, and you need not send the 15 cents for postage. This offer will not be good after it ceases to be found in the current number of the Busy Bee. so send at once if you want to get the benefit of it before it is withdrawn.

TEN PACKETS OF SEEDS FREE.

To every one who sends me 50c for the Busy Bee one year, and asks for this premium, I will mail TEN PACK-ETS OF CHOICE SEED FREE, as follows: Radishes, Turnips, Onions, Beets, Parsnips, Lettuce, Cabbage, Tomatoes, Verbenas and Sweet Peas. These will be all of some good variety put up by a well known seed firm. We have been planting seed from them in our own garden for several years, and we have never known any of them to fail to grow.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington is making some investigation as to the Foul Brood laws of the various states. The Editor of the Busy Bee has received a communication from Prof. Howard, Chief Entomologist of the Department, about the laws relating to it in the State of Missouri. If there has ever been any legislation on the subject in this state, I do not know it. Can any of the readers of the Busy Bee give us any information with regard to the matter?

I am glad to know that the Department is interesting itself in behalf of the honey producers, but what we want just now, it seems to me, is a stringent law against the adulteration of all food products, and then let the Department of Agriculture see that it is enforced.

The publisher of the Busy Bee pays the highest market price in cash at all times for beeswax.

WE APPRECIATE THIS.

Agriculture in Common Schools.— After reading your article on this subject, I would like to know what some of the suitable text books are, and where they may be procured. I will have some Institute work to do this winter, and will advise the study of agriculture in our common schools, so must know what works may be used as text books. A reply through P. F. will answer.

Schuyler Co., Ill. L. F. KING, B.S. (Reply by Dr. Galen Wilson.)

"The first principles of Agriculture." by Edward B. Voorhees, M. A., is an excellent work on the subject. Silver, Burdett & Co., 110-112 Boylston street. Boston, Mass., are the publishers. To introduce them, the price is 72 cents. There is a work on the subject by Mills and Shaw. I have not had opportunity to examine it closely. The price is \$1. It can be had of the publishers of the P. F. Prof. W. M. Hayes. of the Minnesota Agricultural College. St. Antony Park, will soon issue from the press a similar work. Rev. Emerson T. Abbott, of the Busy Bee publication, St. Joseph, Mo., has printed in his paper the best treatise on teaching the first principles of practical, scientific agriculture in the common schools that I have read. It runs through three numbers. Perhaps he could supply you with it .- Practical Farmer.

I think there is some mistake about the price of the work of Mills & Shaw as I have the impression that it is only 50 cents. It is a very valuable treatise.—Editor.

The course of study for the "Short Course" in Agriculture at the State University, Columbia, Mo., is published and ready for distribution. This course offers an excellent opportunity for young men and women who expect to follow some agricultural pursuit to more thoroughly fit themselves for their work, with but little outlay of time and money. Write to the Dean of the Agricultural College, Columbia, Mo., for full particulars.

Brother Hasty, of the Review, says some kind things about the Busy Bee, all of which is duly appreciated, but the £ditor wants to mildly protest against being represented as having any "ifs" about sweet clover. (See Review for November, page 297.) Bro. Hasty overlooked the fact that the paragraph to which he refers was a quotation from an editorial in Gleanings in 1892, and did not represent the position of either editor at the present time. Then Mrs. A. says he should have said that her method of rendering wax was recommended only to farmers and those who had small guan-

Home Department.

Conducted by EMMA INGOLDSBY ABBOTT.

This page is open to all lady readers of the Busy Bee. Any woman who has found anything helpful in her work is invited to give others the benefit of it through these columns.

CHRISTMAS GIVING.

The idea that is behind the custom of gift making at Christmas is a beautiful one. It helps to weld closer the chain of friendship, and to promote "peace and good will" among men; but we should be careful to preserve the spirit of the holiday season, and not allow it to degenerate to a mere display and advertisement of our generosity, or to a rivalry as to who shall make the finest gifts; or to paying of debts to those who have made us presents.

If one has a large circle of relatives and friends, the making of even a small gift to all would be a drain on the purse that few could stand, hence it becomes necessary to limit the number of presents and to decide to whom we will give. The next perplexing question is what we shall give each one.

