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THE



BEEHIVE

PUBLISHED FOR AND IN THE INTEREST OF BEE-KEEPERS, BY ONE OF THEM.

VOL. 5.

ANDOVER, CONN., NOV. & DEC., 1890.

NO. 5, 6.

UNCLE JOHN AS A MORALIST.

A—Stands for Amateur, the one who's expert,
Whose writings are good and never does hurt

B—Stands for Brother, and we should see
That each to each other a brother should be.

C—Stands for Cussing, which never does good,
It puts everybody in a bad mood.

D—stands for Don't say what you don't know,
But be careful and thoughtful, and learn to
go slow.

E—Is for Extractor, and you and I know,
That it's foolish to say the extractor must go

F—Is for Friendship, and should always be true.
A pretense of the same will not carry us
through.

G—Is for Gates, which aint bars you can see,
For though you shove bars you cannot shove
me.

H—Is for Heddon, the man that's abused.
Whose inventions are cussed, but still they
are used.

I—Is for Industry, and applies to the bee,
Wish I could only apply it to me.

J—Is for Journal, and it seems to-day,
That none seems to take like the C. B. J.

K—Is for Kindness, and e'er should be
A motto that's held where all can see.

L—Is for Love, let us use it the same,
And never be calling each other bad names.

M—Is for Mischief, which sometimes we do,
By telling of things we know not to be true.

N—Is for Neatness, without it we can't
Keep bees and make money; no, not worth
a cent.

O—Is for Onward, in the bee-keeping race.
Let no discouragement slacken our pace.

P—Is for Poultry, which always eat bees.
It's so, though deny it whoever may please.

Q—Is for Questions in the C. B. J. asked,
And some seem so silly they'd better been
passed.

R—Is for reasonable Room we should give
To bees, or they'll swarm as sure as you live.

S—Is for Swarming, which we must control.
Or honey'll be absent when calling the roll.

T—Is for Touchy, which we should not be,
For folks always bother such people you see.

U—Is for United, then let us so be,
For if we are divided, we'll find ourselves in
about the same shape the man found him-
self in when he climbed the mullen-stalk to
get away from the bear.

V—Is for Victory, which we will gain
By sticking, and using our hands and our
brain.

W—Is for Wilful, and by it I've lost;
I've learned just the same, though fearful
the cost.

X—Is for Xanthic, its color you see,
Is that of the pollen brought in by the bee.

Y—Is for Yearning to understand
The truths of our Savior, so noble and grand.

Z—Is for Zinc, which excludes the queen,
It also excludes some honey, I wean.

&—Is no letter, but used pretty well
In many more ways than I've time here to
tell.

—J. F. Gates, in Canadian B. Journal.

THE HAUNTS OF BEES.

MRS. L. HARRISON.

There is a blacksmith in this city who is an enthusiast in bee culture. He will get up by daylight on Sunday mornings, take a piece of bread and butter, and walk seven or eight miles to an apiary, watching for the bees upon the bloom. In a recent visit I asked him if he had been to the buckwheat fields this fall. He said that he had, but when he was there the bees were not working upon buckwheat, as it was completely covered with wild cucumber vines, which were blooming profusely, and the bees were working upon them. I knew that there was a flow of honey following buckwheat, but I was ignorant of the source, until this lover of

nature in her happiest moods informed me.

BEE-TREES.

This enthusiast has made friends with some wood choppers, who have spent their whole lives in the woods and are always on the alert to discover bee-trees. He accompanied them lately on a bee-tree cutting expedition. He said that while chopping the tree, the bees covered him and stung him viciously, but as soon as the tree fell they left him for they had no home to defend. The men took away a large wash-tub of honey and two wooden pailfuls. When they were taking out the honey from the hollow tree, they came across two large combs full of brood, that were sealed and chipping. The bee-keeper said, "I would like that." The woodmen said, "You've a basket; what's to hinder? Take it along if you want it."

So he carried it home and fastened it into frames, and gave it to a weak colony, which increased their number wonderfully. He measured a piece of comb, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, and counted the embryo bees, and there were 585 on each side. This tree was cut during the fall flow of honey, which was the best time of the season, and the colony had queen-cells, getting ready to swarm.

HUNTING BEE-TREES.

These woodmen do not practice baiting and lining bees, as there are so many kept along and under the bluffs facing the Illinois River bottoms, but they watch them in their flight towards the river, and from long practice have become adept in locating them. As they walk or drive through the woods, they scan the trunks of trees, and their practiced eye soon discovers if there are bees going or returning to it, with the sky for a background. During the winter, when there is snow and

bees clean house, the dead are readily seen upon its white surface; or bees take a purifying flight, when the trees are leafless, upon mild, warm days. They also drink the sap from fresh chips, and may be traced home among the bare trees.

