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AUG. 1901.



THE PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND
HUNDRED INDUSTRIES.

PUBLISHED BY

LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO
HIGGINSVILLE, MISSOURI.

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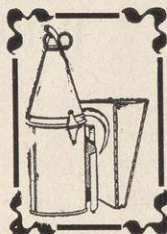
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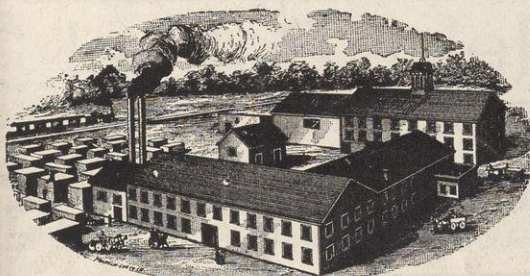
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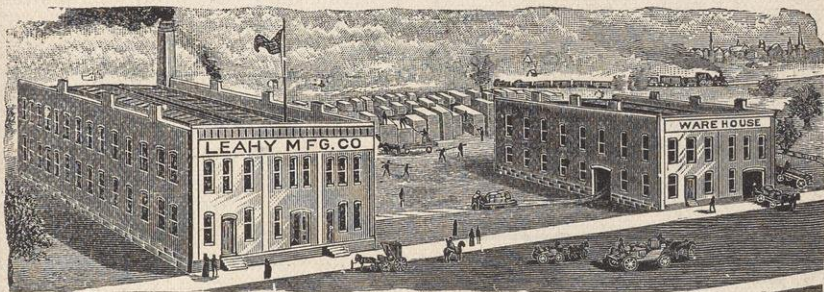
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50 Cents per Year.

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NON-SWARMING RESULTS

F. L. THOMPSON.

The conflict of swarming time is now about over; and with the mind freshly in the grip of experience and study, this seems to me decidedly the best time in the year to put down in black and white, or to read in the same definite tints, our ideas and plans for the future on that all-

important subject. Just before swarming time it is proper to map out and select the most practical methods, and so far, the argument of seasonability has force; but now is the time of all times to think out and set down what is practical, because we can tell better now than at any other time what value to give to each consideration. In short, this is the best time for theory, because it is the nearest to practice of the past; and next spring will be the most seasonable time for practical hints on swarming, because it is nearest to the practice of the future.

I advocated prevention of swarming by putting the bees and queen of each colony on starters in a new hive on the old stand, at the same time putting on a super of sections with full sheets of foundation, over a queen-excluder, and putting the old hive with its brood combs and some bees on top of the super, with a board between, arranged in such a manner that there is some communication with the bees below. My way of doing this was to use an ordinary bee-escape board for the purpose, leaving out the bee-escape proper. This gives an oblong hole in the center of the board, through

which as many bees as is proper pass up to attend to the brood until it hatches out. In addition, I cut another small hole in the end of the board at the front of the hive, placing over this hole a simple channel, or chute, made of pieces of lath, long enough to reach to the alighting-board, when the lower end of this rests on the alighting-board (which in all modern hives is simply the portion of the bottom-board projecting outside), a continuous passage between the upper and lower hives is established on the outside of the hive, which may be likened to the fire escapes on buildings. The passage established by the central hole of the board may be likened to the interior staircases in buildings. Having these two passage-ways, a number of combinations are possible either one or both may be used at the will of the operator, either immediately after setting up the combination or at any time there after.

Last year I used mainly the outside passage alone. The effect of this is, of course, that whatever bees come out of the upper hive for a flight, do not return to it, but join the force in the lower hive. By taking pains to find the queen first, so as to be able to leave enough bees with the brood to take care of the unsealed portion, this did not appear to be any detriment. Another objection, however, is that queen-cells are often made in the upper hive, which of necessity (if the central passage-way is kept closed from the start) produce inferior queens, which will be pretty certain to supersede the old queen below. Various ways of getting around this will occur to most readers. I have not tried any of them, however, and so pass on to my experience of this season. I wanted a good deal of increase, and so kept open the central passage-way as well as the out-

side one, for the purpose of getting as good queen-cells as possible. I was too busy to have ready the requisite number of ripe cells reared by orthodox methods, but hope to requeen later. However, the cells obtained seemed to be pretty good in the majority of cases (doubtless owing to the fact that many were swarming cells already stated), and I have no doubt the resulting queens will answer the purpose very well for the short time that will elapse until queens from good stock can be reared. About a week after the operation I divided the upper hive into nuclei of appropriate size, each one containing two to four queen-cells. As most of the cells were about a week old at the time they were put above, the division took place when most of them were nearly ripe.

