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# MOON'S BEE WORLD.

A GUIDE TO BEE-KEEPERS.

VOLUME I.

MARCH, 1874.

NUMBER 4

[For the Bee World.]

## Look After the Bees.

**E**ARLY in Spring, now, is the time in the South that bee-keepers can greatly assist their bees, and save them many a weary nibble, by cleaning their hives, the bottom of which at this season is covered with the dust like cappings of the honey cells, dead bees and small particles of comb dropped from the cluster during the winter, and the excrement of roaches. Roaches and mice are found living near neighbors to the bees during winter. The quick motion of the hand, with feather or brush, in sweeping irritates and excites them, and to avoid this we give you a good plan. We presume your hives are all the same size and shape, and that you have one or more empty hives on hand, clean your empty hives of all dust and webs, fill the cracks and crevices by pouring in melted rosin, remove a few feet the

hive you wish to clean out and place the empty one on its stand, blow a little smoke among your bees gently raise frame after frame, place in empty hive in same order they occupied in their own hive and the work is complete, take the hive you have transferred the bees from, and after cleaning it carry it to your next hive containing bees and proceed as before, continuing until you have transferred the whole. We have found this more expeditious and less troublesome than going the rounds cleaning the hives as they stand filled with bees. You can also equalize the honey as you will find some with but little, while others have more than necessary. Fruit trees in many places are beginning to bloom and in some localities the extractor, might be used with profit to bees and keepers. H.

*Murfreesboro, Tenn.*

The above plan is one of the best that can be adopted, and it is both easy, simple and ef-

factual. One grand feature in this process you learn the exact condition of every swarm, and equalize them, which is one of the great secrets to success. Hives having abundant brood, a frame can be given to one having but little. Exchange frames with brood as well as with honey.

[Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

*Messrs. Editors.*

**B**S not friend Benedict wrong in advising the housing of bees in the South, will not the bees get too warm in the house, and become uneasy, and consume too much honey, and if not permitted to fly, to discharge their excrements, will they not get the dysentery and die?

This has been a very open winter with us, so warm that I was compelled to take my bees out of the cellar and place them on their summer stands, protected with a little hay thrown around them. They fly every few days. Friend Benedict says that the only advantage in housing is to save honey, that it is no advantage when sugar is cheap. I have heretofore housed my bees to protect them from cold and wet, nothing more. If I were in the South I would not house my bees at all but would let them remain on their summer stands so that they could fly out as much as possible. If bees get too warm after being confined to their hive for a short time they are apt to come out of the hive and crawl around on the outside and many never return. I care not how much you ventilate or how little, the result is the same, to a certain extent. I think that bees had better not be housed in the South, merely

an opinion, should like to hear from others,

Page 52, friend Palmer would lead us to believe that the bee disease is nothing but dysentery, caused by a retention of their feces. The dysentery is one thing the great disease of 1871-2 and 3, is another. It swept all my bees last season. I had many colonies to die in June, July and August. Last spring I commenced again with one colony. I have no fears with the dysentery.

HARRY GOODLANDER.

*Leesburg, Ind.*

The dysentery need not be feared when you have good natural honey or sugar syrup for bees, this has been the history and experience of most all practical apiarians from Aristotle down, and we trust will be for centuries to come.

[Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Notes from Central Ills.

*Messrs. Editors:*

**T**HE Feb., No. of the BEE WORLD is just received, fresh and almost fragrant with the scent of flowers from its home in the "Sunny South," and as I turn over its leaves and read that the bees are already at their summer tasks, gathering pollen and honey from the Elm, Maple and other early flowers, while we poor shivering mortals are clothed in overcoats and mittens, with the mercury at 8° below zero. I almost think such tidings must come from some other and more highly favored planet.

But when I look at the Map, I see it is only in another portion of our own country, and not so very far removed from where I am; but the di-

rection makes all the difference in the world.

But we have had a very mild winter thus far, at this point 128 miles south of Chicago, there has been but one morning that the mercury fell below zero and then but 6°.

Bees are wintering finely, all on their winter stands, some with protection and some without, losing very few, if any as yet.

I am experimenting somewhat on the ventilation question this winter, and present indications are inclined to the opinion that bees require very little ventilation from below, the less the better, provided they have a little from above. I moved my hives into close rooms facing the East, set up bundles of slough grass on the West, filled under the bottom with leaves, enclosed all the fly holes and set broad boards in front to keep off the sun and bent the tops of the grass over the tops of the hive and laid a board on it to keep it down. Some of the hives that have empty boxes in them I left and others filled the cap with hay, laying about 12 or 15 thicknesses of newspaper directly on the frames (they are close fitting) and left them. Being protected from the sun, they do not feel the effects of a few hours of sun and remain quiet till the temperature is sufficiently warm for them to come out with safety (about 50°, not much below.) When I tore down the boards and let the sun warm them up, they came out in the early part of the day and do not remain out until the cold air of the evening chills them.

I will not however crow yet, for

there is plenty of time for bees to die, for nearly all my bees last year (27 stands) occurred in March, but I will report further in my discussion.

When I commenced I intended to have spoken of several other subjects, but I find I have spun my yarn sufficiently long for this time for I think it is a very good rule to "come often and not stay so long" so I will say no more for this time, except to wish long-life and success to our BEE WORLD, for brother bee-keepers it is to our advantage to uphold and sustain it, by giving each other the benefit of our experience whether it be good or bad, and by our ultimate efforts to encourage our editor that our *Moon* may continue to cast his light into thousands of households for years to come.

J. G. THOMPSON,  
*Urbana, Ills., Feb. 25th, 1874.*

Friend Thompson, please accept our thanks for the package of seed you sent, the name given "Schaufularia Nodosa, or Figwart." We shall take care and test its honey producing qualities, which we have no reason to doubt but they are genuine. Mr. Thompson informs us that bees work on it more than any other plant he knows of, has seen large numbers of bees on it during the entire day, that it grows wild along the fence rows, and from four to six feet high, blooms from Middle of July till frost. We hope it may prove one of great value as a honey plant. [Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### A large Yield of Honey.

Messrs. Editors:

I have recently received several letters asking me to state through the BEE WORLD how many pounds of honey I obtained from one colony of bees in one season, also how many

pounds from one hive. I know some of you scientific professional bee men may think it rather a poor showing, yet it does show what can be done by almost any body, with but little care, perhaps it may encourage some who are not "learned in apiculture" to try their hands with bees.—The hive used had no very great advantage, except its capacity, or the facility with which its capacity could be increased. It was a sort of two-story Thomas hive, made by myself. I selected a strong colony and stimulated them by feeding a little syrup to them in February. They threw off an early swarm, that I transferred late in the season, dividing the bees, giving one-half of them an Italian queen.—I got when the transfer was made one hundred and thirty pounds of good honey. From the old hive I took late in the season one hundred and seventy-seven pounds of honey, and on that yield got the premium given at the State Fair for the largest yield from one single hive of bees. All three of the stands are doing well now. On yesterday, a pleasant warm day they were bringing in pollen or bee bread, very rapidly. They are what you call the large grey bee, I obtained from a swarm found in my field a few years since. I use the Thomas hive, as it meets my ideas of the requisites for the handling and management of bees better than any other I have examined, and I have examined a good many. When a large yield of honey is desired I would like to have the 'home' well filled with comb, and well stocked with bees, to begin with. Do not

want them to swarm more than once, if at all. Use two double-size honey boxes, instead of the four small ones. As soon as the boxes are nearly filled raise them and put two others underneath, raising the cap of the hive one story higher. Bees will lose no time commencing work in new boxes when there is honey above. When managed this way, the honey is always nice and white, not being stained by the bees passing over it, after it is capped. If there is any honey in any of the racks, extract it so that there will be plenty of room in the "home" for the queen to keep a full supply of workers. I am not engaged in the bee business, except in a small way, and know that my results will not come up with Mr. Coles average of two hundred and sixty pounds to one hive, or Mr.—proposed one thousand pounds. This however is so much better than most people do in their old box hives, that some may be induced to try the improved hive, and advance ideas in managing bees.—What I have done *any may do*.

Yours Truly,

S. M. H. BYRD.


Cedar Town, Ga., Feb. 17th, 1874.

The one hundred and seventy-seven pounds of honey above spoken of, we saw before and after it was taken from the hive, the honey was of an excellent quality. Mr. Byrd is one of our most successful and practical bee-keepers of the South. [Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Sketches from Tennessee.

Mr. Editor:

 THE February number of the BEE WORLD is received. It, like its predecessors, is filled with

choice articles, many of them from old and tried apiarians.

The North is well represented with bee-journals, which are conducted in the interest of those living in high northern latitudes consequently, much of the space in those journals is filled with articles which are of but little value to the southern apiarist.

Then as we have the BEE WORLD in the South, which is published wholly in the interest of bee culture, and that too by a man who from his experience and knowledge of bees, and his untiring zeal in the cause of apiculture, has justly won for himself a name which few have attained, we commend the same to the southern bee keeper, who is seeking light in apiarian science. We are impelled to this by the interest we take in the practical, important and profitable pursuit of bee culture. Now brother bee-keepers, shoulders to the wheel, and let us help to sustain friend Moon in this noble enterprise, right in the South among us, and no doubt we will be repaid many fold. Let those who can, write for the BEE WORLD, and give their experience in the management of bees, for every experiment made is of value, no matter by whom tried, as it will tend to establish a fact and a number of facts resulting from similar experiments are taken as a rule, and become a part of our knowledge. Then send friend Moon your experiments for publication, both successful and unsuccessful, that others may avoid the mistakes of some, and profit by the success of others.—As I have consumed as much space as

I ought in one article, I will defer saying any thing further until a future occasion.