Bees choose strange places for a home occasionally. In a late number of the British Bee Journal is an amusing account from a correspondent in South Africa, of the result of such a choice. A Dutch farmer and his frau were getting ready to go to a neighboring village to attend sacrament. The farmer hurried his frau, as it was getting late, and entering the vehicle they drove off. Soon the frau was slapping and screaming, and the farmer and the driver beating accompaniments, and the old mokes of horses were kicking and galloping, when they drove in among the assembled worshippers. Soon the latter joined in the fusillade, and never was there such a looking crowd after the fray—big noses, closed eyes, and thick lips. A swarm of bees had taken possession under the seat, and stored forty pounds of honey, and the jolting drove the bees out on the war path.

FLOUR AS A PEACE MAKER.

In England flour is very popular to use in uniting bees in the fall, to prevent fighting. When they are put together flour is shaken over them from a dredging box, and when they lick themselves clean they are as thick as thieves.—Prairie Farmer.

WINTERING BEES.

While many successful bee-keepers winter their bees on summer stands, I think that the majority of Northern apiarists favor wintering in cellars. Dry, pure air and a proper and uniform temperature are the

two prime essentials in successful wintering; these, in my opinion, cannot be so perfectly controlled out of doors as in some suitable place indoors.

To insure dry air, the cellar must be a well drained one, with bottom cemented and walls plastered, to prevent moisture from passing through. Next it must be warm enough to prevent freezing, and provided with sufficient ventilation to admit of the escape of the heat and gases generated by the bees. The temperature most to be desired is 45° Fahr.

A portion of the cellar ought to be set aside especially for the bees. When presentable, I would locate them in a solid body in the center of the room—never close to the ends. Let the hives rest a foot or more from the bottom of the cellar, and upon each other, being careful to break joints and get the weakest colonies on top.

This work should be delayed until the autumn is sufficiently advanced to chill the bees a little, so that they will not be too active; avoid, however, the other extreme of waiting for cold weather. When all are nicely filled up, exclude all light. Mr. Newman advises entering the bee department every fortnight with a dark lantern to see that all goes well.

If the thermometer indicates above 45°, admit cold air; if below 40°, which ought not to occur, partly close the ventilator to bring the mercury up to the desired temperature.

Mr. Newman and Prof. Cook agree that each colony should begin to winter with 30 pounds of good honey. I have never weighed mine, but believe it would be a good plan.

Some bee-keepers resort to small stoves to keep their cellars warm enough, others depend on the warmth from a fire in a room above the cellar, while others again connect it by a shaft or pipe with the stove a-

bove. By this latter plan the cellar is ventilated with warm air.—B. Benjamin, in the World.

BROOD IN SECTIONS.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Years ago, when all the hives in use contained 2000 or more cubic inches, brood in the surplus boxes was of rare occurrence, but since the apiarists of our land come to cut down the size of the brood-chamber to less than two-thirds of the size which was formerly used—so as to get a larger surplus of comb honey—brood in the sections is of quite common occurrence. Nothing is much more provoking to the apiarist when he goes to a hive expecting to find all of the boxes filled with nice white honey, than to find them filled with honey down to within an inch or two of the bottom, as he expected, and the rest filled out with brood.

Another thing which causes this state of affairs to exist, is the excluding of all drone-comb from the brood-chamber, for bee-keepers have learned that the raising of hosts of drones is one of the reasons that more honey is not obtained. Bees will have some drones, and if they cannot get them in any other way, they will cut down worker-comb and build in drone; still if any drone-comb is in the sections, they seem to prefer to have the queen "go up stairs" and lay in the honey apartment, rather than to cut down comb already built.

Now there are three ways of keeping the queen down below, where she belongs; the first of which is a large brood-chamber, as has already been hinted at. But as this is a kind of remedy that is a loss to the bee-keeper, no one thinks of using such a hive at the present time. About the time that contraction of the brood-chamber began to be thought of,

comb foundation was invented, and it soon became apparent that if the queen could not find any drone-comb in the surplus chamber, where the bees were adverse to breeding in any event, that the remedy would be complete. Then again, honey stored in worker-comb presents a much finer appearance, so we were not long in deciding that if we would reap the best results, we must fill our sections with worker foundation, which the larger part of our bee-keepers do today. But contraction became a fever in the minds of some, and was carried on to such an extent that the queen had not room enough below in which to indulge her egg-laying capacity, even for worker-brood, so we had sections filled completely full of worker-brood.