At the out-yard, consisting entirely of Heddon hives, I put one frame of brood apiece in each of the lower hives when performing the operation, and used a half-body only for each lower hive. After thus going over them, I started away, but not before two attempted to abscond. As all my queens were clipped, I let them rip; but the occurrence influenced me to omit the frame of brood below when going over the home yard, apparently with good results, as only one attempted to abscond, though I stayed longer to watch them. On returning to the out-yard I found all quiet and apparently none missing. But after making the divisions and removing the upper hives, in which operation I shook off first the bees from all combs that had no brood in front of the hives below, nine attempted to abscond, one after another. Acting on this hint, at the home yard I shook off no bees in making the divisions, and not more than three or four attempted to abscond. At the home yard,

however, there are no Heddon hives, consequently full-depth chambers throughout, which may have considerable to do with the question of absconding. It ought to be said, moreover, that this season is one of the very worst for swarming and absconding in this locality, and consequently is a most severe test for any method. On looking over the brood-chambers at the out-yard lately, I find two missing, which had doubtless eloped with young queens they had picked up somewhere, and three or four more queenless, perhaps because they killed their old queens when they had to return. There were twenty-five strong colonies in the out-yard, spring count, and fifty-one or two in the home yard. Consequently the treatment is not as shining a success as I had hoped; still it is not so bad compared with the awful amount of work required to cut out queen-cells every week, not to mention the loss if one were absent from each yard half the time.

One colony was prepared a week earlier than the rest, which were fixed up just at the beginning of the flow. This colony has done considerably better than the others, possibly because it is a better colony anyway; but it also seems likely that the early treatment would be better, for by leaving the central passageway open, as I did, the bees stored honey in the combs of the upper hive with great pertinacity, rather neglecting the supers until the division was made. Although in this locality the bees cannot build much comb before the flow comes, still that early treatment would not be a perceptible loss in egg-laying, as that is just the time, in making preparations for swarming, when most of the queens slacken in their work anyhow.

At present there is much more

honey in the supers over the Heddon half-bodies at the out yard than over the full-depth hive in the home yard. I rather like to see that, for the nuclei are attending to the building of the combs necessary to fill out the hives later on, while the white honey is going in the supers. Another distinction my Heddon hives show is that in all without exception the bees worked in the super from the beginning, because the contraction forced them to, whereas in the full-depth hives quite a few worked below first, in spite of the full sheets in the super and starters in the frames.

Most of our localities in Colorado have a second flow from Aug. 1st to 20th, the first one being June 15th to July 15th, approximately. Swarming lasts during the first flow, but rarely occurs during the second. During the second flow is when we see the most results, not because more honey is gathered, but because it all goes in the supers. But the colonies are all weaker than they ought to be at that time, because breeding has been so hindered by the storage of honey in the brood chamber during the first flow. Now, if we could make the colonies twice as strong during the second flow, when there is no swarming fever to interfere, as it would surely do if they were strengthened during the first flow, we would get some grand results. I have repeatedly noticed the extremely satisfactory manner of turning off super after super in August of those few colonies which were extra strong at that time. Just four extra combs of brood to each hive by July 15th would make a vast difference in the August surplus of a yard. I believe this is worth serious consideration, and think I have the idea that will do it. A year ago I bought a large number of young queens, but used them the wrong

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way, as reported at the time. If they had been used in connection with my present two-story plan, I might have had them laying from early in June to the middle of July, and all this brood available for the old hives; whereas now, my young queens, raised from cells, will not get to laying much before the middle of July, and all their brood will be needed for the increase. It is not worth while to specify details before trial, but it is evident there is room here for a good deal of profitable experiment.

"And now F. L. Thompson takes up the refrain [of the ignorance of editors as to breeding] at still greater length."—Gleanings. Further, it refers to the "reproach against the ignorance of bee-editors" "not being bitterly resented" by the editor of the PROGRESSIVE, who "makes no reply." This is only a specimen of the misrepresentation practiced by Gleanings in discussion. Mr. Miller was merely quoted, and it was the editor of Gleanings, not "bee-editors," who was "reproached" for a specific instance for substituting ignorance for knowledge; and in answer he has to squirm and wiggle in this contempt-

ible fashion by seeking to make all other editors guilty of a (perverted) accusation. He says further "The mistakes that Mr. Thompson seems to make is in supposing that editors of bee-journals pose as the repositories of all knowledge on the subject of bee-keeping." Mr. Thompson made no such supposition and no such mistake, as the editor of Gleanings was quite well aware when he wrote that. Mr. Thompson knows, without any supposing about it, that the editor of one particular bee-journal, namely, Gleanings, posed as the possessor of more knowledge than he owned and misused his editorial influence in so posing, in a particular instance, namely, in the footnote to the article by H. L. Jefferies on inbreeding. An apology is due from the editor of Gleanings for this deliberate misrepresentation of the writer to its readers. The editor goes on to notice a "still greater mistake" thus: "Having learned that an article having some reference to the matter of scientific queen-rearing [sic] had been sent to appear in the columns of this journal, Mr. Thompson says, 'I fear that either it will never get there, or, if it does, it will be accompanied by