First and foremost, love and hearty good will should be an inseparable part of every gift. With these, the giver is blessed as well as the receiver. Without these, the act of giving becomes a hollow form that is liable to abuse and misuse, as are all forms and ceremonies that have lost the spirit that gave them birth. An extravagant expenditure of money that will cripple the finances of the giver for months to come may indicate a generous spirit, but does not argue well for good taste or a fine sense of the fitness of things in the giver. A simple gift, well chosen and with regard for the preferences of the recipient, will, as a rule, give more pleasure and be appreciated more than an elegant or costly one which the receiver knows is beyond the giver's means.

Especially let the gifts to the children be simple. I do not mean by this to encourage that penuriousness that would fill the little stockings with peanuts and cold potatoes, for Christmas is the children's festival, and their happy shouts are what make the day merry for us all; but elegant belongings in childhood will beget desires for finery as they grow older, that is beyond the ability of the parents to supply, and a child that is overloaded with toys soon tires of them all and cries for something new. To be able to find enjoyment in small things is a faculty worth cultivating in young and old.

After all, the value of a gift to us is not the money it cost, but the fact that it is the loving thought of a friend, and that it fills some special desire or need.

A PLEA FOR PLAIN FOOD.

It is not a generally understood fact, but a fact, nevertheless, that some of the wealthiest and most luxurious appearing people live on the plainest food. There are children in the families of millionaires who would no more be perpermitted to partake of such meals as are given to the children of many a laboring man no more than they would be allowed to use articles well known to be poisonous. Many a mechanic's little ones live on meat, warm bread, all the butter they want, and that of an inferior quality, helping themselves to all they choose, and chcap bakers' cake which is in itself enough to ruin the digestion of an ostrich.

The children of one family make there breakfast on oatmeal or some other cereal and milk, with bread at least twenty-four hours old, a little, very little, butter, sometimes varied by corn bread, well done, a little zwieback and sometimes stale bread dipped in eggs and cracker crumbs and browned with butter. A fresh egg is often the only article outside of farinaceous food that is allowed. For dinner, which is the middle of the day. they have some well cooked meat, one or two vegetables, a cup of milk if .hey like it, or weak cocoa, with plenty of bread and butter and a simple desert. Supper, which is a very light meal, frequently consists of graham crackers or brown breaa and milk or pudding, eaten with a little molasses or maple syrup.

A few days ago, in a call at the house of a workingman, there were five children seated at a table, on which was a large dish of meat, swimming with gravy, in which potatoes had been cooked. These potatoes were saturated with fat and almost impossible of digestion. There were hot rolls, soggy looking and smoking from the oven; parsnips fried in lard and reeking with the grease. A pile of cheap cakes, sufficient to fill a good sized four quart measure, stood on one corner of the ta...e; also two pies, with crust con-taining so much lard that tney looked absolutely greasy. There was coffee, dark and rank looking and worse smelling, and this the children were indulging in to any quantity they pleased. They ate like little wolves, with an unnatural and ferocious appe-Two of them had pasty, untite healthy looking complexions; one was evidently suffering from some skin disease; the elder of the group had an ugly looking eruption on his face and ears, and the entire lot were living examples of the results of a mistaken system of feeding. It was no surprise to the visitor to hear, a few days later, that two of them were very ill, one hopelessly so, with cholera morbus.

That the death rate among such people does not increase with frightful rapidity is the one thing that the thoughtful persons and philanthropists never cease to wonder at.

The parents of these children would undoubtedly have said that they gave the little ones the best they could afford, but this was just exactly the cause of all the troubles. They gave them too much and too expensive food. A proper diet would have cost a third of the money and would have saved health and doctors' bills, to say nothing of their lives.—ivew York Ledger.

Now is the time to buy a sewing machine. You will never get one any cheaper. The "Peerless" is first class and guaranteed to give satisfaction.

SWEET CLOVER, AGAIN.

We clip the following from a valuable agricultural paper.

One kind of clover is a nuisance in farming, as, despite its savory name, it has no feeding value whatever. That is the common sweet clover which springs up beside railroad tracks and other waste places. Cows will not eat it, even when it is young and tender. Bees sometimes visit its flowers, but the honey made from them is greatly inferior to that from white clover.

