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Placerville, California: Watkins & McCallum, October, 1889

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VOL. I,

NO. V.



THE WESTERN



APIARIAN,



— AND —



Queen Breeder's Journal.



AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

PLACERVILLE, • October • 1889 CALIFORNIA.

— Devoted to Scientific and Practical Apiculture. —

PUBLISHED FIRST OF EACH MONTH.

Subscription,

75 Cents a Year.

S. L. Walkins,

Editors.

F. E. McCallum,



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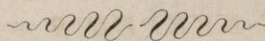
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WESTERN APIARIAN, AND Queen Breeders Journal

FRANK McCALLUM EDITOR and PROPRIETOR.

Placerville, California, October, 1889.



F. E. McCALLUM, *Editor.*

A 24-PAGE MONTHLY
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, 75 CENTS

CLUBBING RATES:

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\$ 1.80; 5 copies, \$ 2.50; 10 or more,
45 cents each.

Please write the names and post
offices plainly.

Advertising rates on application.

Editorial Bee-lines.

We have to make an apology to our subscribers for being so far behind with the October number, but the following will perhaps explain the reason better than it can be explained in any other way.

We announce to you a change in the management of the *Western Apiarian*, caused by the withdrawal of Mr. S. L. Watkins from the firm.

This has caused considerable complication and delay in the adjustment of the business, and must serve as our explanation.

In taking sole management and control I wish to make some statements and suggestions.

The "*Western Apiarian*" has met with some considerable success and encouragement, and has reason to feel thankful to its many friends who have given much help in its es-

tablishment; but it has not yet been fully demonstrated that such a publication will receive sufficient support from the bee-keepers of the West.

However, I positively state that I will publish this magazine regularly for one year from this date, if I have to sink every dollar I can raise in any honorable way.

Beginning with the December number, I will print 32 pages, and will before six months shall pass, make it the largest largest monthly bee-journal in America.

I will have the November number out by the 15th of that month, and the December number about the first of the month.

I will print on heavy white paper, and make its appearance equal to any similar magazine published.

I will issue a special number in December, of which I will have more to say in another place.

I will keep my advertising rates as low as possible, and will, at certain times, make special propositions for advertising.

The price of the "*Western Apiarian and Queen Breeder's Journal*" will be raised to 75 cents with the December number; but all who subscribe before December 1st. will receive the paper until 1891 (14 numbers) for 50 cents.

Now, having "declared my intentions," let me make a few suggestions as to how you can make this journal a great success.

1st. Keep us well supplied with

copy. Tell us, in plain, ordinary language, of your work in the apiary. Many think because they are not professional book-makers they cannot write acceptably: such is far from being correct. We would much rather have a plain, straight, practical article from the man who writes in his shirt sleeves, or who pens (or rather pencils) his article, in the midst of his bees; and we are confident that such articles will interest bee-keepers more than any other.

2nd. Subscribe for the paper yourself, and get as many of your neighbor bee-keepers as possible to do likewise.

3rd. Advertise in it whenever you have any advertising to do.

4th. Put your card in its "Directory", and become known to its many readers as a bee man.

5th. Send your job work to this office, and help us in helping yourself.

6th. Send the names of all "bee-men" in your vicinity, so that we may let them see the "W. A. & Q. B. J."

7th. Adopt the paper as your own, published in your vicinity, and solely in your interests.

If you will follow the above suggestions, you will very soon have one of the best bee papers in America. There are plenty of bee-keepers on this coast alone to support a splendid magazine, we are, in addition to this, securing a large circulation in the Gulf States, also a very creditable list in the East and Canada.

With these few observations, I settle back in my Editor's Chair, (have just had a new bottom put in, hope it won't fall out) and wait for the letters to pour in upon me: articles innumerable, and 50 cent smiles till I am happy.

Honey is low. Comb honey is selling from 10 to 15 cents per pound. We have no trouble in wintering our bees. We leave them on the summer stands, and very few are ever lost.

Mr. J. S. Harbisan of San Diego, Cal. brought the first Italian bees to California. His first apiaries were located about 12 miles below Sacramento city. That location not being a very favorable one, he moved his bees to San Diego.

Other importations of bees soon followed but usually one-half died on the way.

In 1859 four swarms were safely brought across the plains in a wagon, stopping occasionally at the flowery places to let the bees feed.

In March, 1853, were brought to California the first bees.

A bee-keeper by the name of Shelton purchased 12 swarms from some one at Aspinwall who had brought them from New York. After arriving at San Francisco they dwindled down to one swarm. This swarm was taken to San Jose.

They flourished and multiplied in the beautiful pastures of the Santa Clara valley, sending off three swarms the first season. Two of the swarms were sold for \$105 and \$110 respectively.

Bees in a mountain country do not go as far in search of stores as in a level,

The essential requirements of a good honey crop are, a good prolific queen; hives full of comb; an abundance of flowers; and favorable weather.