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a crushing foot-note, written more in sorrow than in anger." If he will turn to page 382 he will find the article in question, with a foot-note not at all 'crushing', containing neither sorrow nor anger. So far from that, he will be rejoiced to find the article only commendatory," etc. The editor of Gleanings knows very well that the above sentences were framed for the express purpose of hiding the truth from the readers of Gleanings. The whole point of the remark quoted was, not simply that an article on scientific queen-breeding had been sent to Gleanings, but that the surprising comments of the editor of Gleanings on Mr. Jefferies' article were going to be caustically treated in the said article; and had such a caustic article really appeared, I have not the slightest doubt it would have had its crushing foot-note. For a like example see Gleanings for 1898, page 919. And for the repression of an article, compare the fact that a very brief article on the Rietsche press, in reply to the surprising comments of the editor on page 629, 1897, was suppressed; also that the "further argument" referred to on page 772 was never printed, though sent in. The real reasons why Mr. Miller's article was either not repressed or controverted are that it was not caustic at all, and that several other

articles at the same time so overwhelmed the editor that he could do nothing else but draw in his horns, which was done accordingly, being very careful to avoid referring to his former attitude. But why was not that article caustic, when the author said it was? Possibly that majestic blue pencil eliminated anything that might shock egotistic sensibilities. In that case, this pompous editorial is a still greater sham than it appears. As it is, it is no better than to face cull honey with No. 1 and ask a top price.

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SOME OBSERVATIONS.

HOMER H. HYDE.

Too Much Room in Spring:—It is the custom in this country to leave all the extracting bodies on the hives during the winter. This is done where the colonies are even three or four stories high, the object being to protect the combs and to avoid taking care of them in any other way. Those who practice it (and we have been doing it) have claimed that the bees came out in the spring in as good condition as though they had had only one or two stories, as it may have required to comfortably house them. I had been drifting along like the balance, giving the question very little thought until this spring, which was a very late, cold, backward spring,—the bees being very late and dilatory in breeding up. I very soon noticed that the single story colonies, or such as had only as much room as they could occupy as needed, were outstripping those that had a large surplus in room. Single story colonies soon built up strong and ready for the honey flows while the others were dragging along, and for a good part of the time only holding their own, the result being that when the honey flow came on they were weak and in no position to harvest the honey crop. I think that this has taught me a valuable lesson and it should teach a lesson to everyone else in this part of the country. It would be an easy matter to get a lot of extra covers and bottoms, then to take off and pile up the combs right in the yard where they would be handy for the next, when they could be placed on as they are needed. But some will say that one body will not hold all the honey required for wintering and the spring consumption of a strong colony, and

how shall we take care of a surplus? I answer that those bodies containing honey can be very carefully piled separate from the bodies containing only dry combs.

Strong Colonies Important—It seems almost useless to remind Bee-Keepers of the old story, “Strong colonies important,” but it cannot be too forcibly impressed upon the minds of “Amateurs.” Weak colonies profit you nothing, a great many only gathering enough for winter stores; the balance only a small surplus. If we are to keep bees for profit we must at all times keep strong colonies ready for the honey flows when they come. The main requisites, in fact the whole secret, in getting strong colonies, hinges on three things:—good queens, plenty of room at the right time and plenty of honey at all times. I have this year noticed the vast difference in those colonies that were well supplied with honey, in addition to wintering well as against those colonies that did not winter well and perhaps were not as well supplied with good honey or good queens, the former now have some 50 to 75 pounds surplus while the latter have almost nothing. I am happy to say that we do not usually have very many weak colonies, but I know that they are very common with Amateurs and I am sorry to say sometimes with so-called up-to-date bee-keepers.

Locality the Greatest Factor.—If I was asked what subject was the most to be considered in modern bee-keeping, I would say that locality determines whether we should run for comb or extracted honey; what strain of bees are best suited; whether we are to depend on the home market or on the city market for the disposal of our crops of honey. Locality determines whether we can run bees extensively or in a limited way; in fact, locality is

everything. If I was asked the most important factors in bee-keeping I would name LOCALITY, strain of bees, the man and the hive, named in the order of their importance as I see it.