It seems to me the above is a series of mistakes. First, that it has no feeding value whatever, is surely not true; second, that cows will not eat it, even when it is young and tender. I should like to see such a cow. I have seen cows hunting greedily for it in almost every locality where I have traveled. It is possible, however, that there may be cows like those I found in Florida, that would not eat corn because they did not know what it was for. Once more: In my estimation, and in me estimation of thousands of people, the honey is little if any inferior to .nat from white clover. I suppose the locality and season may have something to do with it: but wherever I have found large areas of sweet clover, so that the honey was unmistakably from that source, both comb and extracted honey have been beautiful in appearance, and so luscious to the taste unat 1 have called it equal to any made anywhere. Possibly a sample of sweet-clover honey not fully ripened might be disagreeable.-Gleanings.

It does seem strange that people will continue to write thus about a plant with which they have evidently had no practical experience. Is it not about time that the editors of our agricultural papers, or at least some of them, get " out of town" long enough to know how things grow, what stock will eat and what they will not? Some eastern editor will be telling us yet that a cow will not eat alfalfa. That is, if he should happen to find any "Cows will not eat it." Well, now, that is just too funny! Where does the writer of that squib live any way? Wish I had him here in St. Joseph about an hour. Think I could give him a "pointer" or two, and save him from exposing his --- lack of knowledge in the future.

"Lees sometimes visit its flowers." Well, I should say, "sometimes," -all the time from early morning to late a. night, in every locality where I havelived. "Honey made from it is greatly inferior." "Made,"-that is a give away; guess you never tasted any puresweet-clover honey, or else you would not write that way. Sweet-clover hon-ey is not "inferior" to any other kind of honey I ever tasted, unless it be the honey from its twin sister, alfalfa. Can not agree with you, Bro. Root, "locality and season" have nothing to do with it. It is the fellows inexcusable ig-lack of knowledge, and nothing else. I have eaten sweet-clover honey gathered from all parts of the country from New York to Utah, at all seasons of the year, when sweet-clover blooms. and it is always the same-just as fine as fine can be. Next!

BUSINESS.

You can depend on any instrument purchased from T. J. Washburn to be just what it is represented. Those at a distance wil do well to write him.

Doniphan & Co., who advertise Quaker Cough Drops are one of our many reliable business houses that can be depended on every time.

If you are needing a stove or anything in the line of hardware, you will find the August Schwien Stove company thoroughly reliable and they will furnish you good goods at moderate prices.

If you want to learn about a "Wooden Hen" that will set any month in the year, and never break any of her eggs, write to Geo. H. Stahl, Quincy, Ill., he will send you a little book which tells all about her.

If you are not acquainted with the firm of Chas. Muth & Son, we want to say that they are "as good as gold," and the things they sell are of the same quality. Give them a call if you are convenient to them.

If you are looking for a place to buy clothing where you will find every thing just as it is represented, and where you will get all you pay for, go to Jones, Townsend & Shireman, and you will make no mistake.

Book Review.

(Any book mentioned in this column may be ordered through us.)

In this age of scientific investigation every intelligent and progresive man looks upon books treating or bearing on the pursuit in which he is engaged as an essential part of his tools. A part, too, which he can ill a...ord to dispense with, and, therefore, he is as much interested in knowing what books of value there are relating to his occupation as he is in knowing, what new tools have been invented to lighten and increase the efficiency of his work. I will, therefore, need to offer no apology for occupying a part of the space of this paper with the review of such books as I ...elieve will be instructive and helpful to those who are engaged in rural pursuits.

Note to Publishers.—You are invited to mail to The Busy Bee copies of any books of interest to those engaged in rural pursuits, and they will receive proper notice in this column. All books receive.. will be given some notice, but the length of ...e notice will depend entirely on the editor's ideas of their value to his readers. Please mark the retail price on the fly leaf of all books, and if possible send a circular treating of them.