Now Mr. Editor by way of closing let me say keep the bee firmament clear, let no murky clouds intervene to hinder the bright rays of the *Moon* from shedding its full splendor on the *World*.

S. D. McLEAN.

Culleoka, Murry County, Tenn.

The subject of bee culture is one that should occupy a far more prominent position than it does, in the domestic economy of the farmer and cotter, when successfully conducted, the management of these interesting insects become a source and that by no means are indifferent one, of pecuniary profit.—*Richardson*.

[For the Bee World.]

### Hives.

**I**N compliance with the request of Mr. Argo, made in the January number of the BEE WORLD, I give for what they are worth, a few of my views on the subject of hives.

I consider our hive about as good as any other, other things being equal, they will work as well, and store as much honey in a plain box, or a hollow log even, as the most expensive patent hive. The form or style of hive is only a matter of convenience to the bee-keeper, and not to the bees, and yet it is a very important matter to every one keeping bees either for pleasure or profit. Next to the question of convenience is that of cost, the hive that gives the most perfect and easy control of the bees, and that can be made with the least trouble and expense, is the hive nearest to perfection.

The main principal in every hive, and without which bees cannot be suc-

cessfully managed is the movable frame. Whatever form, style or size of hive may be adopted, this feature should not be discarded. The frame that is most simple in construction, and the most easily handled in my judgement is that used in the Langstroth hive. Its size may be changed to suit the fancy of any one, but I can not see where any improvement is to be made in the principal of its construction. It seems to me that a frame suspended from the top of the hive, as the Langstroth is preferable to any other kind. Just what is the most convenient frame, and most suitable size for a hive, one more question with bee-keepers, some use a low and wide, or long hive, others prefer a deep one, with less length and width, some use a large hive, others a small one. In my judgement the size of the hive should be in proportion to the size of the colony. A small colony should have a small hive, which should be enlarged with the increase of the colony. This may be adjusted by having a moveable partition in the hive, or by having hives of different sizes the partitions may be moved out as the colony increases, or the frames with the brood and bees, may be transferred from a small hive to a large one; the latter is my method of operating, and I prefer it to the use of partition boards.

My main hives are the size of the brood chamber of the Langstroth; eighteen inches long, ten inches deep, and fourteen and a quarter inches wide, inside measure. This size and form suits my purposes so well that I do not want to make any change.—

For small colonies I make the hives just one-fourth of an inch over one half of the width of the main hive.— This enables the small hive to receive five frames, while the larger takes in ten. I also use the small hives as nucleus boxes for raising queens, and for starting new colonies. When the swarm gets too large for my main hive I add to it an upper story, or apartment the same size as the lower.— This also takes in the ten frames, by moving a few of the frames of brood from the lower to the upper department, the bees will slowly work above as well as below. The queen will also be in both stories, but I have no objections to this.

Some make their hives with loose, or detached bottoms. I prefer to have the bottom nailed fast to the hive. I never could see any advantage, but many disadvantages in loose bottoms. My second story has no bottom, and is made to fit closely on the top of the main hive, the same cap that covers the main hive, fits on the top of the upper apartment, there is no board or partition of any kind between the two stories.

My hives are made of poplar lumber, one inch thick, dressed on both sides. For neatness and durability I give them one or two good coats of paint. I have made the most of what I use myself, and have hired some made. I think that the cost of the single story main hive is about one dollar. The double hives costs a little more, and the half hive a little less. By dispensing with the portico which I have to all of mine, and by using tough lumber, instead of dressed

the expenses can be materially diminished.

I have now in rather a general way, given a few of my notions about hives. But before closing I must say that I have no *patent* on the hive I use, and would not have if I could, nor have I any hives to sell. I have modified the Langstroth hive in a way to suit myself, and can merely give to the public all I know about hives, or about any thing else connected with apiculture. I may hereafter give a more detailed statement of the manner of constructing my hives.

M. C. HESTER.


Charlestown, Ind.

All hives should be of uniform size, either too large or too small is objectionable, let every frame be of the same size that they may fit any hive in the apiary. We have tried almost every size and shape hive in existence, have found that hives of medium size to be the most practicable all things being considered. Let the hive be simple in all its points, the less fixings about a hive, the better, what is necessary for general management is the movable frame the hive should be constructed so as to give the bees easy access to the boxes, this part of the bee business new beginners find more difficulty in than all others, they do not succeed well in getting the bees to work in boxes this can be very easily accomplished by bringing the boxes in close proximity to the main body of the bees, first use the rack boxes, take off the honey board place the boxes on the frames now there is a free passage into the honey boxes central heat now gives the bees the great advantage of working their way if you wish to make honey a speciality as soon as they commence in one set raise them up and place another set of boxes empty underneath and keep plenty of room for the bees, the capacity can be increased to suit the most populous swarm. [Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### The Grey, Black, and Italian Bees.

Editor Bee World:

 would like to know from which of the above the two others have originated, taking it for granted that

the present three varieties have been propagated from one of them. The question is, which of the three did they spring from? This problem is now becoming more interesting to the apiarian every day. To solve it, however, is the great difficulty, and all the light that intelligent science can shed on this interesting and all important fact, ought to be given. I have no doubt some practical apirians have given this subject, not only thought, but great research into the history of the bee, and the three varieties we now have for the purpose of obtaining facts to enable them to come to some satisfactory results. If so it is not only important, but very essential at the present time, that the BEE WORLD should have the benefit of the result of their investigations and opinions. I know that the opinions of some are, that all have sprung from the grey bee, but they have never given anything to the public satisfactory on the subject. I am inclined to the opinion that the grey or Italian bee was the original bee. The following facts have forced my mind to this conclusion: First, I think the bee, like everything else in nature, degenerates by in-and-in breeding. Second, the black bee is very inferior to either of the others. I find the grey bee gathers and stores more honey than the black bee, and I think as much or more than the Italian, equally as large, and have seen some I thought larger, and quite as handsome in color. An old and experienced bee-keeper, perhaps as well informed, and of as much experience in bee culture as any one in the United



States, and who had handled the Italian bee as much, called at my house, by invitation. I invited him to go and look at my bees, and told him the difference in my apiary between the black and grey bees. As soon as he looked at the grey bees he pronounced them a cross with the Italian and black bees and not until after he had examined other apiaries, and seen more of the grey bees, could I satisfy him to the contrary. I do not think the Italian bee can gather honey from any pasturage that the grey bee cannot. The small black bee, I consider of but little value, I have never taken much honey from them. For five years I had two swarms of black bees, and some stands with grey bees. In the whole five years I did not get more than twenty pounds of honey from both hives, when I had taken in a single season as much as 105 pounds of honey from one hive of the grey bees. If the black bee is not a degenerate bee from the grey or Italian, they are certainly greatly inferior to either. Now as to the Italian being a better and more profitable bee than the grey I am not satisfied. I am inclined to the opinion if the pure grey bee was taken and bred carefully by an experienced aparian with half the same care and cost that the Italian has been, a great improvement on the present stock would be the result. It is said in Italy the black bees and the Italians are separated by mountains, but this is no evidence that the one has not sprung from the other. We know that climate has not only an influence on the perfection of animals,

but likewise on, the constitution, and why not so with bees? I am of the opinion that a stock of bees in any apiary continued for many years without bringing in others, will degenerate until they not only become dwarfs in size, but degenerate in color, industry, and constitution; and to this cause I attribute the fact that some aparians, after a few years of successful bee culture, suddenly find their bees storing but little honey—not swarming much, but losing more old swarms than they get new ones. I would like for some smart bee man to export a few stocks of our purest grey bees to Italy, and raise pure queens there, to see the result. And I much question if he would not soon find he could drive as good a business there raising and selling grey queens, as importing Italians to the United States. The climate of Italy may have great influence on the color of the bee. Be that as it may, I do not think, if the advantage of the Italian is confined to color alone, that this is of any value. Are they in fact larger than the grey bee? Can they gather honey from pasturage that the grey bee cannot? Are they more industrious? Do they store more honey? Have they a constitution better adapted to our climate than the grey bee? The facts in regard to these questions are all important before we go on and destroy all our grey bees and substitute Italians. If there were (which I doubt) originally two distinct kinds of bees, I am inclined to think the one was a black bee

confined to the Northern latitudes, and the other Gray, or Italian, confined to more Southern latitude, or the two latter being the same bee, the only difference having been caused in color by latitude and climate. We find these causes have not only an influence on the plumage of birds and fowls, but also on the size. How much smaller many birds South, are than the same bird North, and how many like differences from same causes might I not enumerate, not only in fowls and birds, but also in animals, and why not bees?

The gray bee appears to be a medium in color, between the black and Italian, larger than the black, and not differing, as I think, from the Italian, in anything except color, being as large, if not larger, than the Italian—at least the workers of the pure gray, I think the larger of the two, and if there is this difference in size, it is in the length of the abdomen.