Now for some illustrations of these statements. We will take first a locality that has one main fast flow of honey that comes moderately early. In this locality. Either comb or extracted honey can be produced; just which the market demands. The strain of bees used must be one that builds up fast in the spring and as the honey flow approaches, diminish their brood next, so that there will not be too many idle consumers after the harvest is gathered. Thus the strain most suited in that locality will be Goldens if you run for comb honey and three-band Italians if you run for extracted honey. It may be well to remember that Goldens build up rapidly in the spring, and decrease very much in brood as soon as the honey flow comes on. They are also good comb builders, capping their honey white, etc., etc.

Another illustration: I know a locality in Southwest Texas that has enough honey secretion to keep up brood rearing briskly during January and February, while in March they sometimes gather a good surplus. They have another fine flow the latter part of April and the first part of May and in latter part of June a third good flow, and each of these is what can be termed fast flows scattered along for four months. In this locality either comb or extracted honey is profitable, but comb is what the Bee-Keepers work for mostly. The strain of bees best adapted to this locality would be three-banded Italians, for they build up well and keep strong moderately well after the flow commences. Holy-Land or Cyprians would be just the thing there, but it so happens

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that there is nothing gathered there after July 10th, hence, these races would not only keep a strong force during the flow, as is their nature, but would also keep right on breeding until frost or until their honey was all used up; this would never do hence three-banders have the preference for that locality.

Another illustration is our own locality. Here we are compelled to leave a large amount of honey in the hives for wintering purposes and for spring consumption, for there is no surplus gathered here before the last days of April, sometimes May 15th; then we have a fast flow for about a month about June 15th to July 15th. We have no surplus coming in after July 15th until frost. The last of October we have a flow of honey which is slow, never fast. The spring or May flow cannot always be counted on here; especially has this been so for the last three years.

Albino Queens.

If you want the most prolific queens, the best honey gatherers, the best comb builders, and the hardest bees known, try my Albinos. Untested Queens, \$1.00.

J. D. GIVENS, Lisbon, Tex.

Thus in our locality, all things considered, extracted honey would be the most profitable if a good market existed for it, which does not, as bulk comb is the only thing that sells in Texas now. This situation leaves bee-keepers divided between which they shall produce. The strain of bees best adapted here, provided they have plenty of honey for wintering purposes, is the Holy-Land or Cyprian strain of bees because they keep a strong force of bees at all time, not being crowded out in brood nest by the bees. Goldenes are the worst property that a bee-keeper can have, and three-banders are only moderately good in this locality. I have had but little experience with Carniolans and am not prepared to say what locality they would best suit, but am of the impression that they as well as the Goldenes are as a rule better adapted to the North and the Holy-Lands and Cyprians to the South, while three-band Italians are what you would call an all-purpose bee. If I have given any information that will be of benefit to Amateurs or even veterans, in the selection of their locality stock or system of management, I shall feel amply repaid. In a future article I shall give my system of management for each of the localities described in this paper.

Hutto, Texas.

S. E. MILLER.

Editor PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER: Will you kindly tell me in the next issue whether this is the right moon to render wax in?

The reason I ask is, because heretofore I have had poor success, but quite lately I have succeeded in getting considerable more wax out of a given quantity of comb, so I wish to know whether the moon has not something to do with it. Should wax be rendered in the light or dark of the moon?

You know some people plant potatoes, kill hogs, lay a fence, roof houses, boil soap and many other things in the moon.

I planted my potatoes in the ground when it was dry and hot and about ninety-eight per cent are there yet, at least they have not come out. If the man in the moon has not had any more rain than we have had here it might have been well to have rented a patch of ground from him and planted in the moon. But pray, Mr. Editor, do not let this discussion go any further for we have had it in the Globe Democrat up one side and down "tother," and there is no use to talk to the man who plants potatoes in the moon. As for the woman who boils soap in the moon, well you had just better leave her alone.

I started to say something about wax and here I have got off onto the moon. If the moon was made of wax instead of green cheese as I have heard it is, there might be some excuse for this digression; but as I do not believe it is made of either, I will try to get down to the wax subject.

Well I made me a wax press, I did! as the Irishman would say, and it has proven so satisfactory that I want everyone who has wax to render to do likewise, for if you have

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been getting along without one you do not know how much good wax you have been throwing away.

My press is a modified Hatch Gemmill as illustrated on page 279 April 1st Gleanings. That is, it is made on the same principle. The box is made of four misknotted end pieces to eight-frame dove tailed supers, of which the sides belonging to the same series had mysteriously disappeared. A permanent bottom is secured to these, said bottoms extending some three or four inches in front and an opening like a hive entrance left under the front end. The extended part of the bottom has the corners cut off so as to bring it down to about three inches at the extreme front and cleats are nailed on so as to form a spout to guide the wax into a receptacle for the same. A follower is made similiar to the one shown in the illustration referred to. Strips of wood about five-sixteenths or three-eighth of an inch square are nailed about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart to the follower, ends, sides and bottom. These are put on so as to form continuous passages underneath the follower, down each end along the bottom. I got a screw and cross beam from an old cider press that had been laying around in the way at my father's, paid five cents for a box and two cents for bolts, and out of these I constructed the frame work.

