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THE

National Bee Journal.

DEVOTED TO THE CULTURE OF THE HONEY-BEE.

Vol. III.

APRIL 13, 1872.

No. 8.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Bees and Bee Hives.—Comments.

Messrs. Editors :—As it has been some time since I have written anything (and this will not amount to very much) for your valuable JOURNAL, I thought I would pen a few thoughts on the above named subjects.

I have lost six of my best colonies this winter; but as the German said, when he lost all the stock he had, which was a small pig: "Dem, dad wash much loose!" I take comfort. From the nature of the malady, I think it must have been the dysentery which caused their death. A great many colonies of bees in this neighborhood have died from this disease.

One of our best practical bee keepers, Mr. E. Auten, has been very successful in wintering his bees so far. He prac-

tices artificial swarming altogether, and I find his bees to be in very fine condition. I have purchased several colonies from Mr. Auten, and I have never seen or had bees that were in a better condition. His experience, if published, would be worth a great deal to bee keepers.

Now, a little on the hive question. How long will bee keepers of this country yet be humbugged by bee hive venders? A person dare not make a hive of any form, or shape, now a days, without hearing that everlasting squall from some bee hive man: "Infringement." Are patent bee hive venders such numskulls as to think that a person is going to pay them five or ten dollars for a right; when all they know about the hive, is what the patentee says about it.

It is a disgrace to put bees

into some of the so-called hives of the present day. "But," says the vender, "my hive is so very easily managed, the frames work to a charm,"—so does a corn sheller when there is no corn in it. The bee keepers can manage to kill enough of their bees, without running them through one of those *sausage machines*, in the shape of a modern bee hive.

On page 129, Volume III, of the JOURNAL I noticed an article from the pen of Mr. Wm. M. King. I met Mr. King at the Iowa State Fair last fall, and found him to be a gentleman in every sense of the word, and I like his hive (the "Triumph") very well. I consider it a No. 1 hive; no humbug whatever.

I would like to see articles from all who have been successful in having queens fertilized in confinement appear in the JOURNAL. I am not an unbeliever as to fertilizing queens in confinement, but I have never tried the plan or *modus operandi*. It does appear to me, that it must be brought to a more simple modus than the present, practiced by so many bee keepers. I hope the day is not far distant when we can, without fear of failure, fertilize our queens with pure drones. Then, and not until then, will we know that the progeny of a queen will be pure without, or before we see any of her offspring.

John M. Follett, on pages 130 and 131, gives some very wholesome advice. We are very apt to jump at conclusions, because we succeed in some experiment with our bees. When I commenced bee culture, I was so very enthusiastic that nothing seemed impossible; I could have written a large volume on bee keeping. But when I failed to accomplish some experiment satisfactory to my mind, I began to sober down considerably. As I lost nearly one-half of my colonies that I had at home, I was brought down several rounds in the ladder. My advice to beginners is, not to waver; you may meet with failures, so have our most noted bee keepers. Follow friend Follett's advice, and you are all right.

We would like to follow this letter a little farther, as there are several points we would like to notice; but time and space forbids me to lengthen out my "piece."

I am glad to see our beloved JOURNAL is improving so fast. I have taken the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL from the start, and would not do without it under any consideration.

My best wishes for you, and our brother bee keepers in general.

Yours, truly,

GEO. W. BARCLAY.

Tipton, Iowa, March 7, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Dysentery Among Bees.

Messrs. Editors: — All, of course, desire to learn the cause of dysentery among their bees during the past winter, and are anxious to find a remedy, if one can be found. I know that I feel much more interested in ascertaining the cause and cure of this malady, than I ever have in the drone question, in regard to which, Mr. Hester says, I evidently think myself the best man in town. Whilst I shall not call in question the correctness of his opinion, I shall not just at this time declare myself the best man in combatting dysentery among bees, for I have been engaged in a hand to hand fight with it during a greater part of the winter, and up to the present date. It has been bleeding me at every pore almost. One thousand dollars will not repair the damage I have sustained. If Mr. W. R. King could see how I am cut and mangled, he would conclude that both of the animals horns were knocked off. Even the Egyptian queen and her forces, which friend Mitchell furnished me, could not stand out against the terrible monster. I have lost fifty odd colonies out of eighty-eight.

The malady made its appearance in December, and for a month or more made slow progress; but all of a sudden it

began to make such rapid strides, that I could no longer call it a joke. Nor could anything I did to check its progress, be called anything more than a failure. In fact, I was in no way prepared to combat with it, as I did not suspect last fall that dysentery would make its appearance among bees in this region of country. My colonies were well supplied with honey for winter use, and of a quality which I could not in the least suspect as being any ways short of first class. The season was dry, which would, of course, prevent the honey from being diluted with water to such an extent as to cause it to sour; but, on the contrary, the honey was unusually thick, and I can not understand how this could render it unwholesome for bees, if indeed such was the case. I am much inclined to the opinion, that the honey was the predisposing cause of the disease, but am not prepared to say that it was on account of a lack of matter in it.

I have called the disease dysentery, yet I am not sure that this is its proper name; for in some instances my bees died without their abdomens being distended. In dysentery we would of course look for this phenomenon as one of the prominent features, and it may have been so with all my bees that died. I noticed some of them curl up immediately after

discharging their excrement and die, whilst others died with their bodies distended.

But be this as it may; let us look for the cause and cure. I put some of my bees in the house, and others were left on the summer stands; in both conditions they died alike. The weather was excessively cold, and occasionally frost formed on the walls inside of my bee house. This should not have been permitted, but during the midst of winter I could not prevent it, and in time to come I will endeavor to be fast enough to prevent such a state of affairs. When frost formed on the walls, my bees died in larger numbers. I kept them in hives of different patterns, some in Langstroth's, others in Diamond and box hives, some in the Alley, Thomas, and Allen hives. All fared alike, or rather suffered alike, from the ravages of the disease, so that the cause could not be in the hive. This I now could not have been the cause of the loss, as I have heretofore been very successful in wintering in all of the above named hives. Other bee keepers around me used still different hives, but with similar success. I carried some into my dwelling house, and kept them warm; in this condition, by feeding them with warm honey, they improved; but on setting them out, they relapsed.