The "New Hygiene," published by the Howard and Wilson Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill., is an unpretentious book, bound in heavy paper, but it is none the less valuable. It contains hints and suggestions about the treatment of every class of diseases which, if followed out, would prove of great benefit to the human family. It is not a doctor book, as we are wont to think of such, but tells how not to be sick, rather than what medicine to take when sick. I would suggest that the readers of the Busy Bee write to the publishers and learn more about this book, as the cost of it is so little that it is within the reach of anyone. Price 25c, but cheap at double the money. "New Hygiene" and The Busy Bee one year, 50c.

For nearly fifty years the farmer wanting reliable information on agricultural and horticultural subjects has turned to the

RURAL NEW-YORKER

for it. Besides the reports from its own experiment farm, the best authorities in the country contribute theirexperiences to it, and answer the questions sent by you, or other readers. These men are paid thousands of dollars a year to tell you what they have learned—just how they have worked out success. You will get all that is known on the subject they write about. The subscription price is only \$1.00 a year, 52 papers. In connection with the Busy Bee, you get both papers from now until January 1st, 1899, at the special bargain of \$1.15. The Rural New-Yorker is beyond all question one of the best agricultural and horticultural papers printed in the English language. We would like you to judge of its merits for yourself. Send the combination price to-day. If you are not satisfied in three months we will refund your money for The Rural.

Address The Busy Bee, or the Rural New-Yorker, New York.

PUBLISHERS' PARAGRAPHS.

Mr. E. T. Abbott, the editor and publisher of the Busy Bee, at St. Joseph, Mo., was formerly editor of the Apiary department of the Kansas Farmer. He is now publishing one of the best monthly journals devoted to farm beekeeping and kindred interests. The price of his journal is 50 cents a year. We will furnish the Busy Bee and the Kansas Farmer both one year for \$1.25 or any present subscriber sending a new subscriber and \$1 will receive as a premium the Busy Bee one year.

If you live in Kansas, you should have the Kansas Farmer by all means, as it is one of the best farm papers in the country. Send your subscriptions direct to them at Topeka, or to the busy Bee, as is most convenient.—Editor.

Among the many valuable and interesting exchanges which come to our table is Agricultural Advertising, published by the Frank B. White Co., Chicago, Ill. The November number is the "Banquet" number, and is filled with interesting and valuable reading. The editor of the Busy Bee had an invitation to this banquet, but thought the distance too great. Had he known of the good things in store for those who attended, he thinks, perhaps, he would have gone in spite of the distance. If he is ever fortunate enough to get another invitation, he will try to be on hand. This company richly deserves the success that has come to them.

Communications.

Editor Busy Bee.

On page 15 of the September Busy Bee you speak of the agricultural papers borrowing without credit. One thing 1 do know, and that is some editors of agricultural papers sometimes call on an experienced beekeeper for an article on bee keeping and then refuse to pay the writer anything except his paper for a time, saying they can not afford to pay their correspondents anything, and yet I am informed by those who advertise in such papers that they have to pay very largely for their advertisements. It seems to me an editor could afford to pay the correspondents something, especially those writing on special subjects like bee keeping. I don't think it is right, as you say, for an editor to appropriate the fruits of a man's mental labor and sell it to his subscribers for personal gain. Books on apiculture cost money as well as journals, and it takes years of study and practical experience to become a good bee keeper. After one has spent time and money to gain a knowledge of beekeeping he should be allowed a httle something for imparting it to others, especially through the press. The writing material and postagestamps cost something, saying nothing about the time required to write the articles. It seems to me if an article is worth writing and has any merit, so it is accepted by the editor it is worth paying a little something for.

I see the October Busy Bee devoted its talent almost entirely to sweetclover. One point seems pretty well established, that is its power to withstand drouth. Personally I know but little about it. For several years there have been a dozen or more stools or hills at our window and until this last season it has bloomed right along through the dry weather and the bees seemed to like it very much by the way they worked on it every day while in bloom. I only wish there was more of it. Last summer it failed to bloom at all. It grows to some extent along the streets and along draws in Chillicothe, but it is kept cut down so much along the streets that bees can gather but little honey from it, and it is most too far for my bees to go any way.