G. W. G.

We have examined many apiaries in the South, and find a great difference in the size and color of bees. The gray bee spoken of, is quite handsome in appearance, and many of them very peaceable. For size, they do not differ much from the Italians. They are great workers, store up large quantities of honey. Their disposition is much better than the small black or native bee. This great difference both in color and size, is no doubt the result of in-and-in breeding. The small black bee is not considered very valuable when compared to either the Italian or gray bee. The question has been one of much interest, which of these was the original bee, the Italian or common native, or gray bee? We find in some portions of the Old World, that the Italian honey bee is bred pure in all its beauty, both as to color and marking, or so much so,

that they have been pronounced a pure and distinct breed, evidently showing that great care has been given them to keep up the standard of purity. Wish we could say as much for American breeders; but we are thankful that we have a few that aim to keep up that standard of purity, which alone constitutes the real value of this noble insect.—[Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Buckwheat as a Honey Plant.

*Mr. Editor :*

**T**HROUGH your liberality to clergymen, I am made the free and grateful recipient of your valuable Journal, valuable not at the *South* only, but also at the *North* for the instincts of the bee are everywhere the same.

I have selected this subject, because most writers have spoken of buckwheat as a honey producing plant, without even intimating that there is more than one variety, and hence the reader naturally infers that any variety is adapted to the use of the bee.

The fact is there are at least four varieties, and only a small portion of what is grown in this country, even secretes honey.

I trust that a few remarks on each variety will be instructive and profitable to your readers.

1st. *The rough Buckwheat*, it is also called *India wheat*. The hull is rough, with small protuberances on the edges. It is less likely to blight than other varieties, and consequently is, by far the most abundant in the Eastern and Northern States, where it has been cultivated about forty years. The blossom is very small, and of a greenish yellow color. Bees gather a little pollen from it, but no honey.

2d. *The honey Buckwheat*, the blossom is large, and of a pure white co-

lor. The kernel is short and smooth. It has long been cultivated as an edible, and also as a honey plant.

3d. *The gray Buckwheat*, the kernel is smooth, of a clouded gray color, and usually long, though all the kernels are not uniform in length. It is hardy and productive, and is more extensively grown than any other smooth variety. It secretes but little honey, and bees work on it much less than any other insects. The blossom, and general appearance while growing are so much like those of the honey buckwheat, that it is difficult to distinguish one variety from the other. Thousands have sown this variety as a honey plant, not knowing its worthlessness in this respect. The bee culturist must be on his guard and not sow this instead of the honey buckwheat.

4th. *The silver skinned Buckwheat*, this is a new variety in this region.— It is said to be hardy, and the grain of a better quality than other varieties. I am not prepared to speak of its value as a honey plant.

Buckwheat honey varies much in color and quality. That grown on moist dark soil being dark, and that on dry light colored soil, being of much better quality and almost colorless.

Buckwheat unlike most other flowers, secretes honey on the petals and not in a nectary or honey cup.— When honey is abundant on buckwheat, the upper sides of the petal is covered with a substance that is sticky to the touch, and sweet to the taste.— When the dew is on, the bees gather it, but in fair weather, after about 10 o'clock, it is so dry that it is difficult

to manage, and they almost wholly forsake the field.

In damp weather, and especially when a warm mist is falling, they are uncommonly busy, if there has been a heavy secretion of honey on the petals.

If the honey was secreted in nectaries it would not dry up sooner than in other flowers, and bees would work all day in buckwheat fields.

Do not the leaves of a basswood or linden tree secrete honey in a similar manner? and is not this why bees are so abundant on these trees, long after the flowering season?

Bees are wintering well in this region. The past season has been more than usually favorable for honey gathering. It is estimated that more than twenty tons of box honey have been exported from this county the past season.

E. KNIGHT.

Maple Grove, Aroostook Co. Me. Feb. 24, 1874.

We are pleased to add another correspondent to our numerous list, just as we expected, still they come, and still there is room for all. The BEE WORLD is the medium for communication for any one upon the subject of bee culture. Buckwheat, there could not have been a more interesting subject than the one above. This plant has by some been looked upon as almost worthless as a honey plant, we had supposed however that the honey was secreted in the flower the same as that of the clover, also, the same with the basswood or linden, the above will call fourth the experience of others, and by an exchange of views and experience, knowledge is gained. We shall be pleased to hear from our friend in bee culture often. Remember the BEE WORLD is an independent journal, designed exclusively to advance apiculture, and every bee-keeper may feel that he has a right to give his or her views upon any subject connected with this branch. [Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

**Swarming and Hiving.***Mr. Editor :*

**AS** the season for swarming approaches we give your readers some hints on hiving, for we prefer natural swarming to dividing, as our experience and experiments have forced on us the conviction that when a colony has determined to swarm, it will be more profitable to allow it, than returning the swarm, or to remove the queen, or cutting out queen cells. We are aware there are advocates of a different system and many who hold to artificial swarming, the as best method, have obtained some eminence as bee-keepers.

We have visited some old farm places, where bees have been kept for a quarter of a century or longer, and there find the beauty and symmetry of the apple, cherry and other trees destroyed and presenting a very unsightly appearance by having the limbs sawed from them in hiving bees.

The only implement you need in hiving, is a common tin dipper, holding about a pint. After the bees have settled, or pitched as it is frequently termed, which they will do without the musical accompaniment of tin pans old kettles and trumpets, commence to dip the bees from the cluster, pouring them out at the entrance of the hive, which should be placed near the cluster. When many have entered and the joyous hum is generally raised and they are crawling in, or if the queen is seen to enter, then give the limb to which any remaining bees are attached a sudden jar, and

they will quickly join the others at the entrance of the hive.

If your bees commence to settle an inconvenient height for hiving, have prepared and ready, a pole with a bunch of old cotton rags attached to the end, which you can quickly fire, and if held under the swarm, the smoke will soon drive them to another place.

Bees frequently settle on the body of trees, and nothing is more convenient than the tin dipper in getting them off. They will sometimes settle in a thick cluster of rose or other bushes, when the use of the dipper will be found impracticable. In that case, procure a frame or two of comb, sprinkle a little honey or sweetened water over them, and place them touching or near the cluster. In a few minutes the bees will cover the frames, and those accustomed to her appearance, will soon see the queen traversing the combs, when they may be placed in the hive near by with adhering bees, and those on the bushes can be disturbed by shaking, and missing their queen, will soon find out her whereabouts, and enter the hive.

A neighbor of ours commencing to keep bees, and having no small trees or shrubbery in the yard, the first swarm that came out in the spring, settled in the top of a large red oak, some fifty yards distant. Upon advice, he set out in the yard some cedar and other bushes, which the bees settled upon afterwards.

Half a dozen dry seed pods of mullen, tied to a stalk of the same at the seed end, we have found excellent in enticing a swarm to settle upon.--

It has somewhat the appearance of a cluster of bees.

Turkey wings, and the tail feathers of that bird, the old people nearly always use in dipping and brushing bees in hiving. These articles we have found to be very offensive to bees; and they catching their claws or hooks of their feet in the feathers, and with difficulty losing themselves, become irritated. When they do free themselves look out for your eyes.

Bees nearly always settle near the apiary before taking a second start for their future home. We are of the opinion when they leave the hive, and go directly to the woods without clustering, *that they did the day before swarm out*, and owing to the inability of the queen to fly that day, the bees returned—or, the place selected is not far distant from their old home, and within the range of their daily flight. H.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., March 2d, 1874.

Great trouble has been experienced in hiving bees, besides great loss and injury by the foolish practice of cutting limbs from both fruit and ornamental trees, to obtain a swarm of bees. The plan given above, is one we have used for a long time. We find it easy and simple, and if bee-keepers follow it they will save many a dollars worth of trees. We have seen trees completely disfigured, and almost ruined, by the practice of cutting off limbs to obtain the bees. When persons allow their bees to swarm, it frequently happens that they settle high up on some tree. In this case we would advise every one to keep a tin pail with cover, take a soft brush or wing, and gently brush them into the pail, put on the cover, and take them down, place them at the entrance of the hive. If you get the queen the remainder of the bees will soon come to the hive. We have used a hiver with good success. As soon as we discover the bees settling, place

the hiver over them; they will settle in the hiver when it can be removed to the hive, as soon as bees are in, place it where it is to remain for the season.—[ED.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Bee Journal South.

MR. A. F. MOON & Co., Rome, Ga.

GENTS;—Enclosed I send you P. O. order for \$2,00, for the renewal of my subscription to MOON'S BEE WORLD. I think the sunny South should feel very grateful to you for the publication of so excellent a magazine as the BEE WORLD, has already proved itself to be. It is the very thing the South has a long time needed, and I hope it may awaken a great interest and work a great reform in apiculture, in the Southern States. The bees in this part of the sunny South are in fine condition.

We winter our bees on their summer stands, and so far, we have not had a case of dysentery among them. The only enemy we have to contend with is the moth, and by a little attention to our bees, we easily overcome that trouble. Our bees are already carrying in a great deal of bee bread, and raising brood; and if the season is favorable we expect to get more honey than we can manage. If you should hear of any person being in a poor bee country, please tell them there is plenty of room in Texas—the best bee country in the United States.

May the best success attend you in your worthy enterprise, and may the BEE WORLD never grow less.

Yours truly,

E. T. JOSEY.

Huntsville, Texas, Feb. 26, 1874.