From this it will be seen that the cold played a prominent part in the production of the disease; yet, if there were no properties belonging to the honey of an unwholesome character, the cold alone would not have produced the disease, especially in my bee house, as there was but little freezing inside of it. Besides, all know that bees will winter well on the summer stand, if they are kept dry and have good honey. Hence, I have concluded that there was a predisposing cause of disease in the honey, and cold weather was necessary to excite it, or set it in motion. For had cold not been the exciting cause, we would naturally have looked for bees to have died before cold weather set in; yet such was not the case.

In regard to the character of the disease, I will say that if it be not dysentery, or cholera, I am unable to name it; but be it what it may, I feel convinced that it is not a contagion, nor an infection, but an epidemic produced by the causes named.

If then the honey was simply a predisposing cause, and not an exciting cause, the disease ought not to have appeared if the bees were kept sufficiently warm and dry. I have proved, that keeping them warm checked the disease, and, consequently, keeping them warm ought also to prevent it from springing up.

Some of our new beginners have suffered severe losses, and seem disposed to discontinue bee keeping, regarding it as too uncertain to be depended upon as a source of income. To such persons I will say, that I have been regularly engaged in keeping bees for the past nine years, and have never met with any serious reverse before. I was raised a farmer, and have often seen crops fail to such an extent as to render it necessary to purchase wheat, corn, hay, oats, etc., in order that the necessary amount of stock might be wintered over, and for other necessary purposes. Money had to be borrowed to pay for dry goods and groceries used by the family. I have seen many large barns struck by lightning and burned to ashes when they contained a large crop, and much farm stock and farming utensils. Yet I never heard any one intimate that such losses afforded good grounds for quitting the farm in disgust. No. Neither shall I regard a little loss of a thousand dollars in nine years enough to disgust me with bee keeping.

Although I will have but a few colonies for sale this spring, I shall, nevertheless, rally and endeavor to fill all my orders for queens, as though nothing had happened. But, Messrs. Editors, I must close.

G. BOHRER.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

More Experience.

Messrs. Editors:—I desire to relate some of my experience in bee keeping. I embarked in the business without chart or compass, for the purpose of "trying my luck" with bees, in the spring of 1866. I bought three stocks in box hives of the oldest pattern, and found at the end of the second year that I had had one swarm which "went off," and two stocks had died, leaving me one moth-ridden stock, with the "luck" anything but bright.

I then purchased a "right" (and presume that many of your readers know what that is) in the Buckeye Bee Hive. I followed that by purchasing more old stocks, transferring them into the new hives. I read Quimby, King, Mitchell, and Kidder, and all I could find in the papers on bees. I have spent in all over *one hundred and twenty-five dollars* for rights, bees, hives, queens, books, and journals. I have, to balance that outlay, ten stocks of bees, a few pounds of honey, a *few* common sense views about bees, and a large amount of unbelief in the statements of some people about the profits of bee keeping.

I have learned some things in the school of experience, which impells me to say that

the Buckeye bee hive moth-trap, and all, is a—no, not a humbug, but a box full of cracks and crevices, that will admit about as many moths as will desire to inhabit one bee hive. Were I to give advice to “beginners in bee keeping,” I would say, do not buy any patent hives; but if a patentee will furnish you a hive with a stock of bees already in it, and will give a bond, well secured, to not prosecute you for infringement, by letting it stand in your door yard, try his hive, and if the bees do not all die in two years, report to the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL. Otherwise, use a box hive with movable frames, no honey board, and caps for surplus honey, and you will then have all that nine-tenths of the bee keepers need, or can use.

I am waiting to hear who will outdo Hosmer, and to know how friend Aker gets along with his *Wanatah queen* business.

It requires a vast amount of *smooth talking* to sell worthless patents and bastard queens.

There is no “pent up Utica” here. This is a free bubble—over which explains my love for the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL.

O. HOWE GREEN.

Star City, Pulaski Co., Ind.

Have you examined your different stocks, and seen whether they need feeding or not?

[For the National Bee Journal.]

A Verdict Before Evidence.

Messrs. Editors:—Is it wise for your correspondents to pre-judge in your columns, and also in other papers, the proposition of Mr. J. W. Hosmer to sell his bees, forfeiting his pay if his remaining *ten* stocks fail, during the coming season, to gather ten thousand pounds of honey, and affirm that such an enormous yield of honey is impossible; that Mr. Hosmer is a humbug, and insinuate that it can be obtained only by some trick, feeding syrups, etc. I, too, can stand it no longer, and must say to all who thus pre-judge and make themselves merry over what seems to them a wild scheme of adventure or deception, that Mr. Hosmer knows what he is about; that he is not chasing a phantom, nor seeking to deceive any one. Wait until the evidence shall be given to the public, before rendering your verdict.

From personal acquaintance, and from his reputation (for he is widely known in this section of country), I believe, if his proposition is accepted he will conduct the experiment *honorably and honestly, and truly report* his success. He would scorn the idea to do otherwise.

For one, I am glad the “banter” has been made. It will be the means of helping to educate the public in the improved

method of bee keeping, which is as much better than the old box hive system, as traveling by rail is better than drudging afoot. Also, it will help to bring to light the evidence that the Great Father causes the trees and plants to secrete an almost unlimited supply of honey, and has created bees with most wonderful instincts to gather it for us.

It is a pity that we do not comply with the conditions essential on our part, and all of us have honey as plenty as milk and butter. If Mr. Hosmer can teach us *how* to reach this result, and *what* the conditions of success are, let us all look on, learn, and profit thereby. It is not for me to present the details of his system, as I write without his knowledge; but it may not be improper to add, that he has Italian bees and movable frame hives large enough to use two sets of frames when needed. By stimulating their early breeding, and raising queens so as to have them ready for new stocks, he knows how to multiply and keep them strong, to an extent really surprising to one not acquainted with the system; and, perhaps, is equal to Mr. Mitchell, who, as friend Aker jocularly suggests, might increase them one hundred per cent. Not numbers only, but strong stocks, is Mr. Hosmer's motto. I visited his apiary several times last

season, and was astonished at the prodigious strength of some of his colonies, and hence was prepared for the statement that one gathered fifty-three pounds of honey in one day. He has on hand a supply of empty comb, which may be placed in his hives for bees to fill up, without the labor of making new. He extracts the honey before it is capped, and returns the empty comb. He has, at least some seasons, an almost continued honey harvest from various trees, plants, clover, and Alsike in spring and early summer; an extensive Linden forest in July, and from successive crops of buckwheat, golden rod, etc., lasting till frost in the fall.