It is so arranged that the spout is about one inch lower than the back end of the box. Directions: Remove follower; place cheese cloth in box; pour in your boiling, melted combs; fold sides of cheese cloth over top of same; put on follower and turn down screw.

I tried it to-day and when I got through squeezing I had scarcely anything but the cheese cloth left in the box.

I weighed the wax and refuse and the proportions were four pounds,

six and one-half ounces wax and fourteen and one-half ounces refuse or about eighty per cent wax and twenty per cent refuse.

This was from capping, and one would suppose that cappings were almost pure wax, but in rendering a considerable portion that is not wax is found. Heretofore when rendering it has seemed to me at times that about half of the cappings turned into slumgum. You will notice that the capacity of this press is small, but I use a coal oil stove in the honey house and about a ten quart dish pan and do not allow old broken combs to accumulate. Should I wish to render old combs on a large scale, all I have to do is to make a larger box as the frame work and screw are sufficient for a much larger sized box. An eight-frame dove tailed hive body thoroughly nailed would make a very good box.

I have also used the press in rendering old combs and it works as well as on the cappings. Of course there is a greater proportion of refuse.

If I had all of the refuse that I have thrown away in the past I am satisfied that it would pay me to work it over with the press.

Many wax extractors are so constructed as to have the pressure applied while the mass is boiling on the stove. This I do not consider necessary, for if the wax is boiling when poured into the box, the follower placed in position immediately and pressure applied the heat will be retained in the box for a sufficient length of time for all the wax to be extracted. Any bee-keeper should be able to construct a press like the one I have described at very little expense. If your Pa has no old cider press, you should be able to purchase a suitable screw for not to exceed fifty cents, and if you cannot

get a screw a lever and a heavy weight will answer very well. I believe a wax press has more to do with getting out all of the wax than the moon has, but if the moon helps to boil soap why should it not help render wax?

Bluffton, Mo.

M. A. GILL.

Editor PROGRESSIVE:—As F. L. Thompson has now taken two “whacks” at me and my methods, may I ask the privilege of talking a little once more by promising not to impose upon the good nature of your readers again? For to me hairsplitting or personal criticism is neither pleasant nor instructive.

I have noticed in the past that whenever anyone failed to sway at his will (Ye Editors as well) that he would get out his cudgled of personal criticism and simply maul them into line. In speaking of the honey flow of Colorado he says it is no 91 days long. Nobody has said it was. I only said it was last year. Then he fixes it at 51 with two weeks’ dearth in or near the middle.

This may be correct from Mr. Thompson’s location of cactus beds and resin weed plains with an occasional 10 acres of Alfalfa but out in Boulder, Wild and Larimer counties where there are thousands upon thousands of acres of Alfalfa and as much more in grain, which is, as a rule, full of Alfalfa which blooms till the grain is cut. Then again—sweet clover will begin to yield by July 1st to 10th and keep up the yield varying of course with the conditions of heat and moisture until Sept. 1st to 15th. No, Friend Thompson, you can’t ring in any two weeks here with us from the middle of July to the 1st of August when we don’t get honey if the weather is normal and it generally is.

With regard to the 8-frame hive will say I have no fault to find with anyone who prefers to use the 10-frame. However, all I said of the 8-frame is true, and the country will continue in the future to raise the bulk of the honey that ever reaches the market in 8-frame hives and there will always be a lot of fellows following along preaching the merits of the 10-frame hives. But if you will look over their outfit you will find a lot of “dummies” so they can make an 8-frame hive out of it in time to get some honey.

Mr. Thompson tries to “pooh at” and ignore female help and says something about wages and slavery. This would indicate that Friend Thompson belongs to the “New Woman Club.” Nevertheless it shows how little he knows about the great domestic plan. He intimates further that such people don’t know how to spend money. Don’t worry, Thompson; fathers and mothers don’t think work is slavery where they are home building and educating their boys and girls. Such may be ignorant but they are generally unselfish.

He says he is disgusted about being advised to get married. I have never advised him thus; on the contrary, I will advise him not to. I think he by all means should steer clear from all matrimonial entanglements.

He says I have chosen a life to hustle and bustle about nothing, with no inspiration for true happiness. “If not, why not?” We have the best of health, a pleasant home, flowers, music, a Bible and a bath tub; is this not an inspiration?