WEIGHT OF BEES.—In an interesting little work, by Mr. Townley, containing but few errors, he says: "I have counted and weighed, and 4,480 workers will weigh one pound. 1,830 workers make a pint measure. 100 drones weigh one ounce.

[For the Bee World.]

### Introducing Queens, Hives &c. Various Items.

*Editor Bee World:*

SO you have located in the sunny South, and engaged in disseminating knowledge in regard to the "busy bee" among our Southern friends. If one is to judge by the writings in the BEE WORLD, bee-keeping in the South must be in a benighted condition. My advice to all new beginners would be to adopt the Langstroth hive, which they can do with an easy conscience, as it is now public property. The patent expired in October last. I used it exclusively for seven years before trying any other style of frames. Having calls for bees in other kinds, I finally put bees into two or three other kinds, which I now very much regret. The Langstroth frame is loose fitting—can be moved sideways, or from front to rear without endangering the life of a single bee. With close fitting frames, or those merely close fitting on top, or at their ends, it requires the very greatest care to prevent the killing of bees, also endangering the life of the queens, besides requiring much more time in handling the frames. I presume Mr. J. P. H. Brown, page 86 BEE WORLD, is prepared to furnish the *single story* Langstroth hives for twenty-five cents each. If he is not he should not

write as he did. I do not think Mr. Brown or any other man (white or black, can get up such a hive as the 'Dollar Hive' for twenty-five cents—even without frames. The man who makes the 'dollar hive' will also furnish a set of (ten) frames for twenty-five cents. Will Mr. Brown furnish them for that price? I think the metal corners for frames are a most excellent article, and cheap enough at the price they are sold for. The 'dollar hive' man is no particular friend of mine, more than any other man who is engaged in doing all the good he can for bee culture, and bee-keeping. If Mr. Brown has bought one of the 'dollar hives' of the 'dollar man,' will he be kind enough to give the readers of the BEE WORLD a full description of it, so they can make them for twenty-five cents.

Many persons, when ordering a queen, say "Send immediately, I have a queenless stock." One man, last summer, ordered, saying his stock had been queenless two months.

To the beginner I would say whenever you find a stock queenless, if there are still bees enough left, to attend to the wants of the colony, give them frames from other stocks containing eggs, or larvæ, and keep doing so until you can procure a queen, or the stock rear one.

#### INTRODUCING QUEENS.

The best plan for the inexperienced is by the scenting plan—first published in May No., 1870, of A. B. J., in an article taken from the German Bee Journal. The substance of the article

le is this: Remove the black queen first, then with an odorator to be had at most drug stores, spray the bees, combs inside the hive, and entrance with essence of anise, nutmeg, peppermint, etc., made by adding ten to fifteen drops of the essence to a half pint of diluted honey, or sweetened water. When the odorator cannot be procured, use a small broom to spray or sprinkle the bees with. Drop the queen into the mixture, then into the hive. By this method the bees do not start queen cells, which they almost always do when the queen is introduced on the caging plan. The winter here has been a remarkably mild one, most of the time the temperature above freezing. Yet there has been but few days that bees could fly. Stocks having plenty of food will winter well. On the 2d I set ten of my colonies out of the cellar—the balance are still in and waiting for more favorable weather. I hope our Southern bee-keepers will give their experience with bees. It is claimed that the South is the place to keep bees for profit. I very much doubt it. I think that up in cold Minnesota that bees have, as a general thing, paid the best. I trust that all Southern bee-keepers will come to your help with brain and money.

Yours truly,

T. G. MCGAW.

Monmouth, Warren Co., Ill., March 7, 1874.

Exchanging frames of both brood and honey from strong swarms to weak ones, has already demonstrated the worth of the moveable frame hive over all others, but in making this exchange, great care should be taken in giving weak swarms brood, that more is not

given them than they can keep warm. If the brood gets killed, it makes a bad matter worse. We have found, to strengthen swarms in this way, it is better to place the hive in a room moderately warm, for a few days, until a sufficient amount of brood has hatched to keep up animal heat. In selecting combs containing brood, take those having brood the nearest matured. Again we have taken small weak swarms, that were destitute of much brood—take a strong swarm and exchange places with the weak one, the weak one will catch large numbers of bees from the strong one. This will greatly aid them, both in numbers and warmth. Examine all swarms if you find any that need help, follow either of the above named processes. It will pay to keep a good lookout for the weak and queenless swarms.—[Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Raising Queens.

**Q**UEEN raising is a very necessary branch of apiculture, without it, we would not make much progress. One of our most noted apiarians, says that a fertile queen at swarming time is equal to a swarm of bees. I presume all experienced apiarians agree with him.

Of the various modes of queen raising I will give only the one I most generally practice.

I select three strong stands in February. One of these which we will call No. 1, should contain the queen we breed from, and should be no kin to the other two, Nos. 2 and 3 destined for drones. These stands should be fed regularly, daily on top of frames under the quilt (honey board) so as to avoid letting too much heat escape.—I think that honey is better than sugar syrup, for this purpose, this stimulates breeding, and tends to strengthen the hive with bees.—

About two tablespoonsful is sufficient for the purpose. These

stands should all contain pure and prolific queens. Place in the centre of Nos. 2 and 3 plenty of empty drone comb, or comb with the middle and lower cells empty, and as soon in the spring as we discover eggs or brood in the drone comb, we place one or two frames of empty new worker comb in the middle of No. 1, removing in their place two frames with no brood or eggs in them. As soon as we discover eggs in these, we go to a strong hybrid or black stand No. 4 if we have one, and remove the queen with two middle frames of sealed brood to a new stand, with as many bees on them as will cover the brood, and form a small nucleus, these I place to one side of the hive, using a partition board. Now take out the frames of new comb from No. 1, and after brushing back all the bees, place them in No. 4 of the two taken out. But I forgot to say that you should first remove from No. 4 every frame that has the least eggs or unsealed brood, as bees are partial to their own eggs or brood, if a single egg of their own is left they would rear from that. In place of these you can take frames of comb from either hives with no brood or eggs, and place in No. 4 to fill it out. No. 4 should then be fed daily even if they have plenty of honey. If only a few queens are wanted at first you need not put in but one frame. Sometimes you only get two or three cells started, some times 25. I have at one time had 28 perfect cells on one frame (Langstroth.) At another time I had 56 on a Quinby frame, but this was in June and July.

Make some Nuclei hives large enough to hold three or four standard frames the size of the hive you use, and in about eight days after starting the queen cells in No. 4, open the the hive lift out the frames, count the cells, suppose there are only nine cells, but only six can be cut out safely, you then want six nuclei to place them in. Go to the strongest hives, (except 1, 2 and 3, these should be let alone to keep strong), if early in the season take only one frame from a hive, with the bees on it, being careful not to take the queen. This should be a middle frame with plenty of sealed brood. Two of these frames with the bees on placed side by side in a nuclei and closed up immediately will not fight if from two different hives. To form the six nuclei, you will have to take a frame each, from twelve hives. That is for the earliest part of the season so as not to weaken the hives. Place empty frames in their stead, but if you have empty combs all the better. On the tenth day after starting the cells about sun set or late as possible to see good, open the entrance of these nuclei and go to No. 4, cut out the six cells, being careful to use a sharp small bladed knife and cut at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch from the cell, do not touch the cell by the middle or point, just hold the comb it is attached to, place the cells in the nuclei in the same position you cut them out. I place my cells between two frames on top over the cluster of bees, but novices cannot do so with perfect safety, and it is only for them that I am so particular about. What



I write is nothing new to experienced bee men.

The cells are more hardy at ten days and novices had better not cut them out sooner, nor is it safe to wait longer, as the first queen may hatch and destroy the rest. I have frequently had this to occur even the tenth day. The cells generally hatch between the twelfth and fourteenth, generally on the twelfth. Sometimes on the 11th and sometimes on the sixteenth, but I hardly ever have one to hatch after the sixteenth. By the time these young queens hatch and fly out to meet the drones, the drone will be on the wing.

I do not like the practice of removing the breeders to another stand to start queen cells. The risk is too great that way, I lost two very valuable ones that way. Nor do I like the practice of starting cells in small boxes, nuclei, with a pint of bees, what is worth raising is worth raising well.

When my nuclei hives contain standard frames, I have no trouble to feed—strengthen with bees—unite and keep strong, and to gather up into full hives in the fall, while the trouble with small boxes is no trifle.

As to using queen nurseries, they are a good thing, for those who can get bees to, or rather as novice says persuade them to accept an unfertile queen. This is what I cant do unless the queen is hatched inside the stand, I want to introduce her to,— In this case the bees will accept her, even if the old queen is not removed after she is hatched. But I find the

trouble so great to get bees to accept an unfertile queen, that I have laid aside my nursery, having a better way to save my queens. If there is a breeder who can safely introduce every unfertile or virgin queen will he please tell us how, in the next number of the BEE WORLD.

I have exceeded my limits to be short and must close for the present.

R. M. ARGO.

Lowell, Ky., Jan., 6th; 1874.

The reign of the queen bee is extended to the second or third year and sometimes even to the fourth year. But the lady is in her prime beauty, and glories most in all her important attributes and essential usefulness to the State in the second year.—*Scudmore.*

[For the Bee World.]

### Sustain the Journal.

Mr. Editor:

THE February number of the BEE WORLD is received, and so interesting, I did not lay it down, until I had read it through. I notice that many of the journals and correspondents speak of the BEE WORLD highly complementary, and congratulate the South, that such a journal has been started.