Again, I say, wait and see; stranger things have happened in this progressive age than for a stock of bees and its increase to gather one thousand pounds of honey in a favorable season.

J. M. THURSTON.

Maple River, Blue Earth Co., Minn.

[For the National Bee Journal.

An Early Queen.

Messrs. Editors:—I am a new beginner in apiculture, having commenced (in earnest) only about one year ago. Last fall I had five colonies in the American Hive—one black, three hybrid, and one beautiful Italian colony. According to Mr. Mitchell's instructions to

beginners, I left them on their summer stands. Out of the five stocks I lost two hybrid stocks, and a great many bees out of my other stocks. As my Italians pleased me so well, I determined to Italianize my remaining stocks as soon as possible. To accomplish this, I commenced feeding my pure stock three parts water and one part good sugar the first of February, feeding a little every day. They were doing fine. "as I thought," until about the seventh day of March, in looking over them I found my Italian queen lying dead on the bottom board. I could not imagine the cause of her death, as she was prolific, and not one year old. In about two weeks, in looking over their combs, I found a nice queen cell capped over. This may be a common occurrence with older apiarians; but considering it was as cold the middle of March as it generally is a month earlier, I think it was early for such proceedings.

As I am decidedly averse to long, tedious articles, I will close, by saying, success to the JOURNAL.

Query: Was this common with bees? A. TALBERT.

Shelbyville, Indiana, March 9.

—It is. As soon as a good colony of bees lose their queen, although in the midst of cold weather, they will immediately set themselves about raising

another, and should you have some early drones, you may succeed in getting her fertilized, but it is doubtful. She may be too old before the drones appear. Yours is a common occurrence. We have raised them in January, but they never were good for anything.—Ed.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Questions.

Messrs. Editors:—We have just entered into the field as apiarians, and as we are aware that we need further instructions in this direction, we are readers of the JOURNAL.

With your permission we would propound the following questions to the more experienced bee keepers for our information:

1. What is the cause of dysentery among bees?
2. What is a remedy for this disease?
3. When a colony has nearly perished with this malady, is it advisable to put the remaining bees with another colony?
4. What is best to do when queens get up in the surplus boxes, and there lay eggs?
5. Is it proper, if advantageous, to put blocks an inch thick under the hives in the summer season?

Yours, truly,

J. & J. F. Mock.

Louisville, Stark Co., Ohio.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Bees in Illinois.

Messrs. Editors:—The present is a very late spring, following an unheard of long, cold, dry winter, succeeding a summer and fall of terrible drought. The result is, that at least one-half, if not three-fourths of the bees in this section of the country are among those that have ceased to “work” and “sting.” Some have lost all, many more than half, while some have not lost quite half.

This afternoon was quite pleasant, and bees were on the wing. Noticing that mine were very lively, I went among them and found that one hive was being robbed. I opened the hive, threw some rye flour on the marauders, and then traced them home and fastened them up for the day. I sprinkled coal oil around and on the hive that was attacked, and the thieves all left in haste. One drop of coal oil will kill a bee almost instantly.

About the time I thought my strategy had proven victorious, and that quiet was restored, my attention was drawn to a hive a few paces away, the bees of which were seemingly determined to get out, or “break their necks.” Well, out they all came, darted up into the air, and disappeared, without going in any fixed direction; they did not collect together

as they do when swarming. What was the cause of this to me strange freak?

I like the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL well, but I am tired of the word “hybrid.” Can we not get a better word, one more expressive. I will suggest one, and let others do the same. A term that will suit me better is “half-caste.” What do you think of it? In securing a cross between the black and Italian bee, there is no force, nothing abnormal, no compulsory mating. I do not believe, as some hold, that there is a difference in the species, but that there are varieties of the same species. Were they of different species, their offspring would, I think, not breed.

I will add no more, as this article is long enough. What say you and your contributors to “half-caste?” It is a longer word, and compound at that, but is it not more expressive?

J. W. JOHNSON.

Shelbyville, Ill., March 12, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Interested in Bee Culture.

Messrs. Editors:—I was somewhat interested, a short time ago, to hear what would be said in regard to the proposition of Mr. Hosmer, of Janesville, Minn., and I find that some have not so much doubt of his doing as he claims he can, and others ridicule the

idea, as preposterous, but none of them accept his proposition. I did not intend saying anything on the subject, but as I see no one has corrected the error made by W. M. Robinson, in the *JOURNAL* of February 15, page 99, I wish to do so. He says, that Mr. Hosmer proposed to get two thousand pounds of honey from ten stocks of bees in the season of 1872, which is the first mistake, as Mr. Hosmer proposed to get ten thousand pounds from the ten stocks, and further he says, each stock would have to gather fifty-five and a half pounds per day, from the first of April to the first of October, to gather the two thousand pounds.

Now, where did Mr. Robinson learn his arithmetic? According to his figuring, at fifty-five and a half pounds per day, one stock would gather, in the time stated, nine thousand nine hundred and ninety pounds, and ten stocks would gather ninety-nine thousand and ninety pounds!! No wonder he could stand it no longer, if this is the way he figures.

Now, let me figure a little. Suppose that Mr. Hosmer is in a good locality for honey (and he probably is, or he would not make such a proposition), and suppose that the honey harvest lasts sixty days. Each swarm would have to make, on an average, sixteen and two-thirds pounds per day, or if only fifty

days, twenty pounds per day to make the required amount, and I do not think that is a very high estimate.

Another circumstance to be taken into consideration in regard to Mr. Hosmer's offer, is that he stimulates his bees about this time, and gets them to breeding, and by the time there is enough forage for bees to subsist upon, he has them strong enough to divide, and would then have twenty, or even thirty stocks, from which to get the ten thousand pounds. And, furthermore, he probably has plenty of empty comb in frames to put in the new stock, which would give the queens plenty of room to begin laying in, and this would strengthen them up so that all would be strong at the beginning of the main honey harvest—basswood and white clover.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I would like to ask some one who has experimented with chloroform in handling bees, to give some facts in regard thereto. Will it work well? I anticipate that it would injure them, but would like the information from some one who knows. I will give a little incident that happened in my experience with the little pets last summer. I transferred a swarm from an old box hive to a movable comb hive for one of my neighbors, about the first of August, and about the middle of August I made

two new swarms for another neighbor, about fifteen rods distant from the first. I had only just got the last one back on the stand from whence I had taken the old stand, when the swarm from the first neighbor left their own hive and were coming into this one. They all came, too, and went to work peaceably, and done well. I immediately went to the deserted hives, and found several pounds of honey and brood in all stages, from the egg to the young bee just ready to come forth. There were no moths in the hive, to cause them to leave. Who can account for this?