He intimates that when old age comes on and physical inertia has taken place, that I will have nothing to live for; and that my neglected and empty cranium will only be filled with the echoes and turmoil of

the hustling that I have perpetuated.

Good! I hope THEY will hustle. The world needs hustlers.

He says he has chosen a strong devotion to a high and noble object and that he is going to be as frisky and enthusiastic in the feebleness of old age as in the flush of youth.

What a pity he fails to give what this high and noble object of his devotion is; but the last sentence of the above would indicate that HE HIMSELF is the noble IT before whose shrine he is such a willing devotee. If this be the case I would advise him to get a HUSTLE on himself, improve his personal appearance—the world don't take kindly to the "diamond in the rough" theory. People are generally taken for what they appear.

I truly hope Friend Thompson will live to enjoy that beautiful old age which he pictures for himself, but I must warn him that people who live his peculiar life of celibacy usually die from discontent and the dyspepsia of loneliness long before the fruition of his golden dream.

So there you are, Mr. Thompson. I hope you appreciate the crushing nature of this rejoinder.

I almost envy Friend Thompson his great learning, but this is surely not the reason why he is so unfitted for a teacher of men. Is it possible his milk of human kindness has begun to sour on account of the un-kempt condition of the receptacle?

Wife says wh should be thankful for our enemies as they tell us of our faults—our friends wont do it. Looking at it in this light I will try and profit by Friend Thompson's suggestions or comments.

Bearing no animosity I will close this controversy as far as I am concerned. Longmont, Colo.

Convention Notice.

Editor PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER:
Please say in the next issue of the PRO-

GRESSIVE that the next annual convention of the National Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in the audience room of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, in the Buffalo library building, corner of Washington and Clinton sts., Buffalo, N. Y., on the 10th, 11th and 12th of September next, beginning on the evening of the 10th.

Railroad rates will vary in the different passenger association territories, from one cent a mile each way to one and one-third fare for the round trip. The rates can readily be learned on inquiring at the station.

The Buffalo bee-keepers' will try to provide entertainment at reasonable rates for all attending the convention, who will notify Mr. Sydney S. Sleeper, Holland, N. Y., by Sept. 2nd, of their wish for entertainment. In a letter just received from Mr. Sleeper he says, "We want all to come who can, for we wish to make the Buffalo meeting the most pleasant and instructive one that was ever held in America. We will have the co-operation of all the sciences as well as the school board," and names some professional men who are interested that will be at the convention to help. Mr. Herrhisser in closing a long letter says, "Call upon me for whatever further assistance I am able render," and Mr. Penton, an ex-president of the Erie County Bee-Keepers' Society, and others, have offered to do all they can to provide for the comfort of those attending the convention.

As stated in my previous convention notice in the PROGRESSIVE, there will be no fixed program and no papers, and the time will be occupied in asking, answering and discussing questions, except that on Thursday evening there will be a joint session of our association with the American Pomological Society to discuss the mutual relations of Bee-Keeping and Fruit-Growing, Prof. Beach, of the N. Y., Agricultural Experiment Station, and Prof. Fletcher, of the Central Experimental Farm, of the Dominion of Canada, will help talk for the bees at that session, and it is hoped that much good will result to fruit-growers and bee-keepers from this joint session.

If any bee-keeper who can not be at the convention has any questions, knotty or otherwise, he would like to have answered at the convention will send them to me and I will see that they are presented to the convention.

A. B. MASON, Sec., Sta. B. Toledo, O.

Hot Enough to Hatch Eggs.

J. W. ROUSE.

Whew! but this is hot weather, the 12 inst., the thermometer registering 112 degrees, and it is getting so dry that even our wells and cisterns need to be soaked to hold water. Bees are starving around here, and we fear unless fed all will starve.

We think that we have heard it said, "that old maids were necessary" as they all keep cats, and the cats catch the mice that would destroy the bumble bees and their nests, the bumble bees are necessary to fertilize the clovers, the clovers are necessary to fatten cattle, and the cattle are necessary to furnish meat for man, and we might add to this that the supply dealers are necessary to furnish hives for bee-keepers who keep the Italian bees that help the bumble bees, etc., ad lib.

We could bring in the whole human family with almost all nature, as some are producing the nails to nail the hives together, and others are producing lumber, others different foods to keep these others while at work, others clothing, others houses, and so on until we would take in almost or perhaps everything.

Mexico, Mo.

A Disastrous Drought.

J. T. HAIRSTON.

Editor PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER: We are having the most disastrous drought, accompanied by the highest temperature, ever seen here. Corn, oats and hay entirely ruined. There will be no surplus honey here.

I have one hundred and seventy-five stands of bees. No increase this season.