I was pained to read in the November Progressive, page 249, of the very sad accident which occurred at the Leahy Manufacturing company's estamishment on the evening of November 3. Three little children were playing in the lumber shed when a pile of lumber about four feet high fell on them, crushing out the life of little Florence Gladish, aged 4 years and one month, and her brother, Clifton Gladish, was more or less injured. Both were the children of Mr. Edwin B. gladish, secretary of the company. The playmate nad a leg broken. I truly sympathize with the parents in their deep sorrow.

FRED. S. THORINGTON. Chillicothe, Mo.

Dear sir—Thanks for sample copy of the Busy Bee. As soon as I am satisfied that bees will do well here I will get a colony of Italians. I am an old bee keeper, have had sixteen years experience in Ohio, have raised hundreds of Italian Queens, also a number of Syrians and Cyprians. The Cyprians are too cross. The Italian is the bee for me.

What is sweet clover seed worth? LEONIDAS CARSON. Harper Co., Kan., Nov. 23, 1897.

In reply to the above I will say that I have no sweet clover seed for sale. It can be had of Geo. W. York & Co., Chicago, Ill., or the A. I. Root Co., of Medina, O. I would suggest that those who have sweet clover seed for sale advertise it in these columns.— Editor.

THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER.

Published monthly (now in its eighth year), 50c per year. Its contents are furnished by the best writers on the subject of bee-keeping. Published by THE W. T. FALCONER MAN'F'G CO., JAMESTOWN, N. Y., manufacturers of all kinds of bee supplies. Large illustrated catalogue and copy of the AMERICAN BEE-KEEP-ER free.

The ad of the Des Moines Incubator Company appears in our columns for the first time this month. We are informed that they are reliable and send out first class goods. Write them for a price list, and mention the Busy Bee. Globe Bee-Veil.



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FIXED PURPOSE ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS.

I am often asked what essentials are necessary to successful bee-keeping. As these questions seem to come faster and thicker, I am led to believe that there are more people looking for something to turn their mands to, whereby they may acquire a decenc living and contentment in life, than ever before. Think of the hundreds and thousands, wandering about this beautiful country, grumbling and murmuring what a rough and rugged old world it is. But when we look at it in the right light, it is as beautiful and as grand as the handiwork of a foreseeing God could make it. The eyes of the discontented in life have no power to see the world's grandeur; they are shut in by the "bleak winter of their discontent;" they look only through darkness, and wander aimlessly through life.

We often hear it uttered that "the world owes us a living." This is utterly untrue. The world only gives us a living when we work for it; if we prove the account with our hands and brains, the world will pay it; otherwise our life and prospects will be made up of failures and disappointments. With bee-keeping, as with all rural pursuits, we must have some fixed purpose. When I started in beekeeping, nearly 30 years ago, all manner of fun was poked at me and my pursuit, and while there has been high winds and rough seas to cross, I have held to the bees, and I am happy to say that I have at feast made a fair success of the business. With the handy literature of to-day, written on bees and their culture, one with willing hands, and a determined mind can soon learn to manage them.

I am just in receipt of a young widow's letter, living in Iowa, asking me if I thought she could make a success with bees, closing with the words, "I have always made a success of everything undertaken, but now I am thrown upon my own responsibility." My reply was, that, in my judgment she was the right person to begin any pursuit; and I advised her how to start, and soon expect to learn of her success. In my opinion it is the fixed purpose, the determination, that is essential to success. It is not necessary that one

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be a graduate in botany to make a successful bee-keeper; but, we should be familiar with all the honey-producing plants of our location, and study them, and know just when they will bloom, and then manage so as to have our bees ready to reap the harvests as they come. If you do not know the botanical name of the honey plants, give them a name of your own; note them down, and be ready to catch the honey they have for you.

All of bee-keeping cannot be learned from books. It is essential that you get the practical part, before you can really understand the books. To start with bees, I would advise getting a few colonies; say three or four, in latest

PRICE LIST.



improved hives, then procure a good treatise on bees, or subscribe for some bee paper. Study them well, make your steps steady but sure, and do not undertake too much at first. The study of bees and the flora of the neighborhood are the two keys to success, which will open the doors to other branches of the pursuit as you go along. The letter from the lady above referred to. prompted me to write this hasty article, and if it will be the means of starting some one out upon the ocean of apiculture in the way leading to sucsces, I will feel well repaid for my labor.--Mrs. Jennie Atchley, in Rural World.