The next morning I took the deserted hive, brood and all, as it was, and put in a light swarm which I took out of a house between the siding and lathing, and now have a good stock.

I am a new beginner, and experimented considerable last year. I have now nine stocks, all in movable comb hives, and am taking your JOURNAL and the *American* also, and think, with their aid I can make a showing next season.

Wishing you prosperity, I remain,

Very truly, yours,

J. W. CRAMER.

Oneida, Ill.

Have you seen that your bees have a plenty of rye meal and water in separate dishes near the hive?

[For the National Bee Journal.

Bees in Utah.

Messrs. Editors: — I will give you some of my first experience in bee culture. Last spring I bought two swarms of bees, Nos. one and two. They were very weak; they had just been brought across the plains when I received them, and were in Langstroth hives. I thought the journey had been too long for them to thrive, and so I constructed some hives wherein they could prosper, thrive, and winter through.

I found that I had made a mistake in my calculations, which were that after I had placed my new hives with the bees on the summer stand, I would, in a few weeks, find them full of honey and bees.

The Langstroth hive is, I think, the best I have ever seen; although hard to get a swarm in them, I have to put a few drones and a queen in them.

I think my bees have done well. Number one has increased to eleven, and I believe they will winter through, for they each average forty seven pounds of honey. Number two has not done quite so well, although they increased to seven swarms.

I would like to ask Mr. Hosmer a few questions, to be answered through the JOURNAL: When you put your bees away for winter, do you close up the

entrance of your hives? Do your bees look natural when they come out in the spring, or are they puffed up, and look like drones?

This is all I have to write at present from the frosty deserts of Utah.

JUBEZ DURFEE.

Springville, Utah, Feb. 25, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Capped Queen Cells.

Messrs. Editors:—I see on the first page of the JOURNAL for November and December, Nos. 17 and 18, that friend Benedict did not exactly understand some parts of my former article. The capped queen cells were all put in the old box hives and hatched out. As I stated in my former letter, five of the eight box hives from which all the bees were driven that could be got out, swarmed after the young queens hatched, and I suppose three of them before the queen laid any eggs, as I found the hives without any queens soon after.

In regard to the two queens in one hive, I suppose that two swarms settled together in the first place, and after I rehived them in the section hive, they lived together as two colonies until I removed one of the queens. For the queen that I took out, was found on the second comb from the glass, and the destroyed queen cell was

on the third, while the second queen was found eleven days afterwards on the card next to the entrance, and all the eggs were in that part of the hive; there was no capped cell about it,—it was a natural swarm (or, as I suppose, two natural swarms) of black bees put into an empty chamber, not even having a guide comb.

Now, Messrs. Editors, as there appear to be some bee keepers that think that the common bees are quite as good, or even better honey gatherers than the Italians, I will give a little of my experience during the past season, which by the way has been the poorest that I have seen since I have cultivated bees. I had a swarm of half-breeds come off on May 27th, and another on the 31st of the same month. Both hived in empty Adair hives, and both filled their brood chambers and stored some honey in the caps before the honey failed in June. I did not have a single swarm of black bees that filled their chamber by two or three sections, except the large one spoken of above. When we had a little rain in August, and honey became more plenty, one of the swarms of half breeds cast off a very large swarm, which I divided into three parts, as near equal as I could, and gave two of the divisions to two very weak black colonies that I had transferred to section

hives a few days before, taking two full sections of brood from it, and gave them to one of the weak ones. I then cut equal queen cells and returned the other portion of the bees with the queen. They filled up the empty sections, and about half a box of cap honey before the honey failed again. I took four full sections from the other, giving them empty ones, and they filled them all, while I did not have a swarm of black bees that got their hives full at all, and several of them not half, while many of the old stands of black bees did not gather near enough to winter on. I doubled a great many of the black bees, and then had to feed them to save them, while all my half breeds had plenty of honey, even in the old box hives. I took forty-three pounds of cap honey from one half breed stock in a Langstroth hive, besides which I emptied four full frames of honey from the main hive. I had three two-story Langstroth hives in which the bees filled nearly every frame in the upper story with comb and honey. Neither of these four swarmed.

I had several hives of black bees that seemed to be as strong as the above mentioned half breeds, which did not make more than four or six pounds of box honey, and they needed that for winter.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I think

your type make things read very strange sometimes. For instance, in my former article where I wrote "three full combs," they have it "three fat combs;" again, on page 326, where I said "a circle filled with eggs and blood," they say "a cell, etc.;" again, in friend Benedict's article, on page 418, they make him say, that an impregnated queen's drones can not propagate their species. Now, I think, this last sounds very strange to come from such a man as friend Benedict. I do not pretend to be a critic, nor a scholar, but quite the reverse, but I do think that such blunders as the above look bad in print.

C. T. SMITH.

Trenton, Clinton Co., Ill., Jan. 16, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Great Loss of Bees from Dysentery.

Messrs. Editors:—I will give you some history in regard to our bees. So far as I know, the bees are in bad condition. I am not in the habit of writing much, but I thought I would relate our losses to the readers of your welcome JOURNAL.

You know how sore we must feel to loose our little pets. If we do not soon get warm days, so that they can have a good fly, we will loose nearly all with the dysentery and cold weather, as the hives are very frosty inside and daubed over with their

feces. The last cold spell we had came very sudden, and caught them in this gummy state and froze hundreds of colonies; otherwise, if it would have got warm in place of the mercury running down to 23° below zero, we would have saved many. Most all were left on the summer stands; some with no protection around them; some with straw packed around them, and others in houses and cellars.

There is an exciting time here among the bee keepers. Louis Davis had 145 colonies; lost about 50. O. Carroll lost 21 out of 45. Edward Lathem, 10 dead, 15 alive. I. N. Cross, 7 dead, 3 alive. Wm. Stringer, 2 dead, 7 living. Stanley had 99 colonies; says he would be tempted to take \$50 for the lot (in round gums.) Geo. Hoyer, 5 dead, 19 living. I have 5 dead and 31 alive. Address of all, Boonsboro', Iowa.