A few days ago we had quite a heavy shower, but no frost yet. Bees at Placerville still continue to work on golden rod, fire weed, etc. In some sections this season, along the water courses the alder trees yielded considerable honey dew; also the walnut trees, probably being the work of alphides.

The white oak trees in the Sacramento valley yield an immense quantity of honey dew but of very inferior quality. It makes an excellent winter store for bees in this climate.

Many will perhaps think that the special number of an apiarian magazine should be at midsummer, and in the eastern states this would probably be correct; but with us here in California, and in the Gulf States, where the climate and conditions are very similar to California, the most appropriate special number will be the December number.

Such a special number, we propose to issue in December.

In order to make of it the largest possible success, we ask your hearty cooperation.

The great expense can only be justified by a large issue; and such an issue should be made to reach every apiarist in the west and south. If you will send the names of the bee-men in your vicinity we will send them the December number free.

We are making arrangements with our many practical apiarists to furnish us with articles for this issue, which will reach away up into the thousands, and invite all who will to send us a contribution.

Will you not favor us with your help in this undertaking.

Mississippi Correspondent

We have had a very good yield of honey in this county this year. The autumn flowers are in bloom now. Golden rod and asters are plentiful but bees do not work on them much. Bee-keeping is not much of an industry in this county —Holmes— Nearly all of the bees are black and in old-fashioned gums; but some Italians in movable frame hives.

Early Drones.

By H. L. Jeffrey.

For The Western Apiarian.

Have you ever tried putting up your breeding stocks early in September for the next spring? It is the only way that I can get my drones as early as I want them. I put my patched drone and worker combs at each side of the hive the first of this month so as to catch the jewel weed pollen, and I have them about $\frac{1}{4}$ drone comb just as soon as the upper half is filled with honey and capped I reverse them. That fills the rest and covers the pollen. I put two of these in ev-

dry hive until I get four for every drone breeder that I want.

Onto these four, and one all worker comb, that is given when packing for winter, as I use only five combs to winter, and feed sugar for the rest, and fill every cell full of syrup in October, I raise my combs one inch more above the bottom of the hive, and get two more combs that are half drone with all the pollen in them that I can, for every five with my drone breeding queens in.

I feed them hot syrup just as early as I can, and I have plenty of drones by the first of May, that are on the wing.

Those two combs that are half drone, are put, one into each of my first nuclei, and when hatched, they go back for the second lot.

These first hatched drones are good for two lots of queens, and by that time, I have a second lot of drones ready to stock up with again.

Another thing I have taken notice of: the queen in a nucleus that has a good stock of drones, will mate from two to four days younger than in a nucleus without drones; and she, in most cases will come out when the drones are out on the fly.

I have watched them for several years, and when there are 200 or more drones piling out of a hive, it seems as though the noise started the queens out too; because I have seen them come out as though they were crazy.

Continued next month.

THE WESTERN APIARIAN

Subscription Blank.



TO "THE WESTERN APIARIAN."

Placerville, El Dorado County, California.



Please find **50 cents**, for One Year's Subscription
for "*The Western Apiarian*," to begin with the
month of

Name,

Post Office,

County,

State,

*Will you kindly write below, the names and addresses of
any bee-keepers in your region.*

Oblig. **WATKINS & M^C CALLUM.**



*Alpine Honey Plants.**For The Western Apiarian.*

By S. I. WATKINS.

On the east side of the Sierra Nevadas, partly in California and partly in Nevada, the honey plants are entirely different from those on the west side.

On the eastern side there are innumerable spurs and ranges which run parallel with each other, branching out in right angles from the main ridge.

Bees do not commence to gather any surplus there, until the middle of June, and then commence to work on Alpine willows, skunk cabbage, wild daisies, dwarf phlox, shingle brush, etc. Along in August and the latter part of September, the yellow sage begins to bloom, and from that the main source is gathered; the honey from this source is of exquisite flavor, and of medium density, and of a sparkling clear color; far ahead (in appearance) of all honey gathered on this side of the range. Southern California can boast of the tropical white sage, and Eastern California of the Alpine yellow sage. To all appearances it is exactly the same only the color of the bloom, which is a beautiful yellow, while the flowers on the spikes of the Southern California white sage are of a purplish color. Several species of wild cactus furnish honey along in autumn. The annual

spring time at these Alpine heights begins about the first of June, then there is the greatest amount of bloom. These bee pastures I speak of are about five thousand feet above sea level, where the snow sometimes falls to a depth of fifteen or twenty feet. Next season I intend trying a few colonies at this new location, and shall then be able to give more definite statements as to the amount of honey gathered. Only three or four colonies now occupy the range and they do exceedingly well. After I try one season I shall know by experience as to the number of colonies that will do to keep there. The winters are sometimes pretty severe there, but I think they can be wintered in ordinary hives.