I confess I feel a great interest in the success of the BEE WORLD, and while I do not wish to be considered as prying into private matters, would like to know how the needful is coming in, in the way of money for subscribers. I am much gratified that we have such a paper published South, and that the proprietor has shown such a determination to have it an independent journal, open to the discussion of the views of all, on bee culture. But I would say to the

friends of the BEE WORLD, both North and South, that while the Editor is perhaps the best practically informed man in the United States on bee culture, if not equal to any elsewhere, at the present or past ages—not even excepting Huber himself, and while the correspondents both North and South, are many of them the best writers on bee culture. Yet it requires that an interest should be taken by the friends and patrons of the BEE WORLD, to get subscribers for the journal at once. Money by subscriptions alone can only secure to us the paper. Therefore let us one and all, determine we will obtain all the subscribers we can without delay, and thus permanently secure the continued publication of the paper.

G.

Floyd County, Ga., March 2d, 1874.

You want to know how the BEE WORLD is getting along, by way of subscriptions, and the one thing needful.

Our subscription list has continued to increase, but not with that rapidity that we could wish, especially in a land denominated by almost all, "the home of the honey bee." To edit and publish a bee journal, devoted exclusively to the interests of bee-keepers, involves no small amount of labor and expense. This labor is somewhat arduous, and the expense is great and ever recurring. We are laboring to place before the bee-keepers of the South, a bee journal, one devoted to the cause of apiculture, while the South has her literary journals, the agricultural department is well represented. The horticultural, and in fact, most every branch except apiculture, has her medium of communication. Shall it be said that this rural branch, one that gives a greater income to this country, than any other branch of industry for the capital invested, should not be well sustained? The bee-keepers of the South now have an opportunity to help establish a journal that must and will be the leading bee journal of this country. Why? Be-

cause it will contain the news of both North and South.

Then friends, lend us your aid, by subscribing and getting your friends to subscribe for the BEE WORLD. Help us build up a home journal, that the South may not be looking to other portions of our country for light and knowledge, that they can have at home. Will you support a home journal, and help us to advance this noble cause? If so subscribe for the BEE WORLD.—[Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Bee Notes from Central Ills.

THE February number of the BEE WORLD is received.

In it I see that friend Argo is troubled with cock-roaches, and as a partial remedy, keep a trio of Cochins in his yard. Now friend Argo, you dont go quite far enough. Just let your poultry have the range of your bee yard, even if you have to fence them in. We have our hives high enough from the ground so that chickens can go under, and hens reach under them, and they make a clean sweep of everything in the shape of bugs, millers, worms, etc., and woe unto the mouse, that dares to show his nose, for the biddies go for them like a tabby cat. Then if you can stand the eternal quacking, a brood of ducks is a splendid moth and bug trap, for they are ever on the go; probing everything in reach with their flat shovels, with their hunger never satisfied. We have no fear of the moth here. Bees, so far this winter, have done splendidly, ours have had one good fly, Feb. 20th.

Friend Davis speaks about smoke for bees. Did you ever try an "Atomizer"? I have one called, "Holmes' Boston Perfumer, or Universal Atomizer" which I think in most cases can

be used in the place of smoke. It is a light little instrument, and a pinch can be used with one hand. It throws a fine spray of scented sweetened water and will hit every bee without daubing them all up.

Would be good to scent a stock that is trying to rob another. Then in looking for a queen, it does not like smoke, drive queen bees and all to the bottom of the hive. This instrument can be found at drug stores, price, \$1.25 or \$1.50.

Friend Davis' bellows smoker is a capital thing, but often you wish to use the smoker with one hand, when a little tin cup with perforated bottom, will be just the thing and one that you can set down in a hurry and no danger from fire. There should be a half inch rim soldered to the bottom.

It is a little aggravating to read of the bees flying and gathering pollen in the South, while our own bees here in the North, have'n't begun to think of spring yet.

Wishing you success I remain,  
Yours Truly,

W. M. KELLOGG.

Oneida, Knox County, Ills., Feb. 27th. 1874.

Placing hives near the ground, affords the greatest harbour for Toads, and insects that is destructive to the honey bee; the toad we have found to be destructive, if not more so than any other thing we have ever met with, "its no uncommon thing for a medium size toad to take from 20 to 30 bees to a meal." We have found three good size toads under one hive, and two setting in the portico, beside the entrance of the hive, helping themselves, they took the bee that was coming in heavy laden with honey, and the motion is so quick, that unless a person is familiar with them, they would not know that they were taking

bees, place your hives from 12 to 18 inches from the ground, give them a lighting board six to eight inches wide, inclined down, this will carry off the water, and for the bees to light on, and crawl to the hive, the bee-keepers will save money by following the above plan. [Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Our Southern Bee Journal.

*Editor Bee World:*

I am well pleased with the BEE WORLD, its pages are replete with instructive matter pertaining to bee-culture, besides it fills a void, in practical bee culture in the south.— Every section of our vast country needs a home literature, devoted to the peculiar interest of its section.— The North has farm and stock journals, suited to the wants of the northern stock raiser and farmer, also her bee journals, that are guiding on the apiarians to success, which is as it should be.

But must the southern farmer and stock raiser rely upon northern literatures for light to guide him successfully? or does he look to the literature of his own section and climate, for proper guidance. Heretofore the southern bee raiser, had to look to the northern bee journals for information, but now, it is as it should be we have a southern bee journal, that will more fully meet our wants; I mean the BEE WORLD, edited and published at Rome, Ga. It is just the right thing in the right place, and conducted by one experienced, and if southern bee raisers will consult their interest it should be encouraged—sustained.

Brother bee-keepers of the South, let us give to this, our journal our support, subscribe for and read it, write

for it, let us through its columns exchange views, and give our experience, we thereby will be mutually benefited, and do not forget to urge upon our neighbors to subscribe for the BEE WORLD, until every bee-keeper in the land becomes a reader and contributor to its pages and success.

The South, the "home of the honey bee," by proper cultivation can be made a land of honey, conducive to the supplying of our tables, and replenishing of our purses.

Mr. Editor, I hope to see the "Ladies' Department" well crowded each month, with articles from the pens of our southern ladies', upon the subject connected with bee-culture.

I now am done, only I will say, my bees have wintered well, upon their summer stands, the entrance holes being closed, only allowing one bee to pass at a time. Our bees have been gathering pollen for several days past.

Success to the BEE WORLD, and long may its *Moon* preside over its destinies, and reflect light upon the pathway of knowledge in the apian science.

B. W. STONE, M. D.  
Fountain Run, Ky., March 6th, 1874.

There seems to be a strong desire, on the part of most all intelligent bee-keepers, both South and North, to sustain a bee journal in the South, and many are laboring for its success, we are under many obligations to the press, for the kindly notices they have given us, should the bee-keepers aid us, we will be able to give them a bee journal devoted to their interest, the South is able, and her interest demands the publication of a journal, devoted to bee culture, the BEE WORLD, is located in the South, and in a good honey country, with the aid and assistance of the bee-keepers, in the South you can have a journal devoted to your interest, and the advancement of bee-culture.

[Ed.]

[For the Bee World.]

### Rambling Notes from Ohio.

**O**F course all old practical bee-keepers know all about bees, but if the *beginner* learns the smallest item from the following, then the object of the writer will be fully accomplished.

As the hiving season approaches, hives should be prepared and "all made ready for action." New hives should be painted four or five weeks before putting bees in them. If bees are in box hives, and it is desired to swarm artificially, select a populous colony and drum out the larger part of the bees, besure you get the queen in the new hive, place the new swarm on the old stand and the old hive on a new stand.

Where moveable comb hives are used, prepare the new hive, take half the frames with the adhering bees out of the old hive, and place them in the new one, place the new hive the width of itself from the old stand and to one side, then place the old hive a corresponding distance on the other side. Or a frame of brood and bees, may be taken from each of the several colonies, place them in a new hive close the hive, (be careful not to smother them) to keep the bees in, then carry the hive to the cellar, or other dark cool place, they should be kept confined, until the following evening, when they may be placed on a new stand and liberated at sun set. This process may be repeated at intervals, of two or three days, in all cases a queen should be given to the queenless colony. If none are at hand, a queen cell that will hatch in a day or two may be given. If left

to themselves they will rear a queen, if they have comb filled with eggs or larvæ, but much valuable time would be lost.

Transferring should be done before the hives are filled with honey, some form of a movable comb must be prepared, the common practice is to drum the bees out of the hive, pry of one side, and with a long bladed knife (or a peice of hoop iron will answer the purpose) cut out a comb, lay it upon a table, or board, place an empty frame upon the comb and with a knife mark the comb inside the the frame, cut the comb a trifle larger than the frame, so that the frame may be sprung over it, place the frame so prepared in the new hive, proceed in like manner with the remaining combs always letting the combs occupy the same position, (top side up) in the new hive that they occupied in the old if the combs are too thick they may be shaved off, the brood combs must be placed all together in the centre of the hive, now place the new hive on the old stand, bring the bees and shake them upon a sheet at the entrance of the hive, and brush them carefully untill all have entered the hive, shade the hive from the sun, in transferring all drone comb should be refused or placed in the outside frames, frames may be filled with peices of worker comb by using melted bees-wax to fasten them in.