We have called a meeting. The bee keepers are all requested, through our county papers, to examine their bees and see how they are wintering, and report. In this way we may learn something. The meeting will be held on the 17th of March.

I would be glad to hear from you before the meeting comes off to know if this is a general thing among bees.

ISAAC R. HOYER.

Boonsboro', Iowa.

[For the National Bee Journal.

To Italianize.

Messrs. Editors:—I see in the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL of February 1st, page 79, that Mr. Job Youngs, of Springville, Linn county, Iowa, wishes to ask of the readers of the JOURNAL,

1. "What course to pursue to Italianize thirty colonies of bees?"

There are a great many circumstances connected with that question; but presuming that he has practice in rearing queens, we would say get a few queens early, as early as they can be shipped, then raise queens from those; and if he has sufficient practice, he will have various ways of his own to manage, in which he will use his own judgment, which will be a better guide than we can be. But if he has not some practice and experience, we think his better plan would be to purchase all his queens, especially as they are now sold very cheap by the quantity; bearing in mind all the time that it requires also some practice and skill to introduce queens safely into your hives, which we presume you are aware of.

2. A hive containing from 2,000 to 2,200 cubical inches, we think, is large enough, in nearly every part of this country, for any frame hive, whether few or many frames are used.

Whenever you fill a hive with empty frames, put them equal distant apart; otherwise the bees will use those that are too far apart for drone raising.

3. As a general thing it is necessary, in transferring bees, to give them some (the best) of their combs, as in the swarming season you will want to save all the young brood you can; and earlier in the season it is necessary, on account of keeping their hive comfortable and to give them honey sufficient to carry them through into the swarming season. But if you have your frames in proper shape, the bees will build combs straighter than almost any comb that you can get from a box and put it into the frame. Let your top bar incline at an angle of 45 degrees; then I will warrant every comb to be built entirely straight, the said top bars being provided with a thin edge.

S. B. REPLOGLE.

Roaring Spring, Penn.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Save Honey.

Messrs. Editors:—I will give your readers a few ideas how bees wintered in this locality. As you agreed to make all the readable matter straight I will make the venture.

First, you must remember I was raised years ago in the back woods of Cass county,

Ind., when schools were few and far between, and grammar was hardly known. As my education is very limited you will find something to do.

Mr. S. N. Replogle, of Hagerstown, Ind., wishes to know the cause why bees discharge their feces in the hive. I would say that our bees died just the same way this winter. We had thirty colonies in the fall, now we have seven; more of the blacks have died than of the Italians.

I made every examination I could, and found nothing more or less than sour honey. This was gathered late in the fall, and this, no doubt, was the cause; the honey was very thin.

I at first thought the cause was dampness, but am led to believe that the trouble is in the honey. I see others have shared the same fate.

Mr. Reasoner asks the question: "Why do bees go to the woods?" Many are the causes why they do. I will mention some of the main causes why bees leave for the woods: 1. They want a good, clean hive; 2. They want plenty of room; 3. They do not want to be placed in the hot sun, as it will compell them to seek a new home. Heat, no doubt, drives more bees to the woods than any other cause. My little boy, eight years old, had one go to the woods, the only

natural swarm we had; it came out late in the afternoon and left, rising above the tree tops. They left poor Frank lamenting the loss of his five dollars.

We commenced, two years ago, with two colonies, which we have increased to four. We have one very strong swarm of Italians.

We should take great care to keep our queens pure, and also to keep pure drones. I do not think much of this drone theory; it appears a little too soft. In crossing my chickens, I always cross on the male side, if I want to insure purity and success.

LIZZA F. BUKOWSKI.

Lafayette, Ind.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

The Malady in Ohio.

Messrs. Editors:—This has been a hard winter for inexperienced modern bee keepers in our vicinity. I have lost two-thirds of my bees, and many of my neighbors, who had fifteen or twenty swarms in the fall, are now beeless.

Last season was the first experience many of us had with movable comb hives and honey extractors.

I contribute my misfortune to pure negligence, although it has been an extremely cold winter. With others it may be contributed to ignorance, for in many instances the effected

parties are not readers of the JOURNAL. I am satisfied, that if all the bee keepers would subscribe for the JOURNAL, read it carefully, and then practice its teachings, we would not have to mourn over so many dead bees.

J. D. CARPENTER.

Lodi, Medina Co., O., Feb. 26, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Fertilizing Young Queens in Confinement.

Messrs. Editors:—For the past two or three years I have received numerous letters asking my opinion in respect to this or that one's plan of securing pure fertilization in confinement. And now, since my friend Will R. King has come out in both the *American* and *NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL*, giving us his plan for securing this object, I have received several letters asking my opinion in regard to it.

Now, in order to get rid of answering so many inquiries, I wish to say through the JOURNAL that I am willing to risk my reputation that I believe there never has or will be many queens fertilized in confinement in either of the many ways recommended, or any other way, except it be in the open air, on the wing.

The reader may think that I am using strong language, but I claim that I have a right to

my conviction, as I have tried most, if not all the ways recommended, and failed.

Now, if others can succeed as readily as they pretend, why can not I succeed in one instance? No, reader, I believe the instinct of the queen and drone leads them to pair on the wing, and nowhere else.

AARON BENEDICT.

Bennington, Ohio.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Mortality Among Bees in Southern Kentucky and Tennessee.

Messrs. Editors:—Thinking that likely it might be interesting to the readers of the JOURNAL to know something of the condition of the bees in this section, and of our prospects for the coming season, I concluded to give what I believe to be a correct statement, so far as I can learn, having communicated with a number of apiarians.

I am led to believe that upon an average the bees of this section are in a weak condition, very many bees having been lost during the winter by leaving their hives exposed on damp, cold, chilly days. We have had a miserable winter. Our bees would fly out in the forenoon, and before night you would find a great many frozen stiff on the ground before the hives.

One gentleman, Dr. January,

of Wartrace, Tenn., writes me, that he lost some nineteen out of forty-nine colonies, and those lost were in movable comb hives, while twelve colonies that were in box hives were doing well. Very many bees in box hives have died.

I think that there has been no dysentery among the bees. I have examined the combs of several that died, and could see nothing to indicate that disease. The very cold spell in February is what has killed most of our bees.