PRINTERS' INK is just what it purports to be, a journal for advertisers." It is issued on the first and fifteenth days of each month, and is the representative journal—the trade journal, so to speak—of American advertisers. It tells the intending and inexperienced advertiser in plain, comprehensive articles how, when, and where to advertise; how to write an advertisement; how to display one; what newspapers or other media to use; how much to expend—in fact, discourses on every point that admits of profitable discussion. If you advertise at all, **PRINTERS' INK** can help you perhaps you expend but Ten Dollars a year in advertising; if so, **PRINTERS' INK** may show you how to obtain double the service you are now getting for one-half the money. A year's subscription costs but One Dollar; a sample copy costs but Five Cents. Advertising is an art practised by many but understood by few. The conductors of **PRINTERS' INK** understand it thoroughly. Surely their advice, based on an experience of more than twenty-five years, will help you. Address:—

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Newspaper Advertising Bureau,
10 Spruce St., New York.

From American Bee Journal.

Honey Sections.

By J S Harbison.

As some interest is being manifested by bee-keepers as to the origin of the section honey box or "honey section", as instance the enquiry of Mr. L. C. Whiting, I take pleasure in giving the information.

I conceived the idea, and made the first sections of the celebrated Harbison section honey-box, during the last week of December, 1857, at Sutterville, Sacramento county Cal.

In September, 1858, I exhibited 500 pounds of section honey, two lb combs, at the state fair, held at Marysville. In 1871, I exhibited section-box honey at the International Exhibit held at Philadelphia, Pa. and was awarded the highest honors therefor.

The first case of section-box honey shipped from California, was shipped by me in the first carload of green fruits that was shipped over the Central & Union Pacific railroad to Chicago, soon after their completion.

In 1873 I shipped the first full carload of section honey that was ever shipped east, part of which I sold to C. O. Perrine, of Chicago, and the balance was sold by Mathew Graf & Co of that city.

This was followed by a number of carloads to Chicago, and New York, in 1874.

The Song of the Queen.

On my golden throne, I rule alone
With a magic spell complete;
And my subjects sing, and their treasures bring
To lay them at my feet,
O, never a queen, mid such tender sheen
Dreamed ever a dream so sweet !

My armies spread, o'er the valley's bed
O'er the mountain's shimmering side;
They come and go, like the ebb and flow
Of the ocean's ceaseless tide;
And toiling sing, as their way they wing
O'er my flowery kingdom wide.

With a flash and gleam in the morn's soft beam

They go to the fields afar;
Where the yucca bright, in her robe of white

Soft beckons, like a star,
Nor toil nor heat, from the nectar sweet
May ever my hosts debar.

A. F. Kercherval.

Los Angeles, Cal.

PLAIN HONEY CAKE—One pint honey, one pound butter, 10 eggs, 1 teacup sour milk, 1 teaspoonful of soda, 1 ½ pounds of flour, 1 table-spoonful of ginger and cinnamon.

From Gleanings in Bee Culture.

CUBA.

By A. J. King.

A native Cuban apiary usually consists of from fifty to several hundred log gums, each 10 to 18 inches in diameter, and 5 to 6 feet long, lying flat on the ground or on poles, in rows about two feet apart, and open at both ends, from which the combs often protrude a foot or more. The shell of these palm logs being very thin, dry, and free of limbs or knots is easily and quickly split open in transferring. The tools used in this operation consist of a smoker, long-handled ax, whisk-broom, and a long iron rod with a handle at one end, and flattened at the other into a broad gouge sharp and circular in shape, to conform to the inside surface of the gums. Two blows with the ax, directed between two long rows of combs, usually suffice to divide the hive into halves. We now remove with knives all the large and heavy combs of honey and brood, and after jarring off the bees, finish up with the long gouge, leaving the shell as smooth and clean as though the bees had never occupied it. When the day's transferring is done, all the brood combs are gathered into one place at the entrance to the hive of a strong stock; here it is carefully arranged into a long pile, and covered with palm bark and coffee-sacks. We now close the other end of the strong stock, and thus compel the bees to pass through

his pile of brood in leaving and returning to their hive. In a couple of weeks the brood is all hatched, and we have millions of bees to use when needed, beside plenty of old combs to turn into foundation, which, by the way, I prefer to any very old combs, no matter how straight and nice they appear. In this manner we have, with an assistant, transferred an apiary of 86 gums into our hives in four and one half days, which, when we consider that the gums will average in their contents twice as much as the old box hives of this country must be regarded as rapid work,

The honey-flows at this time of the year, January and February, are so plentiful and constant that no trouble is experienced from robbing.

THE TWO MAIN SOURCES OF HONEY.

While most of the trees, shrubs, and plants, bloom profusively, and the larger part furnish honey, yet the apiarist in this part of the island relies for his large crop of surplus mainly on two sources—campana or bellflower, and the campeachy (logwood). The former is a vine, much resembling our morning-glory, and blooms profusively from December till February. It is considered a pest by the Cuban farmer, as it grows almost everywhere, and is difficult to kill out. The latter is a beautiful wide-branching tree with a most peculiar body, often nearly square instead of round, like an ordinary tree.