Not to be foiled, bee-keepers soon brought into use perforated zinc, the perforations of which were so nicely made that it would readily allow a worker to pass through it, but when the queen came to try the same thing she could not get through. In this we have a perfect thing, so that where a perforated honey-board is used it is impossible to have brood in the surplus apartment.

Another item of some import: This perforated metal excludes all drones also from the surplus arrangement, so that we do not have drones between our nice sealed honey and the tin separators, as we formerly did when only a little drone-comb is allowed each hive, for while the shaking of the wide-frames would readily dislodge the workers, these drones could not be shaken off on account of their larger size causing them to wedge between the surface of the combs and the separators.

For this reason we had to carry these drones into our honey room, where they would foul our nice white combs with their excrement, and also the window to the honey room when they went to that to get out.

There has been quite a little theorizing regarding this mode of keeping the queen where she belongs, some claiming that not as much honey could be obtained where the bees were compelled to pass through so small an aperture to reach the sections, "for," said they, "bees are often loth to enter the section boxes anyway."

However, time, that prover of all things, has shown that these theories are false, for facts prove that as much honey is stored where perforated honey-boards are used, as is stored without them, and they are beginning to be considered as one of the necessities of bee-keeping. But it was soon found that all-metal honey-boards were too expensive to be tolerated, so again the inventive genius of the apiarist was called into use and we soon had a combination of zinc and wood, which gave us a much better board, in that it was more ridged and not liable to get out of shape or spoiled by being kinked; beside it was much cheaper and answered the purpose equally well.

But someone may say, "All very well, but I am not so rigged for this season; what am I to do if I find brood in my sections?"

Well, there are two or three ways of working when brood is found in the sections, and it depends something on what stage the brood is in when found. If in the egg or larva form, take the sections off the hive and carry them to the cellar, leaving them there for four or five days till the brood perishes, when they are returned to the hive, and if the queen does not enter them again they will be filled and look as good as if no brood had ever been in them, for they will remove every particle of offensive matter, making all as good as new. If the brood is capped over, take a knife and shave off the brood down to within one-fourth of an inch of the septum of the comb and return it to

the hive. The bees will now clean it up and build out the cells again the same as they would work out comb foundation, but the honey will not have quite so nice an appearance as it would if the brood had never been in. Then the brood can be left till the bees hatch out, when, if the season holds out, the sections will be filled with honey, which will have to be sold as second quality, this being better than nothing.—Advance.

HOW FOUNDATION IS MADE.

H. L. JEFFREY.

Many people confound comb with foundation. Artificial comb, like artificial eggs, has never been practically made. Had it been it never could have been filled with honey or any manufactured substitute and then capped over. The impossibility of this is plainly apparent when it is considered that it takes about 800 thicknesses of the wax in the side-walls of the cells to make an inch in thickness, and that the cells are built with an upward incline, evidence of which is readily seen upon cutting a comb in two. Machinery could not be made to work so delicate an amount of wax or form cells of such a peculiar shape and position. The cells are also six-sided, with the dividing walls of these cells joining on one side at a point opposite the center of a cell on the other side, thus making a complication that renders the manufacture of comb impossible. That wax is given to the bees in a form available for their use is perfectly true, but it positively must be pure wax. The addition of one-hundredth part of foreign substance is at once detected and the wax is spoiled for working.

In making foundation, wax is first melted and clarified by straining. It

is then sheeted by dipping into melted wax thin boards that have been previously thoroughly soaked in water to prevent the wax from entering their pores. They are usually dipped twice and a thin sheet of wax is formed on each side. The edges of the boards are then scraped with a blunt knife and they are then plunged in cool, but not very cold water, which cools the wax and causes it to flake off. These sheets are run between a pair of rollers that are engraved with indentations to correspond with those in the base of the comb as built by the bees.

The side-walls of the cells thus formed on the foundation are all nearly one-sixteenth of an inch deep, merely a thread of wax furnished to the bees from which to draw the cells. If this base is properly made, there will be enough wax given for the bees to finish a cell three-eighths of an inch deep, and eight square feet will weigh about a pound.

To comb foundation is due about one-fourth of the success of modern bee-keeping. It furnishes the only sure way to obtain nice straight combs of all worker cells, that is, having cells five to the inch, or just the size to raise the worker or honey-gathering bee.

Foundation is no more a comb than it is a board, until the bees have re-manipulated it, added to it and again made of it a comb.—Farm and Home.