Messrs. Owen & Ladd, of Brentwood, Tenn., write me that the mortality among the bees in their section has been small.

Messrs. Editors, just here let me say to you, that if you can make us a visit, we will take great pleasure in accompanying you to Brentwood, Tenn., to see one of the finest arranged and nicest apiaries in Tennessee. Messrs. Owen & Ladd's apiary is situated just eleven miles below Nashville, on the Decatur Railroad, and on the Franklin Turnpike. Their apiary of one hundred colonies is in full view from the road, and to one who is a beeist it is very attractive indeed. It is not worth one's while to go farther than their apiary to select the purest and most beautiful of stocks and queens. Mr. W. E. Ladd is no novice in apiculture, I assure

you, although he is only a few years *my senior*. There is not a man in all this southern country that is as well posted in the business as he. Friend W. C. Owen, his partner, is getting far advanced in age, being now near seventy years old; but there is no more enthusiastic an apiarian in our country than he. He has handled bees for years, and is by no means a novice.

Come down, Messrs. Editors, and we will go over and make them a visit. I know it would do your souls good.

Ha! ha! It makes me laugh. I was just thinking of an advertisement I read in the *Union and American*, a weekly newspaper published in Nashville, Tennessee. You wonder why I laughed. I will tell you. The advertisement referred to is headed: "Largest Apiary in the South!" Bees, queens, and last, but not least, bee hives are offered for sale. I will quote part of the advertisement, viz: "This hive has no superior.

We advise all to examine, and know before purchasing, whether claims for other patents have the RIGHT to use the MOVABLE FRAMES, as all other MOVABLE FRAME HIVES are infringements on the ——— hive, and when tested will be found wanting."

Ha! ha!! He! he!! Do you wonder that I laugh, dear reader. Just think of it. Ha! ha!! He! he!! I can not write for

laughing. "Will be found wanting;"—"other hives will be found wanting." That is as true as Gospel, for we find scores of bee keepers in Tennessee *wanting* other hives, and still they *want* them; the cry is coming up from sleepy hollow: Yes, we *want* them, and still other hives are *wanted*. So it will be to the end of time.

Now, dear reader, we southern people are not accustomed to having one of our number act as Crusoe's man Friday. No Juda's in ours. But as the resources of the South are fast developing, we presume that the advertisement spoken of is intended to farther develop—what? the fact that there are some men among us who will do most anything, if there is a *nickle* in prospect.

Before I close, I must congratulate you upon your success, in bringing the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL up to the very top of the list of its class of journals in the United States. I well knew, that as soon as Mr. Moon got the "harness on," that the vehicle would begin to move. Onward may it move, and may you soon be able to exclaim: "*Veni, vidi, vici.*"

WILL R. KING.

Franklin, Ky.

Have you arranged your bees on the summer stand in the same order that they were last year, or nearly so?

[For the National Bee Journal.

About Bee Culture.

Messrs. Editors:—The JOURNAL has so far, this year, made its appearance more regularly than it did last year, and I hope it will so continue. When will it be published weekly?

This has been a very hard winter on bees generally where no proper care was taken of them. The box hive men, and all that wintered out-doors, suffered considerably by their losses, some losing all their bees. I have lost none, and the reason for my success is, that I winter in-doors, and do not go into winter quarters with my hives crowded with old bees. I see to it that my queens are prolific, and that they have from one pint to one quart of bees to start with. I set the queen to laying in January, and by spring my hives are crowded with young bees, and ready for work as soon as the weather will permit.

The reason why I do not go into winter quarters with strong colonies, is because I do not wish to have so many old bees to die off through the winter and generate disease, and, perhaps, destroy entire colonies.

My hives are all duplicated, and when frost begins to accumulate, which occurs very seldom in my bee house, I change hives, giving a dry hive for a damp one, and by the

time they need changing again, the first is dry and ready to receive a colony. By so doing, I loose no bees from the effects of the frost.

Always keep your bees dry and warm, with plenty to eat, and you are all right.

I see that some are talking about *patented* "non-swarmer attachments." What next? The non-swarmer that I have used for years, is not patented. Cut your queens wings off, then take a strip of tin, about three inches wide, bend it so as to form a three-sided box (thus □), then bend the upper edge inward one inch (thus ▤). When done, it should be about ten inches square. Set this in front of the entrance to the hive, and a queen without wings can not get out; or, if preferred, make large enough to entirely surround your hives. The bees can get out, and, you need not fear, they will return to mama.

V. Aker, come around, and I will give you a button.

H. Alley, a doleful tale from Massachusetts.

HARRY GOODLANDER.

Greensburg, Kosciusko Co., Ind.

Please send us a few names of enterprising bee keepers, with their post-office address; but only one or two at any one post-office. Write now, before you forget it.

Have you got your hives in readiness for young swarms?

[For the National Bee Journal.

Mortality Among Bees.

Messrs. Editors:—What are the procuring causes of the mortality among honey bees in the winter of 1872?

At the meeting of the bee keepers of Indiana, for the organization of the "State Apiarian Association," the foregoing was among the questions of great importance that were discussed. As to the cause, the prevailing opinion seemed to be that it was the excessive cold of winter, and want of proper protection. There seemed to be a great diversity of opinion on the subject of ventilation; some maintained upward ventilation, some all downward; others, very little at bottom, with success and failure from either form. So that from ventilation in various forms and quantities, good and bad results were obtained.

No conclusion was arrived at, as to the best place for wintering, either on summer stands, in the cellar, bee house, or garret. Success and failures attending either.

On one subject there was a unanimous opinion, contained in one of the resolutions, viz: That bee keepers report to the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL for publication both successes and failures, and that statistical returns be prepared, to be presented at the semi-annual meet-

ings of the State Apiarian Association.

The home of the bees should be adapted to their instincts and their habits, and afford protection from the extreme changes of weather; it should accommodate the brood, and afford convenient, ample space for surplus honey, and good facilities for transferring bees.

Bee keepers should make out a statement of the number of colonies put into winter quarters in 1871; in what hives (give the name of the hives if patent on box or gum); how many lost in each kind of hive, if any, and of what disease did they die, if you know; how many colonies have wintered well, and in what kind of hives; name, post-office address, county, and State.