Poultry.

Are You Starving Your Hens?

My neighbors complain that they do not get many eggs, and seem somewhat puzzled to know the cause. A little observation and inquiry reveal the reason. The hens are all right, but one is feeding them almost wholly on corn. He also deprives them of lime in any form. This is one form of starvation. Another keeps his hens yarded, and they are largely deprived of green food and entirely of lime in any form. They eat their eggs eagerly to supply their craving appetites.

When the wheat stubble was raked and drawn I gave the hens free access to it, believing that the wheat was just what they needed at the beginning of moulting. So it proved, for the forty hens, instead of diminishing in egg production as their moulting progressed, made a gain of one-half dozen eggs per day, now laying two dozen daily. Most farmers have probably carefully stored away these gleanings awaiting the thresher. The hens are the best threshers and ask nothing for their work. Much of the wheat is grown this year and to deprive the hens of a supply is sheer nonsense When I drew the gleanings and said they were for the



hens, a neighbor remarked that there were two bushels of wheat in them. I said perhaps so, but the hens need them, and if there was as much wheat as he said, the hens have paid ten shillings per bushel for it. There is an abundance of grown wheat, an.. we cannot do better than to turn a portion of it into eggs. Save a lot of sheaves for next winter and see how the hens will thresh out the wheat and roll out the eggs.—New York Tribune.

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The Village Hennery.

Failure to follow some of the plainest conditions of success is the key to most of the discouragement and disgust of many of the small poultry raisers. And multiplication of the same errors cause the same, or a worse state of mind and pocket in the larger handler of the work. In close quarters, it is insisted that work must take the place of room and range. This is the principle, though perhaps never before formally laid down. Green food, for instance, must be supplied, and that with some approach to the abundance and regularity with which it is available under more nearly natural conditions. Fresh, uncontaminated soil must be had for runs, either by upturning or by substitution. Failure to apprehend this need accounts for later failures of those at first successful As stock increases, quarters are almost invariably crowded. Hardly a raiser but sins more or less in this particular. The simple fact is: Poultry culture on small lots(and elsewhere) is declared a failure because, and often only because there was not sufficient will power to overcome the ever-present hindrances to doing exactly as told. Nearly every poultry raiser can confirm this, since, strange to say, even the sucessful have usually gone some distance along this wrong road. But they went back to the forks .-- Myra V. Norys, in American Gardening.

SWEET CLOVER-MELILOTUS ALBA

Edwin Montgomery, Starkville, Miss., Agricultural Epitomist:

"Melilotus Alba is considered only a weed in the Northwest, but in the South it is prized as one of our most valuable forage crops. It belongs to the, leguminous, or clover family hence derives the greater proportion of its nourishment from the air, and the deep subsoil, where the roots of but comparatively few plants can reach and feed. Mowed before the plant becomes too large and woody, the quality of the hay is first class, and in nutritious quality takes the lead in the clover family. In its green state stock is not fond of it at first, but soon acquires a taste. It is a rich milk and butter food. The life of the plant is two years. The usual plan is to mow the plant once the second year and alow the second crop to mature seed. These seeds fall to ground and germinate, where the the conditions are favorable, and thus your land is seeded again for two years more. Seed can be bought at from \$1 to \$1.50 per bushel, and a bushel will sow four acres. It is partial to a lime soil, and I would not advise anyone to sow it on any land not strongly impregnated with lime. It will grow luxuriantly during the most protracted drought, due, of course, to the deep extension of its tap-root into the soil, and it makes a first-class hog pasture.

"A commission merchant for the sale of live stock, at New Orleans, says the best quality of beef he ever received from this state or Alabama was made from animals fattened on Johnson grass and melilotus. As an improver of worn soils it has no superior among leguminous plants. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, president of the Mississppi A. & M. college, of this place has been growing it extensively on his farm in Nuxubee county, Mississippi, and says: "What was the poorest part of my plantation six years ago is now the richest from the use of melilotus, and the hay is, in my judgment, the superior of red clover for stock. It is a plant that is steadily growing in favor with the farmers in the belts of Mississippi and Alabama.