EXPERIMENTING.—I know of no better way for any bee keeper to get so much profitable amusement and valuable information regarding bees and queens, as can be had by experimenting in the line of introducing just hatched queens and inserting queen-cells in colonies at the proper season of the year. Most any bee-keeper has plenty of queen-cells at swarming time, and no special effort

need be made to procure a supply by artificial methods.—Alley.

of nectar that the bee takes in pay for the work it does.—Intermountain Horticulturist.

OUR+EXTRACTOR.

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PLANTING FOR HONEY.

A great many plants are recommended to plant for furnishing pasturage for bees, but as a rule it will not pay to plant for honey exclusively, although some of the clovers, buckwheat and alfalfa or lucern will in a great many cases pay for planting, and also furnish pasturage for the bees. All the small and large fruit blossoms yield honey and pollen to a greater or less extent, as does also a great many shade trees.

BEEES NECESSARY TO FERTILIZE BLOSSOMS.

A great many plants and trees are not capable of self-fertilization, and are therefore dependent on the winds, flies, bees, etc., which carry the pollen from the perfect flowers to the imperfect ones, there by setting more fruit or seed. The bee is the only insect that can be had in large enough numbers early enough to perform such work, and some blossoms are necessarily dependent on the honey-bee for their successful fertilization. As a proof of the above assertion, when red clover was first planted in Australia it would not produce seed, and did not until they imported the bumble-bee, being the only insect capable of successfully performing such work.

A great many ignorant fruit growers think that a bee-keeper should pay them for what honey the bees take from their blossoms, when in reality they themselves are the ones that should pay, and when fruit growers realize this, they will consider our little workers a blessing, and not begrudge the paltry drops

GRANULATED SOLID.

Warm packing is as useful to hives in a cold cellar, as to those protected on their summer stands.

Granulated honey in bulk may be best re-liquified for bottling by giving the cans a hot water bath or by heating over steam pipes.

Colonies are best removed to the cellar on a cold day, when bees will not fly readily. It is usually necessary to close entrances while carrying them in.

Time may be saved in filling jars if the thick honey is carefully warmed. For holding the honey, a factory milk-can with a faucet, having a lamp beneath, will be a convenient arrangement for many.

A few drops of honey exposed in the air on a warm day will quickly start robbing, which may result in the loss of colonies. No bees are proof against this temptation, and once taught do not reform.

To make soft candy dissolve sugar in water and boil to a thick syrup. After taking from the fire constantly stir until stiff. A spoonful of tartaric acid should be added to each 20 lbs. of sugar, to kill the grain.

When colonies yet need stores, exchange the empty comb outside the cluster for those full of honey. This need not disturb the bees. Lacking full combs, put a ten-pound piece of cream or soft candy across the top of the brood-frames and cover warm with bags or quilts.

—Farm and Home.

PAINTING HIVES.

For the lower hive we use white lead and linseed oil; for the upper story, Venetian red and oil, with a little white lead added, to give it body. If we wish to vary the color of the hives in the apiary, we use a little burnt umber, more or less. This in combination with Venetian red and white lead, gives almost any of the neutral tints.

In a late visit to the Dadants, I saw a large collection of blocks painted in very bright colors of green, red, yellow, purple and white. In answer to my inquiries as to what they were for, I was told that hives were formerly painted in different colors, so that queens could distinguish their own hives on their return from bridal tours; but instead of this, these blocks were now used.

They are about two inches square and six inches in length, with one end cut off diagonally. These blocks are also used to regulate the size of the fly-entrances, either decreasing or increasing it at discretion.

A poor honey season is a good one to judge of the merits or demerits of bees. When the honey-flow is very abundant, the natives appear to keep up in the race, but during a poor season they are distanced. I have taken off surplus in the fall from native bees and found their cupboard bare. Italians in the same condition would have uncapped every cell, carried every drop into the brood-chamber, and been "as snug as a bug in a rug" for cold weather.—P. Farmer.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CARNIOLANS.

If you will permit we should be pleased to give our experience with Carniolan bees. We have had them in our yard for the past three years. Have given them just as close atten-

tion and in every way the same hive and fixtures. But we find they are no equal to our Italians.

The queen is not so prolific, they are more willing to use their business end when disturbed, and will swarm oftener, no matter whether they are making honey or not, and in the three years of our experience, we have taken no surplus from them.

Now do we hear some one say we are prejudiced against the Carniolian, or that we have not had the pure strain?

To such we beg to answer that we have had home bred and have imported Mr. Benton's very choicest stock, and the result being always the same.