I am a beginner in the apiary business, and use the Slusser Cottage Hive, patented in 1867. My bees have wintered well in them the past season, with two swarms in one cottage. If there are any better hives than these found, by actual experiment, all bee keepers should know it. And in what better way can we find out the qualifications of hives, than by the reports of practical bee keepers, of their successes and failures in the use of the several different hives in the same year. This is a matter in which every bee keeper is interested, and the facts may be ascertained by in-

contestible testimony, at a very small expense. It does not matter whose hive goes down; let the superior take the place of the inferior.

I have in my hands a goodly number of very favorable reports from reliable parties who have been using the Slusser Cottage Hive for three years, upon which testimony I have adopted the same, and shall continue to use it until I find something better.

To patentees I would say, call on your patrons to send in their experiences in the use of your hive, that your work may be appreciated.

E. G. HOLLADAY.

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 26, 1872.

The Illustrated Phrenological Journal,

A first-class Family Magazine.

Phrenology.—The Brain and its Functions; Location of the Organs, with directions for culture and training, and the relations of Mind and Body described.

Physiognomy, or the "Signs of Character, with illustrations, and how to read them," is a special feature.

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What we should eat and drink, how clothed, and how to exercise, sleep, and live, in accordance with hygienic principles.

Portraits, sketches, and biographies of leading men and women in all departments of life, are special features.

Parents, Teachers, and Others.—As a guide in educating and training Children, this magazine has no superior.

Much general information on the leading topics of the day is given, and no efforts are spared to make this the most interesting and instructive, as well as the best pictorial family magazine ever published.

Established.—The Journal has reached its 54th volume. It has steadily increased in favor during the many years it has been published, and was never more popular than now.

Terms.—Monthly, at \$3 a year, in advance. Single numbers, 30 cents. Clubs of ten or more, \$2 each, and an extra copy to Agent.

We are offering the most liberal premiums.

Inclose 15 cents for a sample number, with new pictorial poster and prospectus, with a complete list of premiums.

Address:

S. R. WELLS, Publisher,
No. 389 Broadway, New York.

Read our enlarged Clubbing List on second page of front cover.

EDITORS' TABLE.

Valedictory.

To the readers of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL:—

For the great interest that you have manifested in sustaining the JOURNAL, and the congratulations I have received both from the press and correspondents during the few short months I have been connected with it, accept my warmest thanks. With the close of this number I withdraw from the JOURNAL, and Messrs. Wm. A. Schofield & Co. will continue the publication of the same. May success attend them.

The rapid progress that apiculture is making, and the solicitations of many friends, have induced me to consent to enter the editorial arena on another bee journal before many days.

Communications addressed to me at Paw Paw, Mich., will receive my prompt attention.

May success attend you all.

A. F. MOON

All business pertaining to the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL, should be addressed to WM. A. SCHOFIELD & Co., Indianapolis, Ind.

We have appointed as our Agents Messrs. Thos. Atkinson and R. H. Barber, to solicit subscriptions and advertisements for the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL, and to make collections for the same.

BOOKS.—What is the matter? What has become of the book to be published by the North American Bee Keepers' Association? Where is the publishing committee? One-third of the year is gone, and yet no book. We receive letters almost daily in which members of the Association ask why they do not receive their book. We hope to hear from the committee on this subject at once. Let the people know what is to be done, and save the asking of so many questions. This book should have been published long ago. Our annual convention will be at hand again before many months, and we will make a fine showing for collecting more money of the people for the publication of the proceedings of the North American Bee Keepers' Association.

If the publishing committee knew how anxiously the book is looked for, they would not be so slow in having it printed. Let the committee "rise and explain," and oblige many.

L. D. Stearns, from Weston, Wood county, Ohio, writes to us that bees have wintered very poorly in that section. He thinks that nearly one-half of them would be among those that are sure to be "in time," and that many bee keepers will profit by the past winters experience in the future.

Central Iowa Bee Keepers' Association.

The Association met at 10 o'clock, A. M., January 18, 1872, at Cedar Rapids, and was called to order by the President, W. H. Furman, of Cedar Rapids.

A constitution was presented and adopted.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers for the next year, with the following result:

President: W. H. Furman, of Cedar Rapids.

First Vice President: W. F. Kirk, of Muscatine.

Second Vice President: D. W. Thayer, of Vinton.

Secretary and Treasurer: Geo. W. Barclay, of Vinton.

We received a circular containing the proceedings of this Association, which are very interesting indeed, but our limited space prevents our publishing them in full.

We notice that the Association has gained some forty or fifty members, which speaks well for the advancement of the bee culture in Iowa, and under the management of the present officers the Central Iowa Bee Keepers' Association can not fail to prosper.

The meeting of the Association continued two days, and then adjourned to meet at Cedar Rapids on the third Wednesday in January, 1873.



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K. P. KIDDER,
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500,000 GRAPE-VINES
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CONCORD, one and two years, as they run, \$4 per hundred; \$25 per 1,000. CONCORD, two years old, prime layers, only \$5 per 100; \$30 per 1,000. Delaware, Hartford, Diana, Iona, Norton, Virginia, Martha, Rogers' Hybrids, Cynthiana, Eumelan, and all leading varieties, *very extra, and cheaper than anywhere.*

Also—Currants, Gooseberry, Strawberry, Raspberry, Blackberry, Roses, Quince; and also, a large stock of **APPLE, PEAR, PLUM, and CHERRY TREES,** *most extra, and below market price,* for sale. Address:

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THE THOMAS PATENT BEE HIVE

Patented February 2, 1867.

This Hive, wherever it has been tried and fully tested by the most practical Apirians in the United States and Canadas, has given as great satisfaction as any hive ever introduced in America.

This Hive was exhibited at the Michigan State Fair for the years 1867 and 1868, and coming into competition with several of the leading hives now in use, was awarded the first prize over all others. The committee was unanimous in giving this hive the preference, as being the best for all bee men. The hive is made cheap and durable. It was awarded the first prize at the Provincial Fair in Canada; it has also received the first prize at every county fair in Michigan where exhibited.

The Hive is a non-swarmer. If a person wishes, artificial swarming is repdered very easy. The hive has a movable bottom-board, on an inclined plane to the front, making it easy for the bees to carry out all rubbish. The entrance can be enlarged or contracted at will; it being a sure thing to prevent robbing in spring and fall. The frames are held firmly to their place, and can be taken out with ease.