It blooms three times during the year. *Continued on page 87*

Bee-Culture in Banning.

The effete stomachs of this generation do not relish honey. In the days when men had physiques and women were Dianas, honey was an acceptable food. Milk and honey made a concord ordained by nature. Honey is pure, it is nutritious, it is rich. No perverting cook intervenes to spoil it. Fresh from nature's hand it comes to us, served in the natural comb surpassing china in its delicacy and of a consistency, and color unattained by the wine of any vintage.

Mr. C. F. Jost is engaged in the bee business more extensively than anyone in this region.

He has 246 stands on the ranch north of Banning, 75 stands on Mr. Gilman's place and 99 stands on his ranch near whitewater. Mr. E. D. Rowe has charge of the Banning ranch. Mr. Rowe is an experienced bee-man, having been in the business 13 years, and from him we get the following facts regarding bee-culture in this neighborhood.

There is no better place in Southern California for bees than the neighborhood of Banning. In a fair average year one stand of bees will store 100 pounds comb honey, or 200 pounds of extracted honey.

The market price of comb honey is ten cents per pound, and of extracted honey five cents.

In extracting honey the combs are returned to the bees and do not have to be made over again. Hives vary in the number of bees constituting them. Ordinary hives have from 16,000 to 20,000 bees. A hive of bees is like a corporation—it never dies. Although the life of an individual bee is less than six weeks; in working time but 21 days. The queen bee is longer lived. Mr. Rowe has known a queen to live five or six years. After two years the queen begins to decline and becomes superannuated.

The bee season opens here in March. The willows are then in blossom. After the willows comes the yerba santa; then follows in order manzanita, buckthorn, green sage mountain clover or wild alfalfa, white sage and wild buckwheat. The white sage is now in blossom, and makes the best honey of any flower named. Of course the wild flowers are harvested, and other blossoming things, but the ones named are the supply relied on.—Banning Herald.

My opinion is, alfalfa as a honey plant in the States, it would have little value, for the reason that it appears to secrete honey only under the most favorable conditions of dry heat, and only in the middle of the day; that is, no doubt the reason why so many doubt its value as a honey plant. With us it is the foundation and superstructure of the honey yield. We have several plants and willows which build up the bees in spring, but alfalfa is the backbone of the crop. W. A. Webster, Bakersfield, Cal.

"Gleanings in Bee-Culture"

FOUL BROOD.**ITS CAUSE AND CURE.**By *Courtesy of L. E. Mercer.**For the Western Apiarian*

By H. FitzHart - - - - Avery, La.

I am much interested in the cure of foul brood; and whilst in England, had several opportunities of successfully treating it with salicytic acid, and most particularly with phenol. Since coming here I have had no opportunity, I am glad to say, to further experiment; but my experiments then to prove conclusively, that there were two stages in the disease, one of which may be cured by the use of any simple disinfectant, either applied by means of the food, or sprayed on the combs, or even by the bees feeding on certain kinds of flowers, such as the meadow sweet.

But for the other stage there is no cure, unless the queen be killed, and a healthy one from a stock free from any taint of infection, be substituted. If, then, the honey be all extracted, and phenolised food be given, a cure is certain.

The theory I have built on this, I will briefly say, is:—

The first stage is brought by contact with an infected hive, and is known by the mass of dead pupa with but few larvæ dead. The cells are sealed over, and on opening them the brown, coffee colored mass is found.

The second stage is exactly opposite.

The larvæ die in large quantities, and of what come to the pupa stage, a few hatch. In both stages, queen-cells are often found, and, if in the first stage, through oversight, the queen is hatched, then that hive, when the young queen lays, turns to the second and fatal stage. The first may recover in a good season with a large honey flow; the second, never.

I mentioned to Mr. Paul L. Viallon of Bayou Goula, when Mr. Root summed up in the fall, saying he had extinguished foul brood in his apiaries, that it would break out in the spring worse than before, and my reason was that then the young queens hatched during the disease in his yard, would be in full lay; and the result justified my fears.

Should any cases come again under your notice, if you would kindly observe, if you find the first stage, if the queen is not an old one, and *vi versa*; and, if not troubling you too much would be glad to hear from you on the subject.

I may say that I had a queen in the second stage, examined by Mr Cheshire, and he discovered the foul-brood germs in her eggs; and it was that he struck the point at all.

The Northern California bee-keepers report a good fall crop of honey. Especially Humboldt, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Butte and Sierra. There is in the neighborhood of 5000 hives of bees kept in the above counties.

QUEENS.

NEW System Of Rearing Several Queens In a Colony.

By Dr. G. L. Tinker.

For The Western Apiarian.