HARKER BROS.
Hornerstown, N. J.

THE

Bee Hive

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

E. H. COOK,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,
ANDOVER, CONN.

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THE BEE-HIVE TO CHANGE HANDS.

With this issue we close our connection with the BEE-HIVE as its editor and publisher. Our readers have noticed that for several months

past the BEE-HIVE has been issued very irregularly. This has been due to the fact that our printing business has been rapidly increasing till now it demands all our time, hence the delay in issuing our paper. We are pleased to announce to our readers that we have sold the BEE-HIVE to the well known firm, The W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co., of Jamestown, N. Y. This firm will take immediate control of all subscriptions and advertisements now running in this paper. The name of their paper is "The American Bee-Keeper," which our subscribers will receive till their present subscription expires.

It was with reluctance that we decided to dispose of our paper, for we enjoyed the publishing of it. It is hardly necessary for us to say that this firm will publish a first-class bee journal—one that will be interesting to lovers of the "busy bee."

In conclusion we bespeak your patronage for the new proprietors, knowing them to be worthy of all confidence

We shall continue to raise pure Italian queens and bees in their season, and shall be glad to receive your orders.

Dr. Miller has a department of short notes in Gleanings. The Roots recognize a good thing.

Please remember that we are supplied with a full line of bee-keepers' cuts and that we can get you out a catalogue or price-list at rock bottom prices.

We understand that eleven colonies of bees were recently sold in this State for \$100.00. It is safe to say that the party buying them at that price will know the value of bees by the time he gets back the price paid.

If you have not received a copy of our Bee-Keepers' Club List of Newspapers and Magazines, you had best to send for one right off, as we have but few left.

With the New Year's number the American Bee Journal will be changed to a 32 page weekly.

With the December issue the Review will be enlarged, a cover added and the price raised to \$1.00 a year.

A "Honey Festival" is the latest thing out. At one of the churches in Hartford, Conn., bees had been noticed going in and out of a crevice in the roof for several years. A recent investigation resulted in a finding of about one hundred pounds of honey. This is to be used for a honey festival and will no doubt yield a handsome revenue for the church.

Special Notices.

Under this heading advertisements of 35 words will be inserted **four times** for only 25 cents.

For sale or exchange.—1 pen of Wyandott (Hawkins' strain), 10 hens and cock; also few trios of Brown Leghorns; also a few colonies of bees in L. hives, for apianian supplies, or offers.
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Without exception this is the best article on Queen-Rearing that Mr. Doolittle has written. It gives, in language so plain that all can understand, the method used by Mr. D. himself, which is a guarantee of its valuable qualities.

Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Ills., a prominent apicultural writer, says of it:

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CONTENTS :

A sketch of G. M. Doolittle, wherein his Early Love of Bees, Reading Bee-Books and Papers, Influence of the Teachings of E. Gallup, Good Queens, Writing Articles, etc., are interestingly described. Following this comes Mr. Doolittle's Method of Rearing Queens. The first subject treats on the Importance of Good Queens, showing how necessary they are if one would be successful. The Old Way of Rearing Queens is then described and its defects clearly shown, followed by the Method Now Used, and its disadvantages. Eggs and Food are then discussed. The way of arranging and fastening the Queen-Cups is then clearly described and fully illustrated. The Cell-Building Colony is next described, followed by Larvæ for Queen-Cells: Transferring the Larvæ; Advantages of this Method; Points to Remember; Natural Queen-Cells; How to Make the Nuclei; How to Cut Out the Cells, and How to put Cells in Nuclei. This is followed by pithy points gleaned from Mr. D.'s writings, as follows—Honey; Queens; Scraps; Honey-Combs, Reports.

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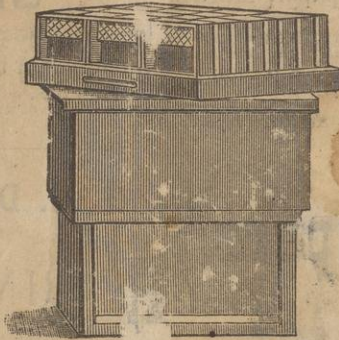
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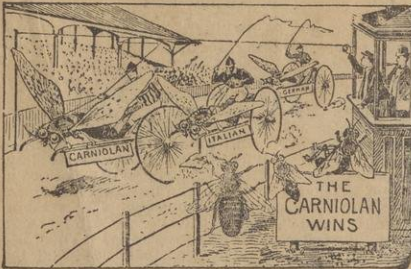
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