T. N. HOLLETT.

The covering of drone cells when the drones in their nymph state, are convex or swelling outward, whilst the cells of the working bees are flat.

Whenever drones are observed to remain in the hive late in the autumn, its is held to be a bad sign of the state of that hive.—*Mills.*

[For the Bee World.]

### Superiority of Italian Bees.

*Mr. Editor:*

**S**ee the moth question was agitated at the bee-keepers convention, at Louisville.

Ten or twelve years experience with italians bees has taught me not to fear the moth. I have sometimes had hives reduced by loss of queen to a very small swarm; only a few hundred bees, and yet they would gard the hive against *all* intruders, even when the entrance was open full width of hive. I have left them so for weeks, to test the vigilance of the italians, and with so few bees I could not find a worm in their combs, neither did rober bees dare enter.

I have frequently bought a few hives of black bees, and when placed in my apiary; I could always find more worms in a *half dozen* hives of black bees, than *fifty*, or a *hundred* hives of italian bees. Keep a good fertile italian queen in a hive, and there is no danger of worms.

To-day (Feb., 21st,) I put out flour for my bees, and twenty-five colonies of italian bees, carried in two gallons of flour in five hours. I watched one colony of black bees I bought too late last fall to italianize, for one hour and did not see a single bee go in with flour on his legs, while every hive of the italians, setting all around this one, the bees were just rolling in looking like little millers, with flour all over them. The consequence is the italian queens are depositings eggs by the hundred, while this black queen is laying a few dozen eggs per day, and when the honey season comes

on, it will have but few bees to gather it, while the italians will have thousands of bright workers, to bring home the precious sweets.

Give me pure italians, and I fear no worms—no poor honey seasons, nor stings.

Respectfully,

H. NESBIT.

Cynthiana, Ky., Feb., 21st, 1874.

We find the experience of the writer to accord with the experience of all practical beekeepers, that the italian bee, is considered one of the best moth-proof hives ever used in this country, we have bred them for twelve years, but not to sell, and we have to see a swarm ruined by the moth, or robbed by other bees, they are much harder than the native bee, also, they are much longer lived. In warm weather, we have found the natural life of the black bee, to be from 60 to 70 days, while that of the italian would run from 75 to 90 days; this is very easily tested, by introducing a black queen in an italian swarm, and an italian queen in a black swarm, this will show which of the two races are the hardest. [Ed.]

### Queries.

Question.—Is a pure Italian queen, purely fertilized, whose workers, (although they show distinctly the three colored bands next the thorex) are of a variety of shades—that is to say some are straw-colored, some almost red, some leather or dark colored, while many are all the intermediate shades between these?

Answer.—We think they are the general markings should be quite uniform. We are satisfied the difference in shades of color is the result of breeding—climate and age not the result of impurity, as some have supposed.

Q.—Is a pure Italian *purely fertilized*, all of whose worker progeny

show three yellow bands of uniform shade, during the spring and summer months, but during winter, or long confinement, or other causes, the bands become so dark, that the bees could scarcely be recognized as Italians?

A.—In winter they are much darker than in summer. This difference in color, we have found to exist in other kinds of stocks, as well as in bees. Yet not doubting the purity of blood, the same change is perceivable in the common native or black bee, and still we do not doubt their purity.

Q.—Has the season of the year, or any particular food any influence upon the color of the progeny of a queen, either worker or royal?

A.—Queens, workers and drones breed in warm weather, when there is abundance of honey, we have found generally to be the finest both in color and size—not so much difference in the food.

The color of the comb has a tendency to change the color of the queens, and their progeny.

Q.—A pure Italian queen, fertilized by a black or native drone will produce workers. Some one, some two-banded, and a few showing no colored rings or bands. Her royal progeny will likewise be variously marked. Take one of the lightest of the royal, produced of this queen, and breed thereafter to pure drones. Will her progeny show any signs of the mixed blood?

A.—They will. Physical causes are the same now as they were thous-

we have failed in every instance, and have been forced to the conclusion that we were deceived in our first experiments, and at present, might be set down as a doubting Thomas. However, we would not say that it cannot be done. We do believe there are cases where a wingless queen has become fertilized in the hive, or near it, but where we find one such case, perhaps there are five thousands that are not, or even in confinement. Our faith in fertilizing queens in confinement has been shaken, not only on account of our own inability to succeed, but in and through the unwillingness of its advocates to accept the proposition offered them by Mr. Ferman of Iowa. The proposition was a large sum of money for any one to come to his apiary and there fertilize a few queens in confinement, but not one of them has ever accepted the liberal offer, and we believe they will not, and for this reason, nearly all have lost confidence in the matter. Would it not be policy for some of these advocates to come forward and redeem themselves, and prove to the world what they have claimed—thereby save for themselves a reputation that is worth more than the amount offered.—[ED.]

Connected with their transmigration is the question of the extent of their flight. We believe that two miles may be considered as the radius of the circle of their ordinary range, though circumstances will occasionally drive them at least a mile more. Judging from the sweep that bees take by the side of a railroad train in motion, we should set down their pace about thirty miles an hour.—Murray.

## Ladies' Department.



[For the Bee World.]

Mr. Editor :

YOU see I have not forgotten my promise, however tardy I may have appeared to be in fulfilling it.

The new journal, its editor and the cause of apiculture have my kindest wishes. It seems strange that enlightened bee-keeping is so backward in our dear sunny South—let us hope it will not long be so.

I commenced bee-keeping myself about a year ago, with the determination of making it support me. The result thus far is not as favorable as I could wish; but there were many difficulties and obstacles in my way, which people in general would not have to encounter. I am quite sanguine of ultimate success.

My queens commenced laying about the middle of January. I presume the early fruit blossoms began to appear then. Peach and plum blossoms are still to be seen, the wild plum and wild peach are in bloom, and the wild cherry and whortle-berry are beginning to bloom, white clover has been in bloom for three weeks. Still my bees have needed help, and after seeing it I commenced feeding them,

we have failed in every instance, and have been forced to the conclusion that we were deceived in our first experiments, and at present, might be set down as a doubting Thomas. However, we would not say that it cannot be done. We do believe there are cases where a wingless queen has become fertilized in the hive, or near it, but where we find one such case, perhaps there are five thousands that are not, or even in confinement. Our faith in fertilizing queens in confinement has been shaken, not only on account of our own inability to succeed, but in and through the unwillingness of its advocates to accept the proposition offered them by Mr. Ferman of Iowa. The proposition was a large sum of money for any one to come to his apiary and there fertilize a few queens in confinement, but not one of them has ever accepted the liberal offer, and we believe they will not, and for this reason, nearly all have lost confidence in the matter. Would it not be policy for some of these advocates to come forward and redeem themselves, and prove to the world what they have claimed—thereby save for themselves a reputation that is worth more than the amount offered.—[Ed.]

Connected with their transmigrati<sup>o</sup>n is the question of the extent of their flight. We believe that two miles may be considered as the radius of the circle of their ordinary range, though circumstances will occasionally drive them at least a mile more. Judging from the sweep that bees take by the side of a railroad train in motion, we should set down their pace about thirty miles an hour.  
—Murray.

## Ladies' Department.



[For the Bee World.]

Mr. Editor :

YOU see I have not forgotten my promise, however tardy I may have appeared to be in fulfilling it.

The new journal, its editor and the cause of apiculture have my kindest wishes. It seems strange that enlightened bee-keeping is so backward in our dear sunny South—let us hope it will not long be so.

I commenced bee-keeping myself about a year ago, with the determination of making it support me. The result thus far is not as favorable as I could wish; but there were many difficulties and obstacles in my way, which people in general would not have to encounter. I am quite sanguine of ultimate success.

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and hope to get them strong enough to repay me after a while.

Yours &c.,

ANNA SAUNDERS.

Woodville, Miss., March 9th, 1874.

First bees in rocks their habitation sought,  
Or hollow trees, their wondrous structures wrought.

Till man a more commodious mansion gave,  
And called them from the woods, and dreary cave.—*Bromwich.*

[For the Bee World.]

### Bees in Florida.

*Mr Editor:*

THE Italian swarm which was purchased from you, is doing finely in our land of flowers. It is true its winter, but we are want to forget it while watching the bees diving among the peach blossoms and honey-suckles, collecting from them their ambrosial sweets. In a few days the the orange blossoms, will be open, then may this hive of the honey seeking bee enjoy a banquet which never before was their fortune to realize, for I beleive the blossom of the orange is one of the most fragrant we have.— I beleive Florida is the place for the honey bee. It seems as if these beautiful regions might answer at least to one clause of the description of the land promise, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' for the noble grove and forests which extend along the alluvial bottoms of the river are enamled with flowers which render them a very paradise for the nectar seeking bee

In France, floating bee hives are very common; and also in Egypt, along the Nile. One barge contains from sixty to a hundred hives which are well defended from the inclemency of the weather. Thus the owners

float them gently down the stream, while they gather their honey from the flowers along the banks. A single apiary of this kind yields the proprietor a considerable sum. And I think it would be the easiest mode for a lazy man to make a fortune by adopting this simple plan heré. By that means the bees would know no winter, and consequently no scarcity of flowers. The garden flower such as the rose and verbena, do not yield honey as luxurantly as the wild flowers; in fact they are resorted to by the bees very little, they neither afford the honey or pollen to any great extent. There has been a great deal of discussion concerning the merits of the two species of the honey bee in our country. From what I have seen and read of them, I am decidedly partial to the italian bee for several reasons.