The chambers, as I have perfected them, are divided into compartments by three partitions made of part wood and part perforated-zinc. The partitions are so placed that two brood frames will go into the apartments at each side, and one frame in each of the middle apartments. The outside dimensions are $12\frac{1}{2} \times 19\frac{1}{8}$ inches, or the same size as my hive, and takes the same brood-frame.

On the bottom of the chamber is attached a sheet of perforated zinc, or a wood-zinc combination, which is attached also to the bottom of the partitions, which extend through the chamber to the top, so that a sheet of perforated-zinc laid on the top, or the wood-zinc honey-board, will close the four apartments to the queens.

When the chambers are storified a zinc excluder is used between each one of them to form the necessary bee-space; but an excluder is not required under the lower one, as we may put on a strip of perforated-zinc over the entrance in the bottom board on which the chamber is placed; or we can place a queen-trap or a simple excluder before the entrance.

This prevents any queens or drones from getting under the chamber out of sight, and will compel both the queens and drones to go in at the holes in the sides of the chambers.

It is remarkable to see the drones go out and in at the holes, apparently visiting the young queens in the several apartments, but the queens return to the holes from which they came, with unerring certainty. The holes are made with a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch auger, near the bottom of the chamber, one to each of the apartments.

Where the holes come near each other in storifying, I place a twig of green leaves or other object to aid them in locating the right hole. I have also painted the chambers with red, white, blue and yellow sides, but I do not think it necessary, if twigs of leaves are attached about the holes. The twigs are pinned on with common pins.

In starting the chambers with queen-cells, all of the holes are stopped with common corks until the cell are hatched. On the third or fourth day after, the corks must be removed about 12 m., and if the colony is strong, the corks may be left out. After the queens have mated, the corks may be put back again.

But very few workers are seen to issue from the holes, so that they may as well be stopped after the queens are laying, unless drones are in the chambers, in which case the holes

may be left open at least during the middle of the day. I find it best to rear about the number of queens that a colony will usually start, or 12 to 16; but if the colony is built up very strong by hatching brood from other colonies, after the first lot of queens are taken out and disposed of, it may be started with 6 to 8 of the chambers, and from 20 to 30 queens reared at a time. I think that it would be possible to rear that many queens every two weeks in one of these colonies.

In taking out the queens, one, two or more may be taken anytime after they begin laying, but no requeening can be done till every queen is removed and the colony has been queenless at least three days; and it better to wait until some of the cells started are sealed over; then cells should be given that will hatch very soon, and all within a few days. With our present method of getting cells, this is very easy to do.

Either the cells may be introduced or they may be hatched in nurseries, and then a queen allowed to run into each of the apartments in all of the chambers used; but if capped queen-cells are in any of the apartments, it is safer to introduce the cells.

If we tear down the cells (and it is the best plan at this season of the year), then a queen just hatched will be accepted every time.

HOW TO GET QUEEN-CELLS.

My method of getting queen-cells I think to be far superior to any other plan. It was first made known at the late Columbus International Convention, and is as follows:

Take the queen and brood from any colony, and give combs of honey or sealed brood, leaving out a central comb. Cage the queen removed, and put her over the frames to keep the bees quiet until evening. Then remove the queen, and leave them queenless until the next day, when they will not destroy eggs that are given to them to rear queen-cells.

Prepare the eggs for them as follows: Take a brood frame, remove the bottom bar, and nail in a cross piece one inch wide, and as long as the frame inside, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the lower end of the end-bars. Fasten in a sheet of foundation that will come down nearly to the cross-piece and the frame is ready for the eggs.

Select the colony to breed from, and cut out a piece of comb two inches square, containing eggs about ready to hatch, and cut up the rows of cells into cells having an egg in each. These are to make the queen-cups, and I let the bees make them.

Hold the frame bottom up, and drop a little melted wax on the cross piece about an inch apart, by means of a small camel's-hair brush, and before the wax chills, attach the cells so that they will point mouth down.

wards, when the frame is placed in the hive. My brood-frame is 7x17 inches, and I can attach in this way 16 cell-cups without danger that the bees will build any of them together.

As soon as the frame is prepared, place it in the queenless colony, and they will start 12 to 16 cells. As soon as they are well supplied with royal food, the bees are to be shaken off, and the frame placed in the super of a strong colony over a zinc-excluder, for completion and care.

Give another prepared frame to the queenless colony, and remove as before, which may be done three or four times when the colony had better be given a laying queen. All of the cells may be given to the strong colony to care for till nearly ready to hatch.

If no honey is coming in, the colonies building the cells should be liberally fed.

My new brood-chamber holding the suspended Langstroth frame, size 7x17 inches, I regard as the best adapted to the new system of queen rearing, as it is also the best for the producer of comb or extracted honey; for wintering, or for breeding up strong colonies in the spring.

New Philadelphia, O July 22, '89

If you wish to feed in such a manner as to prevent robbing feed outside of the hive with a good feeder; if you think that there is any danger of robbing, contract the entrance of the hive so that only a single bee can pass in and out.