I was waylaid and shot and cut, on the 12th of April, my thigh being broken. Six weeks later my little girl, six years old got her hand crushed so badly it had to be amputated. She got it caught in the gearing of a feed mill. You can see by this why I have sent you no orders.

Salina, I. T.

The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

A journal devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Industries.

TERMS: Fifty cents per year, in advance.

G. M. DOOLITTLE and R. B. LEAHY
..... Editors

On account of moving our printing office into more commodious apartments we have gotten out the PROGRESSIVE a little ahead of time, reduced it to twenty-four pages this once, so as to give us time to move into our new quarters.

On July 14th, Mr. George W. Cook, of Spring Hill, Kans., lost his barn, workshop and considerable stock of bee-keepers' supplies. The loss was about \$1,000 with only \$200 insurance. Cause of the fire unknown. We sympathize with Brother Cook in the loss, which is considerable to him.

It is with much sorrow we publish the following extract from a letter just received from M. M. Faust, Floresville, Texas: "Mrs. Faust passed away June 17th, only two days after my last letter to you." Mr. Faust is a prominent bee-keeper of Floresville. He, with his good wife entertained the South-Western Texas Bee-Keepers' Association a year ago. Mrs. Faust was much beloved by those who knew her. The PROGRESSIVE joins with those who mourn.

The following letter from Rev. Julius Franz, Lexington, Mo., speaks for itself:

LEAHY MFG. CO., Higginsville, Mo.

Dear Friend Leahy—In regard to your kindly offer to advertise my Apiary for sale in the PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER I herewith pray you instantly to do so in the next number of said Magazine. I am too old—nearly 73 years of age—and not strong enough any more to do the necessary work in an apiary, and besides I want to move in the fall to St. Louis to stay there with my son, Dr. V. Franz, for the rest of my life. I will sell bees, empty hives, honey chest, steam wax extractor and any belongings to the bee business now on hand cheap, very cheap, or for most any price. I have thirty-two colonies in Higginsville Telescope hives and seven in other good hives and eleven empty Telescope hives, all in the best condition.

We would be glad for anyone needing the above enumerated outfit to correspond with Brother Franz.

DO NOT NEGLECT the bees this month as some are prone to do, thinking that they have yielded you all the returns they will this year; or consider that other things are of more importance just now, for the safe wintering of the bees depends very much on how they are treated during August.

YOU SHOULD KNOW that each hive has a good queen, and if any colony does not so have, they should be supplied with one at once, so that sufficient brood can be reared to furnish the requisite number of bees for wintering. The fore part of this month is a good time to supersede all old or poor queens, for in many parts of the country the bees do the most of their superseding of their queens at this time. With me, four queens are superseded during this month, to where one is during all of the other months of the year.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN WISE you will have started a score or two of queen-cells during the latter part of July, or just before the close of the white honey harvest, and when these are "ripe" you can go over the apiary and kill the poor queens and put in one of these ripe cells. And if you use a queen-cell protector, you can put in the cell at the time of killing the old queen, and the queen will emerge from her cell all right and be accepted by the colony. In ten days she will be laying, and if this occurs from the tenth to the fifteenth of this month, this young queen will give an abundance of bees for winter, as she will lay more prolifically and longer than an old queen.

THEN, unless you are in a location where you have a late fall yield of honey, you should see that each colony has stores enough for winter. Do not wait till October or November about this, for if you do the bees will not have warm weather enough to properly arrange those stores around the cluster, and so will go into winter with the cluster in one place and the stores scattered about where it will be inconven-



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ient for them to get at these stores during cold weather. Beside, the disturbing of the bees by feeding or by equalizing of stores late in the season tends to wear out their vitality, so that many more will die of old age during the winter than otherwise would, and the opening of hives late in the season tends to disarrange the cluster of bees in such a way that they cannot form so compact a sphere as they would if all had been done this month as it should be.

LAST MONTH I wrote about what the season had been up to the first of June, and told how it would be impossible to secure a large yield of basswood honey in these parts. But during the latter part of June, commencing with June 20th we had very hot weather right along, and the bees secured honey from an unexpected source. For the past

twenty years red clover has failed to blossom in central New York, owing to an almost infinitesimal insect which works in great numbers in each head, just before the blossom would appear. This causes the head to harden and no blossom to open. But this year, owing to our continued rainy weather, or some other cause, we had fields red with clover bloom again, and when the hot weather came on the bees began to roll in the honey at a rate never known here before, outside of a good bass wood yield and for three or four days it was equal to any basswood yield. I could leave combs of honey out in the bee yard all day long and not a bee look at the honey, though several might be seen collecting propolis off the ends of the frames where they come in contact with the hive. And as brood rearing was pretty good thirty-seven days before this clover yield began, from 60 to 70 pounds of section honey is the result from colonies which had not been robbed of bees and brood to make nuclei with, to raise queens for the trade. I think I hear someone asking about the "long tongues." Well, I have not had time to have any measurements taken, as I have been too much rushed this season to hardly sleep nights but if any have long tongues all must, as I see little difference in the working of any colony which was in a proper condition to work. And this from the first crop of red clover. The most claimed by those having red clover queens is, that they work on the second crop, that having shorter corolla than the blossoms of the first crop.