Bees, the encyclopedist, says: "every means that ingenuity could devise to improve the breed and management of these profitable creatures, have been adopted with success. They distinguish three kinds or varieties of the common bee, the first is large and of a deep brown color, the second is a smaller and blackish, those of the third sort called "the little flemings," or "little hollanders," are much smaller than either, and of a fine glossy yellow color. It is the latter that is very generally cultivated on the continent at this time."— And the latter is undoubtedly what we call the "italian." The italian bee is certainly not so irritable as the black bee, and has the name of being more industrious. Virgil and other

ancient writers hint at its superiority.

It is also armed with a longer proboscis which is very convenient, for many of our most fragrant flowers are inaccessible to the black bee, on account of the shortness of its proboscis. A writer of much note, in a recent article on the honey bee writes thus: "Many flowers rich in this vegetable secretion, are not visited by the bee, because it lies too deep to be reached by its proboscis. The nectar both of the honeysuckle and of red clover lies too deep to be reached by the common bee. It is however claimed, that the Italian bee can reach the rich stores of the red clover, on account of the greater length of its tongue. The honey harvest, therefore, where this crop is largely raised, is not only more abundant, but of a finer and more delicate flavor, when gathered by the Italian than by the common brown bee." And again, "The introduction of the yellow Italian bee into stocks of the native brown bee has made hundreds of observations possible, which without them, could never have been made. The longevity of queens, drones, and workers was thus easily ascertained."

But the Italian is not without faults among many good qualities. Bevan mentions it as being especially thievish in its disposition—robbing by the wholesale.

T. V. MOORE.

Jacksonville, Fla., Feb. 28th, 1874.

Set hives on a plank, not too low on the ground. Where herbs with the flowers may compass it round,  
And boards to defend it from North and North East,  
From showers and rubbish, from virmin and beast.—*Tusser.*

## Editors' Table.



### "Wise above what is Written."

It is written in a cotemporary bee journal that unfertile queens, we are inclined to think, would be of little use to novices, as they are to strange bees, and we have found them very uncertain property, to say the least. This was written in the year 1873—again in 1874. The same writer says: "Are we not right, in considering the latter plan in connection with *our discovery* that queens *just hatched*, could be let loose anywhere, far in advance of any of the nurseries?" Well, this teacher of bee culture has *discovered* that he grew much wiser in 1874 than he was in 1873, for in 1873 unfertile queens, or queens *just hatched*, were of as little use to novices, as they are to strange bees, and we have found them very *uncertain* property, to say the least." In 1874 he has grown wise indeed—yes, *wise* enough to *discover* what was known even before he knew what a queen was, but he has now discovered that they can be "let loose" anywhere, just as soon as hatched, by the use of "hot water," or the "hot beds," in advance of "nurseries"—"strange indeed." That was a remarkable *discovery* to be christened: "*Our*" discovery in 1874. For it is written in the *American Bee Journal* for May 1870. "Immediately thereupon, the queen to be introduced, whether fertilized or not, must be subjected to similar fumigation, and perfumery, repeating it two or three times at intervals of half a minute." And also in the same year, and in the same journal, for June, it is written: "The bees seem so glad to think they are *alive*, that they will readily accept of any queen when thus treated, even a young unfertile one." Strange indeed! Again, in the July number for the same year, it is writ-

ten: "I take some honey from one of the combs in the hive in a long spoon, and put the queen into it so as to have her thoroughly covered, then pour your queen, honey and all right into the mass of bees, and know that ninety-nine times in a hundred, she is right. Dr. B. is right in saying that, unfertile queens may be introduced in this way as safely as a laying one." In the October number for the same year, it is written: "Wait until the bees have started queen cells—then without any preparation whatever, put any queen, fertile or unfertile, directly on the comb among the bees." Once more it is written in the annals of bee culture for 1870, that "Immediately after making a new colony in this way, while they are yet strangers, and confined, they will not fight, and even a 'virgin' queen can be introduced with all safety, etc."

Thus it will be seen, that our bee journalist has grown wise enough in 1874 to call the *letting loose* of queens just hatched, into new colonies, "*Our discovery!*" What a tremendous stretch of intellectuality. "*Our discovery!*" But he does not tell us whether he obtained that wisdom from authors above quoted, or whether he dug it out of the Dictionary and Spelling Book, he wishes us to study so carefully. The progress of the present age is wonderful indeed! See the rapid strides for things that were never written until in 1873 and 1874. Like that of hatching queens by the aid of hot water. Keep warm by a kerosene lamp, and that later *hot bed* institution. We repeat then, this is a wonderful age to be "wise above what was ever written" before, in order to raise dollar queens by warm water on the "latter plan," which we are asked to consider as right, or perhaps laudable for the distribution of hybrid, or half blooded Italian queens. "Oh, consistency thou art etc. etc."

### Literary.

*The West Virginia Agriculturist.*—This invaluable monthly is on our table. Its contents are varied, and of the most interesting character. The agricultural, horticultural, live stock fruit, apicultural and poultry departments are well filled, the journal is very properly named. A magazine of rural life. Published by J. M. Palmer, Buffalo, Putnam County, West Va.—Terms \$1,50 per year.

*The Bee-Keepers Magazine*, came to us in a new dress, the general appearance is much improved, it is tastefully gotten up, and well arranged, price \$1,25 per year, or \$2,00 with two fine chromos. We have received one of the chromos, they are fine indeed, and admired by all. The magazine is published monthly by H. A. King & Co., 14<sup>th</sup> Murray Street, N. Y. City.

Among the many useful improvements connected with the apiarian department, we find the comb frame clamps, and spacing supporters, invented by Dr. Jewell Davis, of Charleston, Ills. These clamps and supporters are both cheap and durable, they are furnished by the quantity at 25 cents per set of eight frames. We shall adopt the use of them the coming season upon all our frames, it is a gratification to us to notice any improvement that adds worth to this department.

The present number of the BEE WORLD, cannot fail to be any other, but interesting to bee-keepers. It contains a good variety of readable matter, both from old and new correspondents.

The Ladies' department is well represented. Miss Saunders has frequently written for the journals, her articles are highly appreciated, and the readers of the Bee World, will be pleased to know, that she will contribute to the columns of the journal often. The second article, from Miss Moore, daughter of Rev. J. W. Moore, of Jacksonville, Florida. Miss Moore only 16 years old, has commenced early to study and practice apiculture, in the Sunny South, her article is interesting and instructive, and we hope to be able to give more of them, to the readers of the Bee World, also to chronicle the names of new ones.

Bees are now building comb rapidly, and should the weather keep favorable, swarming will commence in a few days.

Many have asked us why we did not publish some of the many flattering notices given through the press, of the Bee World, we will say to such, while it is a pleasure for us to know that such is the case, and to thank them for it, we thought the same space given to bee-keepers, would be of much more value.

### Queen Raising.

In the February number we spoke of Mr. Mitchell raising 5000 queens the coming season, Mr. Mitchell thought the article had a tendency to injure his business, we had no such intention, as we was certainly glad to hear of his success, he has formed a co-partnership, and is engaged in raising queens, he informs us he is again on his taps, and in a very short time will be ready to fill all orders that may be due or any to come, we wish him abundant success, his post office address at present is Columbia, Tenn.

Should we make note of every letter that brings favorable news, and from every part of the country concerning bees, it would fill the journal, but we will say that the news is flattering.

J. F. Prather, Dalton, Ga., is authorized to take subscriptions to the BEE WORLD, any where in the State of Georgia.

*Correction.*—In the "article Smoking Bees," of last month, on page 85 fifth paragraph and fifth line, reads, we think it will be universally used, should read, he thinks it will be universally used.

We see some of our cotemporaries give credit to the *Bee World* for articles they copy from its pages, while others do not. Please give credit. If they are worth copying they certainly are worth crediting to the pages where taken.

We are sorry to say that some of our most reliable queen breeders have withdrawn from the field, saying that they cannot raise pure Italian queens and compete with some of the cheap queen breeders.

### Italian Queens.

We are receiving letters almost daily, asking if we can furnish pure Italians. To all such we will say we can furnish a limited number, that will be warranted to us at reasonable prices. They will be bred by men who pride themselves on raising pure stock, and are willing to warrant the same. It is a great pity that we have not more such breeders, that would help keep up the standard of purity.

## Publisher's Department.

### ADVERTISEING RATES.

SPACE.	1 Month.	2 Months	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year...
1 Page....	\$16	\$30	\$40	\$75	\$125
$\frac{3}{4}$ Page.....	12	20	35	50	85
1 Column..	10	18	25	40	75
$\frac{3}{4}$ Column..	8	15	20	35	65
$\frac{1}{2}$ Column..	7	12	17	25	35
$\frac{1}{3}$ Column..	6	10	15	20	25
$\frac{1}{4}$ Column..	3	5	7	10	15

SPECIAL...Outside of back cover, double rates. Inside of back cover, 50 per cent. added to rates.

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We adhere strictly to our printed rates.

Address all business communications to "BEE WORLD."