Carniolan honey-bees are without doubt the easiest to handle of all bees. In a large apiary this amounts to considerable as it takes longer to handle an irritable colony to say nothing of the stings. These bees cap their honey very white, giving it a beautiful appearance, and also bringing a higher market price. In our apiaries the last three seasons, they have took the lead in honey-gathering, gentleness, prolificness etc. They are rapidly gaining favor in the United States and Canada.

At the mountain apiaries, fire-weed and hartshorn are in bloom, furnishing considerable pasturage for the bees at this season of the year.

The honey gathered from fire-weed is beautifully clear in color, of good body and consistency, and having a slightly aromatic flavor. The several species of goldenrods and wild-asters, are about done blooming. Incense cedar still continues to furnish considerable nectar but the main honey flow from this source is over.

Italian bees always sting more at swarming time than at any other. Italians while being handled remain very quiet on the combs and are somewhat difficult to shake off. They do not rush things so early in the spring as some other varieties do. A cross between Italian and Carniolan makes the most desirable bees for all purposes.

The wild figwort is an excellent honey plant. In very poor honey seasons bees just swarm on it.

*New Almaden Notes.***Diseased, or Poisoned, Which?***For the Western Apiarian*

By M. Bray.

In the *Apiarian* for September, page 57 Mr. Webster, of Kern Co seems to think my bees were diseased, and not poisoned, I will state as briefly as possible how my bees appeared through the season, April 20 th. bees in excellent condition, with hives full of brood and crowded with bees, and I was expecting a large amount of swarming. May 1st have only three swarms and bees dwindling and kept dwindling until the rains commenced in May. I examined the brood frequently which at all times appeared in a healthy condition.

Prior to the rains in May we had no unseasonable weather in this locality, and during the rains which were warm with no showers or catching weather, the bees gained in numbers rapidly so that they again commenced to go into the supers. May 27th bees dying at the hives fast with bees crawling over the fronts of the hives and on the ground, 28th but few bees dying, 29th no bees dying but were recovering in strength until the 4th of June when they had another spell of dying, 5th but few bees dying; 6th no bees dying. I now came to the conclusion that my bees were being poisoned. June 10th bees recovering so that if let alone I still have hopes of securing some honey, as I had never seen the wild alfalfa yield nectar so profusively. June 12th bees dying; 13 still dying; 14 dying faster than ever; 15 only a few bees dying; 16 th saw no bees dying; since the latter date they have had no spell of dying; some of the bees when dying appear to be loaded, others with no load, and in either case would not attempt to sting when being handled. The bees that were crawling on the hives and on the ground appeared just as they will when they have cleaned a honey-

daubed board running in an excited manner and trying to obtain something that they could smell and could not reach.

I had seven nuclei with queens that were set back and faced the opposite way from the other hives. On these there were no bees dying and no bees crawling as on the other hives.

I frequently examined the brood and never could discover anything otherwise than in a healthy condition. I still think my bees were poisoned my neighbors bees have been poisoned three or four times since mine have been free from poison; the last was on the last days of July and the first days of August. Remarks have been made like these "bees are a nuisance and it would be no trouble to have them declared as such in any court, the bees always destroyed my fruit and I consider myself justified in poisoning them; there is no law to protect beekeepers anyway. The bees and birds destroyed my fruit last year; this year I have some fruit." I could fill pages with this kind of talk but think this enough; it was simply pure cussedness, I am not living in a fruit growing locality but am in the hills south of the Almaden mines and I do not think that every pound of fruit within reach of my bees would sell this season for one hundred dollars. San Jose, Sept. 25, 1889.

(Friend Bray from the description you give of the actions of your bees, it does seem as if they were poisoned; but then I would not be too certain

after all. Bees having *claviceps apium*, or this new bee-disease, act somewhat similar. The bees appear to be listless, will pay no attention to their domestic affairs, allow robbers to enter and commence the destruction of the colony; young bees will be found crawling in front of the entrance of the hive, to all appearances fully developed, except the wings these they seem unable to use. Friend Webster informs us that it is caused by the bees gathering a fungus growth from the farina of certain plants. I am of the opinion that the buckeye and meadow sweet contain these minute fungus. On page 57 of the September issue of the *Western Apiarian* will be found a couple of simple remedies which if effective will save some California apiaists considerably who have been loosing bees so rapidly the past season."

HONEY.

The following article is taken from one of friend Wilkins honey labels:

Honey is one of natures purest sweets, valuable both as food and medicine. It has always been esteemed a luxury, the food of kings; eaten in small quantities with other food it is very nourishing, and favors the cure of pulmonary diseases and colds. The scientific management of bees, and the use of the honey extractor, make extracted honey so abundant that all may use it. Honey is very diversified in its color, taste, odor, and

disposition to become candied, or granulated, depending mainly on the variety of bloom it is collected from, and the weather in which it is gathered. Cold weather favors speedy granulation; its becoming granulated is one of the best evidences of its purity, yet some of the best California honey requires two seasons to become candied.