The following is quoted from a pamphlet issued by M. M. Baldridge of St. Charles, Ill., in 1894:

Melilotus is also a first-class honevplant. The honey therefrom is of light color, and of vcry fine quality. The plant is a profuse bloomer, and it remains in blossom several weeks at a time. The blossoms are so minute and numerous that the bees are able to secure therefrom a large amount of honey, which, to the bee-keeper who grows melilotus, is an additional profit. Even if mellilotus had no other value it would be profitable for the bee-keepers to grow it for honey alone. I have been practically acquainted with meli-lotus for about 35 years. My first acquaintancce with this plant began in western New York in 1858. In 1861 I came to northern Illinois, and since that year I have had an extensive yearly acquaintance with the plant, as it grows here luxuriantly, and in great abundance. On the richest land here the plant, when permitted to attain

its full growth the second year, often reaches the height of 6 to 8 feet. The seed matures here in August and September, but in the south it ripens in July and August.

When to Sow the Seed.

The seed of melilotus may be sown at any time of the year in the north; but, in the south, the best time, so I am reliably advised, is early in the fam or spring, or late in the winter; in short, the very best time being from February to April, either alone or with grain. The better way is to prepare the ground by plowing and harrowing, as for grain, and then harrow the seed in. This plan insures a good "catch." In Kansas, where melilotus is grown successfully, and extensively as pasturage for hogs, the practice is to cover the seed, if possible, from one to two inches deep, or even deeper. This may be done by means of the drill. The seed should not be sown mixed with grain, but separately, and at the rate of from 5 to 10 pounds per acre; but some prefer a thicker seeding of 15 to 20 pounds per acre. For honey alone, five pounds of seed per acre is ample, as the plants stool better, and will remain in bloom longer; but, of course, is not so desirable for hay, or pasture, as the plants are not so fine and numerous as with the thicker seeding.-Gleanings.

THE FRUIT DIET.

The hygenic importance of a fruit diet is becoming more and more recognized. If only ripe and good fruits are used, the natural appetite for them may be trusted almost implicitly. In many instances, a supposed disorganization of the system through the generous consumption of some favorite fruit is due to some other cause, while in fact its use greatly aids in cleansing and regenerating the body doing that which actually needed to be done, and which is much better performed in that way than through the agency of drugs and dosing. The habitual eater of fruits rarely complains of a "torpid liver' or sluggish action of the bodily forces. And it is this torpidity and sluggishness which is responsible for many forms of physical derangement. - Montana Fruit Grower.

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ERNEST E. GARD, Principal

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Stone Mountain, Ga. November 6, 1897.

Friend Abbott: I am now a subscriber to the American B. Journal, Gleanings B. K. Review. The Queen and the Progressive Bee-Keeper. I feel like I know you, having read for years the many things you have said and that have been said about you in the bee papers. I think I would like the Busy Bee added to my reading matter and therefore ask that you send me the October number as a sample copy. I ask for that number for the reason that I see it is devoted to sweet-clover, a plant I am interested in. If there ever has been a sprig of it grown in Georgia I am not aware of it. I am going to give it a trial here in the lower part of north Georgia, on a small scale to see what it will do, and would be thankful for any information you possess on the subject, in or out of the Busy Bee. I want to know when and how to plant or sow it, and on what sort of ground, that is, what character of land is best suited to it, etc.

Well, Friend Abbott, I am in the "bee" business on a small scale and am increasing my apiary as fast as I can, and for that reason saved little honey during the season just drawing to a close. I hope, however, next year to be able to make a better report from this section, where now very few bees are kept even by the farmers. I may say we have no bee keepers. I am the only man I know of in a radius of sixty miles that has as many as twenty-five colonies.

As your paper is devoted entirely to the interests of farmer bee keepers and beginners, if you desire to do so, and will send me ten or a dozen copies of it I will place them all in the hands of farmers and families in Stone Mountain village, who keep a few bees.

I am, very respectfully, R. V. ESTES.

Can not some more of our readers help us in the way friend E. suggests? We sent him the sample copies and will be glad to send to anyone who will hand them to their friends. Let me hear from you.

If anyone can give further information than has been found in the Busy Bee about growing sweet-clover in Georgia, I will be glad to have them do so.—Editor.



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