## BEE-KEEPER'S DIRECTORY.

*Parties desiring to purchase Italian Queens and Colonies, will find in this Directory the names of some of the most reliable Breeders in the Country.*

CARDS inserted in this Directory, and a copy of the paper sent one year for Ten Dollars per annum; cards to be four lines or less. For each additional line, One Dollar per annum will be charged. A line will average six words

## ITALIAN BEES ITALIAN QUEENS.

AND

### Pure Breed Poultry,



I will furnish full stands in Langstroth Hives early in the Spring at \$15 per stand, and Queens at \$5 after 1st of May, purely tested, and in their highest grade of purity.

Also eggs from the following six leading varieties of Poultry:

	Per doz.		Per doz.
Light Brahm.	\$2 50	Buff Cochins.	\$4 00
Dark do	3 00	White Legh'ns	2 50
Partridge Coch's	3 00	Hodons	2 50

I have a few pair of light Brahm. at \$5, and a few extra Cocks yet to spare; one part Coch. Cock, eight months old \$5, White Leghorn \$3, and a few others.

My Poultry was selected with care from the best strains in the country.

Purity and safe arrival guaranteed. For further particulars address

R. M. ARGO.

Lowell, Garrard Co., Ky.

### Imported and Home-bred Queens



Gray's Improved Honey Extractor, Gerster's Wax Extractor, Queen Cages, Honey Knives, and Aparian Supplies generally. Poland—China Pigs bred from prize stock. Orders solicited and satisfaction guaranteed. Enclose stamp for further information.

A. GRAY & CO.

Importers and Breeders of Italian Queen Bees.

Reiley, Butler Co., Ohio.



I am prepared to fill a limited number of orders for pure Italian Queens and full colonies. Can fill orders for young tested Queens from April 10th to October 1st. Send for price list. Address

M. PARSE,  
Pine Bluff, Ark.

### ITALIAN QUEENS



Fertilized in confinement and tested; price, single queen, \$4.00, two for \$7.00; full colonies, \$15.00; Honey Extractors, all complete for one dollar; each one dollar. Send for circular. Address

A. N. DRAPER,  
Upper Alton, Ill.

**A**LSIKE CLOVER SEED for sale. Per pound, 30 cents; per bushel, \$15. Address,

HENRY HUFF,  
Jonesville, Hillsdale, Co., Mich.

### ITALIAN QUEEN BEES.



Imported and homebred from imported mothers, *Pure as the purest and cheap as the cheapest*

*Southern Bee-Keepers* will consult their interest by sending for my circular and price list. Address

T. N. HOLLETT,  
Pennsville, Ohio.

# THE VICTORY BEE HIVE,

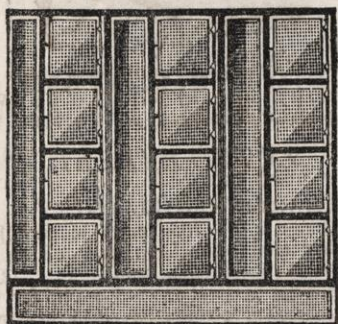
PATENTED SEPT. 20th, 1872.

**T**his well known and popular hive has now been fully tested, and its superior advantages over other hives, has warranted the patentee to send it fourth upon its own merits, we call the attention of bee-keepers generally to it as the victory.

Address patentee, A. R. Moulton, Fall Branch, Washington County, Tenn. For the State of Georgia, Address,

J. F. PRATHER,  
Dalton, Ga.

# THE QUEEN NURSERY.



This convenient Invention is now ready for sale.

Model Nurseries with Individual

Rights ..... \$5 00

Township rights..... \$15 to \$20 00

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State rights on liberal terms

Also I manufacture the best geared

## Honey Extractor

in use, cheap and durable, \$12 each

The Nursery Cages should be in every Apiary, for confining and introducing Queens. Send your orders to

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## BEE-KEEPERS SUPPLIES.

We can furnish everything needed in the apiary, such as Italian Bees and Pure Queens. Honey Extractors. Knives, New System and Champion Hives, six styles. Bee Feeders and Ventilators Bee Veils, the American Bee-Keeper's Guide 244 pages, paper cover, 50 cts; bound \$1.00; Wax Extractors, \$3.00; Alsike Clover Seed, Black Spanish Chickens, &c Send for our large illustrated PAMPHLET, containing information for Bee-keepers, FREE to all E. KRETCHMER, Coburg Mont. Co., Iowa.

## TWELVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE

BREEDING ITALIAN QUEEN BEES.  
PRICE FOR 1873

One Queen .....	\$2 25
Three Queens, each .....	2 12
Six Queens, each .....	2 00
Twelve Queens .....	22 00

All Queens warranted pure, and safe arrival guaranteed. When otherwise the money refunded or other Queens sent.

Address H. ALLEY & CO.,  
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## GLEN APIARIES.



## 500 Honey Extractors,

300 Gerster's Wax Extractors,

## 2000 Home Bred Italian Queens.

ALSO Imported Queens, Honey Knives, and apiarian supplies, at bottom prices. Circulars free.

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## PURE ITALIAN QUEENS.



I WILL HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER of Queens for sale the coming season, at the following rates:

One pure Queen, tested, .....	\$7 50
Two " " " each, .....	6 00

Safe arrival and purity guaranteed.

CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS.

JOHN L. LOBDELL,  
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**AARON BENEDICT** GET THE BEST AND CHEAPEST.

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I also keep on hand full colonies of thorough bred Italian Bees for sale.

My little book "The Honey Bee," just published, is now ready to be sent out. Price 50 cents. For further particulars address, with stamp,

**AARON BENEDICT,**  
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**PURE ITALIAN QUEENS.**

I have on hand for the Spring market, a limited number of Queens bred from select mothers... Price \$5,... and shall be able to furnish pure Queens throughout the season, at reasonable prices.

**A. SALISBURY,**  
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**ITALIAN QUEENS,**

In their highest grade of purity, for sale at reasonable prices.

Satisfaction guaranteed in every particular. **T. H. B. WOODY.**  
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**MY MACHINE WILL EMPTY MORE** Honey in the same length of time than any other machine in the market, and without injury to the most tender comb.

For further particulars send stamp for Circular. Please give your name, Postoffice, county and State, plainly written, to avoid mistakes.

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**ITALIAN BEES AND QUEENS,**

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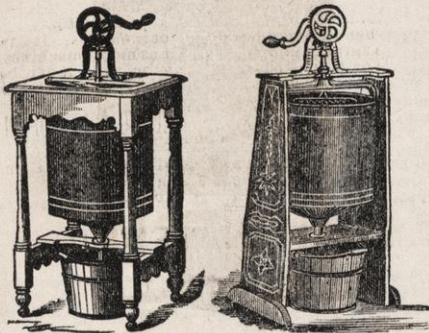
I have the largest, purest and best stock of Italian Bees west of the Mississippi, and twelve years experience in breeding Italians.

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GET THE LATEST! GET THE BEST!

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**GEARED ROTARY**  
**HONEY EXTRACTOR.**



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For Extracting Pure Honey From Old or New  
Combs, without breaking or Injuring them,  
which are afterwards returned to the  
Hive, to be again refilled by the Bees.

For further information send stamp for our  
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- Langstroth's Improved Movable  
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able Comb Hive,.....18 00
- Langstroth Standard Hive, 16 00
- “ Transport “ 14 00

Hives furnished by purchaser  
.....\$10 to \$12

These Bees are from Queens of *my*  
*own direct importation from Italy and*  
*Germany, warranted pure. Safely*  
*packed and delivered on cars.*

Circulars free.

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**Pure Colonies of Italian Bees, Queens  
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**BRED FROM THE BEST IMPORTED  
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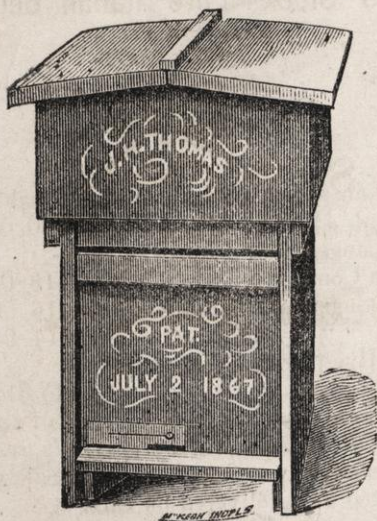
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The tub is stationary and only the frame, which holds the combs, revolve, making it easy to start and stop.

It holds 200 lbs. and can be emptied in the evening when flies and bees will not annoy us. It can not be sprung, jammed or bent as metal machines.

One or two combs of any size or weight can be emptied at a time without shaking the machines.

### NO TIME IS LOST IN FASTENING THE COMBS

The wood is white oak and will not rust or sour. It is run by a superior set of gearing. No liability of getting out of order.

### IT IS EASY CLEANED.

It has a TIGHT FITTING COVER, Faucet and handles.

ELIZA, MERCER Co., ILL.,  
Oct 2, 1873 }

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JESSEE BOGART.

All orders for machines must be sent early, as I shall only make as many as ordered.

Sweet Home Honey Slinger.....	\$15 00
Knives for uncapping, each.....	1 00
Italian Queens, each, safe arrival and purity guaranteed.....	5 00
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I shall have a few Pure Italian Queens to spare as soon as weather permits. Orders shall be filled as received. "First come, first served."

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DEALER in all breeds of pure bred Poultry. Choice Italian Bees and Queens' Beehives, Honey Extractors, Bee Books and Journals. Agents wanted. A valuable work on Bee culture, with price-list, terms to Agents, etc., sent for 10 cents.