This honey was gathered mainly from sage blossoms on the mountains of California. Of course, we cannot entirely avoid having it mixed with honey from other flowers. I am sorry that it is impracticable to give our customers positive evidence of the genuineness of our goods unless their own taste is reliable. I merely assert that our honey is pure and good, at the same time realizing that the mere say-so or guarantee of a stranger who is interested in the sale of his goods is but slight commendation. But I will suggest that our honey comes from the southern part of the State of California, noted for its producing a greater quantity of choice honey than any other part of the world, yielding it here by the hundreds of tons.

HONEY FRUIT CAKE.—One pint honey, one pound butter, 10 eggs, tea cup of sour milk, one teaspoonful of soda, 5 pounds currants, 5 pounds of raisins, 3 pounds citron, 1 table-spoonful of cinnamon, allspice and nutmeg, and one and one half of flour

Each time, for the space of about two weeks, it affords large quantities of rich golden nectar, in quality and color much like the honey from the pumpkin-bloom. When in bloom the hum of the bees can be heard quite a distance, and reminds one of the basswood forests in this country, except the large tresses of flowers, which are yellow instead of white.

Notes From Piru City.

For the Western Apiarian.

We honey producers of the Pacific Coast have long felt the need of a Bee Journal edited by one living on this coast who is familiar with the business. The climate and resources of this State in particular; one who can give us the best mode of producing the greatest number of pounds of honey at the least expense. The best extractors, most convenient honey-house, at the least expense etc. These and kindred subjects are of more importance to the California bee man than the subjects of wintering bees; the best style of Hives; (the Langstroth is good enough for this coast,) spring dwindling; dysentery; and how my father keeps bees in Arkansas, with one colony;

How to have strong colonies at the beginning of the honey flow; to raise and introduce queens, and last but not the least how we as honey producers can understand each other better and act more in concert in marketing

our honey so as to realize living prices. Do away with commission men, bring the purchaser to us and make our nearest shipping-point the place for our market. Hoping you may prosper in your undertaking, I remain
Yours Fraternaly O. P. Reasoner.

Report from Newhall.

For The Western Apiarian.

I think you should make an effort to extend the circulation of your monthly in the Southern and Gulf States, as a similarity of climate is such that their methods of management are almost identical with ours.

The season with me has not been as good as I expected it would be after our big March rain of nine inches. However, I did fairly well, getting ninety eight cases of 120 lbs to the case — nearly six tons — from 135 spring stocks. I also, by dividing, a little more than doubled my bees; but have already been reduced to 261 stocks from some of them melting down in the great heat which prevails here in summer. This would be more appropriately named, were the *a* in Newhall, changed to an *e*.

Wm. G. Hewes,

Newhall, Cal.

San Diego Co. produced in 1878 over three million pounds of honey. The total amount for the state was about seven million pounds. This year San Diego produces about three hundred thousand pounds.

A Punctuation Puzzle.

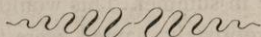
The following article forcibly illustrates the necessity of proper punctuation. It can be read in two ways, describing a very bad man, or a very good man, the result depending upon the manner in which it is punctuated. It is very well worth the study of all:

He is an old and experienced man in vice and wickedness he is never found in opposing the works of iniquity he takes delight in the downfall of his neighbors he never rejoices in the prosperity of his fellow creatures he is always ready to assist in destroying the peace of society he takes no pleasure in serving the Lord he is uncommonly diligent in sowing discord among his friends and acquaintances he takes no pride in laboring to promote the cause of Christianity he has not been negligent in endeavoring to stigmatize all public teachers he makes no effort to subdue his evil passions he strives hard to build up Satan's kingdom he lends no aid to the support of the gospel among the heathen he contributes largely to the devil he will never go to heaven he must go where he will receive the just recompense of reward.

AMERICAN GAMES.

BY

CHARLES E. UPTON.



Next month we purpose beginning **IN THE AMERICAN SCHOOL-BOY**, a series of articles on American Games, written expressly for THE AMERICAN SCHOOLBOY by Charles E. Upton. The first of these articles entitled *BASE-BALL*, will appear in November.

A MAD BEE'S NEST.

A Pastoral, Not Classic.

A feller was walkin, through the field;
one day,
And a whistlin' at his best,
An' when, gettin' tired, he sot him-
self down
Kerflump on a bumble bees' nest,
He riz.

The bees, of course, took a sorter of-
fence,
An' kinder resented the thing,
An' sot about protecting theirselves—
An' when bees get to work an' stin g
Things siz.

The bees went to work a swelling his
ear,
An' one feller tackled his eye!
A kinder predicament the chap was in
But he slapped himself, and then he'd
cry
Gee whiz!

Finally, the chap got enough of the
thing
('Bout an hour 'fore he found it
out;)
An' ez the bees numbered 'bcut a
thousand to one,
He wisely concluded to meander
erbout his biz.