AMOUNT OF SURPLUS ROOM:—But with this unexpected rush of honey from red clover came an excitement on my part which has caused me, I fear, to overdo the amount of surplus room given. As the weather from June 20th to July 5th was extremely hot, the bees were crowded to the outside of the hives especially at the close of the day when all were at home, and this, together

with the rush of honey, caused me to think that more surplus room would be a good thing, and so I kept adding, till now, when cooler weather has come, and the farmers have cut the clover for hay, I find that I have a prospect of a multitude of unfinished sections, unless basswood, which is just opening at this writing, July 9th, gives a yield sufficient to finish them up. It has always been a very nice point with me to know just how much surplus room to give, and I am almost always inclined to overdo the matter. Not to give enough causes a loss in surplus honey, and also causes the colony to go into winter quarters weak in bees, owing to the bees crowding out the queen with honey in the brood chamber. And to give too much room results in many part filled sections which are not fit to put on the market. Then there is an uncertainty about the bloom continuing to yield honey, which adds greatly to the riddle, so that even the most experienced cannot say just how much should be put on, but I feel like urging that we lean toward the side of not putting on quite enough, rather than to put on too much. When those sections already on are sealed down from half to two-thirds of the way, is about the right time to put on more, if the colony already has on enough sections to give an adequate supply for the number of bees it contains. To put on more sections, when those already on are not more than two-thirds full of comb and honey, is a mistake, I think, and will prove disastrous, unless the honey flow is long continued. Like Dr. Miller, I find that hot weather is very favorable to a heavy honey flow, while cool or cold weather is quite unfavorable, especially if rain and high winds come with this cool weather. And just what the weather is to be during the days to come, is something none of us can tell, and because we cannot tell is the reason why we should go slow in a large amount of surplus section room.

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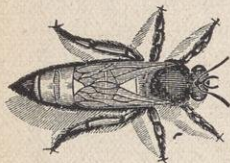
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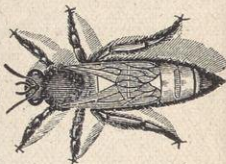
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Yours Fraternally,

J. C. WALLENMEYER.
Evansville, Ind., Sept. 27th 1900.

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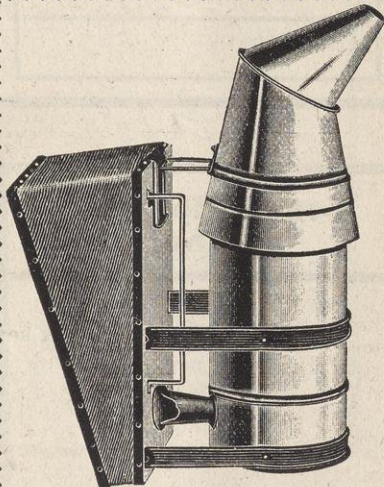
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We also have one second-hand six-inch mill for making extra thin foundation, and one second-hand ten-inch mill for making medium or light brood. These are for sale cheap. Write for prices.

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A
NEW LEAF
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OVER.

The Bee-Keepers' Review for 1901 has turned over a new leaf, taken up new lines, and entered a broader field. While it continues to give methods in detail, it is striving to arouse and encourage bee-keepers; to inspire them; to awaken them; to set them to thinking, to lead them to change the uncertainties of a few bees in one locality for the certainty of many bees in several localities; to organize and co-operate; to rise up in their might, and sweep contagious diseases of bees out of this country; to work for the improvement of their stock, and to comprehend that the conditions of bee-keeping are constantly changing; and that, in order to succeed, they must keep up with the times. Even old bee-keepers, those who have kept bees and read journals for years, are aroused to enthusiasm by the reading of the last few issues of the Review. Several have written that it seemed to them that the last two or three issues contained more practical, solid, condensed, valuable information than they had ever before found in the same number of issues.

The Review for 1901, and 12 back numbers, for only \$1.00. For \$2.00 I will send the back numbers, the Review for 1901, and a queen of the Superior Long-tongue Stock.

W. Z. Hutchinson,

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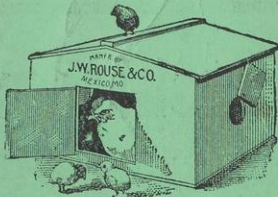
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