The wild snowdrop is an excellent honey plant. It yields honey morn-
ings and evenings.



A Water Village of Venezuela, South America.

A Vacation Episode.

Ye Editor Goes Bee-hunting.

The editor, when out hunting for rabbits in the mountains back of San Mateo, a few weeks ago, discovered a bee-tree, and, as the rabbits did not seem disposed to stand still and be shot, and as my skill was not sufficient to shoot them any other way, (they did not seem to know when they were shot but would run right on as though nothing had happened), I thought I would vary the monotony by attacking the honey-gatherers, and despoiling them of their stores.

The rabbit hunting picnicers immediately adjourned, guns were laid conveniently by, and "The Central California Bee-hunters' Convention immediately convened.

A committee of the whole (three) on "Ways and Means" was appointed, and, after much discussion, it was decided to smoke them out.

As this convention well represented the perfection of ignorance on bee-hunting, and as the bees were issuing in large numbers from the roots of the tree, you can easily imagine that each member of the committee was anxious that some other of the committee should win glory and fame by going boldly up to the very foot of the tree, and audaciously starting a fire in their near vicinity; thus carrying the war into the enemy's country, and thus causing a diversion in our favor.

No one of us seemed very anxious to hand down his name to posterity as the hero of the great battle of the bees, so we made a compromise, and starting a fire some distance away, pushed it up near the roots of the tree.

Next month you will learn how we succeeded.

Carniolan Bees.

GOOD RECORD! DEFEND AGAINST ROBBER!

For The Western Apiarian.

By S. L. WATKINS.

It is a bad habit to leave scraps of comb containing honey about the apiary, and letting bees once get a taste of it: especially in times of scarcity of pasturage. A bee out on a pilfering tour, and which manages to gain access to a colony of bees, and gets off with a load of plunder, generally comes back with several of its companions, and will enter the same hive again or die in the attempt. If a strong colony of Italian or Carniolan bees it will cost the intruder its life. After a few bees have entered and managed to steal away with their load they seem to get perfectly crazy, and go at the hive they are robbing with redoubled fury, and in a few short hours the work of destruction is done. That is not all now that their fury is up; they will attack the strongest colonies in the apiary and dead bees will be piled up by the hundreds in front of strong colonies that have withstood the attack. Like

a lion that once gets a taste of blood and which infuriates it, so with the bees in regard to stolen honey.

They get perfectly demoralized and crazy, and will venture an attack on any living thing.

In an apiary of Cyprian, Holy Land, Italian, or Carniolan bees not much robbing will be done as they are generally pretty good defenders of their hive, and it is woe unto the robbers that dare to enter their well kept door-yard. The bee will be lucky if it escapes with its life, especially if a colony of Carniolans are the defenders. I have never seen a more persistent bee in its efforts to fight robbers. As is said of the Spartans, "they would die rather than retreat," so it is with Carniolan bees. I believe in an apiary composed entirely of Carniolan bees. From them there would be little or no robbing, so well do they attend to their own affairs. I have tried these bees three seasons.

This fall Carniolan bees are far in advance of the others as regards the amount of honey stored. The combs are just solid chunks of honey, especially all those containing upper stories.

Early in spring they were far in advance of all other varieties as regards amount of honey, prolificness of queens, etc. The first finished comb honey of the season was taken from a colony of Carniolans. About fifty pounds of clear California lilac honey came from this source, while the best of Italian colonies had nearly forty pounds of section honey.

To the bee-keepers of the Pacific States and Territories;

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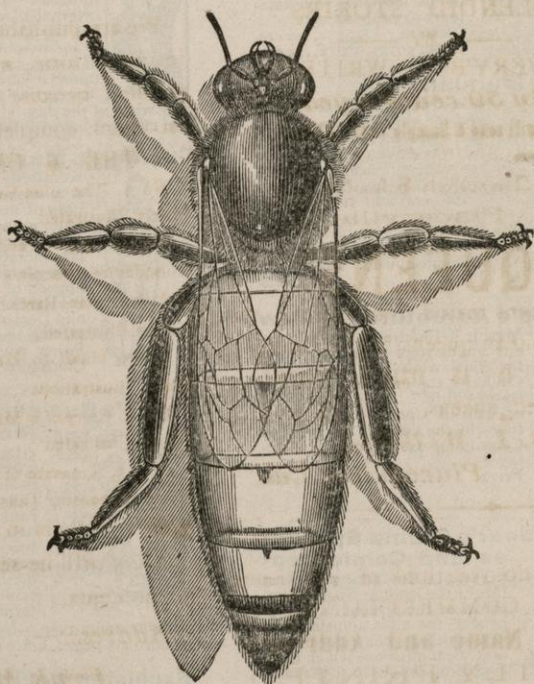
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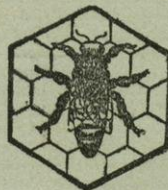
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