The Hive is of proper size; about twelve to sixteen inches in the clear. This depth, for wintering, is about as near the standard as it can be. For surplus honey it is not excelled by any. It has four honey boxes, containing about seven pounds each; they are so arranged that the apiarian can let in a part or all of the bees.

The boxes have a cap over them, a slanting roof, which will carry off all storms. It is a hive and house of itself, and is an ornament to any yard.

I have yet the following States for sale: New York, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and four southern counties in Michigan. All of which I offer for sale at reasonable terms.

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HENRY HUFF,

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Or: A. F. MOON, PAW PAW, MICH.

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Surplus Honey Box.

After ten years of practical experience with the Sectional Honey Box, I feel fully warranted in recommending it to the bee keeping public as having no superior.

Bees will store thirty per cent. more honey, which will sell thirty per cent. higher in market than in the common six pound box. It is better adapted for the use of the honey slinger than the movable comb frame. It is made to dovetail together, without the use of nails or screws. A child can put them together rapidly.

Illustrated circular sent on application. Sample fifteen pound box sent by express for thirty-five cents, three for one dollar.

H. M. JOHNSON,
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PEERLESS MOVABLE COMB FRAME BEE HIVE, patented December 26th, 1871, by J. S. PROCTER, of Franklin, Ky.

To Bee-keepers everywhere; an examination of fifteen minutes will, I believe, satisfy any disinterested, practical Apiarian, big or little, of the superiority of the

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over any and all others; and I challenge comparison with any hive on the American Continent, North, South, East or West.

Peerless Circular and Beginners' Manual sent free to any address on receipt of two stamps.

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State Rights will be sold at reasonable prices for cash, bankable paper or exchanged for unencumbered real estate at a fair valuation.

Any township or county, not sold, will be exchanged for Bees, delivered in good order, transportation paid, at the Depot of the L. & N. R. R., at this place.

Send all money by Express, Registered Letter or P. O. Money Order on this place.

CANVASSING AGENTS WANTED.

A large number of responsible and experienced agents wanted immediately to canvass for the sale of territory, to whom a liberal commission will be paid. None but responsible persons who can give good reference need apply.

Every agent will be furnished with a certificate of agency, describing the territory embraced within his agency, and the public are hereby cautioned against purchasing Rights or territory from persons not thus authorized to sell. All correspondence promptly answered.

Address, plainly,

J. S. PROCTER.

Lock Box 84, Franklin, Ky.

N. B.—Any correspondent or advertiser of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL, will be furnished a sample hive for examination and trial on receipt of five dollars.

J. S. P.

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

Cards inserted in this Directory, and copy of the paper sent one year, for \$10 per annum, cards to be four lines or less. For each additional line \$2 per annum will be charged. A line will average six words.

E. J. PECK,
IMPORTER & BREEDER.
Send for Circular. Linden, N. J.

GRAY & WINDER.—Wax Extractors for sale. Send for circular and price-list, and for particulars, address No. 132 West Fourth St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

ITALIAN QUEENS in their highest grade of purity, for sale. Address G. BOHRER, Alexandria, Madison Co., Indiana.

BEE-KEEPERS, Send for circular describing the BAY STATE BEE HIVE. Also, price list of Italian Queen Bees, for 1872. Address, H. ALLEY, Wenham, Essex Co., Mass.

REV. A. SALISBURY, Breeder of Pure Italian Queen Bees. For particulars and price list
Address CAMARGO, ILL.

I AM still rearing the ITALIAN BEE in Purity. Queens and full Stocks for sale. Address:

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For Sale. Per pound, 30 cents; per bushel, \$15. Address,
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Jonesville, Hillsdale Co., Mich.

E. KRETCHMER, Importer and Breeder of Pure Italian Queens. For circulars and particulars, address, Coburgh, Montg. Co., Iowa.

ITALIAN QUEENS, bred in full colonies, and warranted pure. For price-list, etc., address, with stamp, to T. H. B. Woody, Manchester, St. Louis Co., Mo.

ITALIAN BEE COMPANY.—We solicit correspondence with bee keepers, and those wishing to become such. Information given respecting best hives, and honey extractors. Sole Agents for Mrs. Farnhams Non-Swarming Attachment to any form of hive. Imported and home-bred Queens for sale.

Send stamp to

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DES MOINES, IOWA.

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LEFFEL'S Center-Opening, Movable Comb Bee Hive; Champion Honey Extractor; Italian Queens. Genuine Alsike Clover Seed. 40 varieties of pure bred Poultry, Pigeons, Rabbits, etc. Agents wanted everywhere. Agent's outfit only \$8. Send stamp for Circular to LITTLE BEE MAN,

Springfield, Ohio.

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Those wishing good early Italian Queens would do well to send for my Circular.

Address:

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Send for our Circular of Queens. Full Stocks. (in any style of Hive,) Bee Veils, Queen Cages, Bee Books, and everything in the line of Aparian supplies. Our Circular contains much information of value to the amateur bee keeper. Send for it to

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See cut in these advertising pages.

Send for circulars and information,

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MUNCIE, IND.

Or for reference, P. F. DAVIS, same place.

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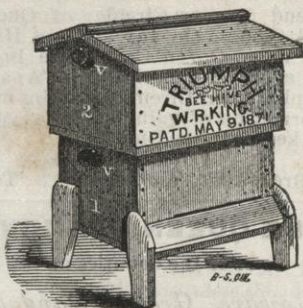
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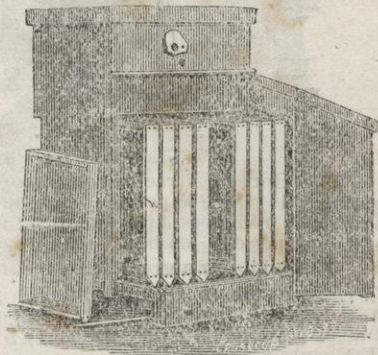
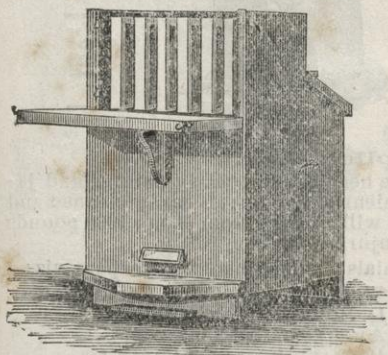
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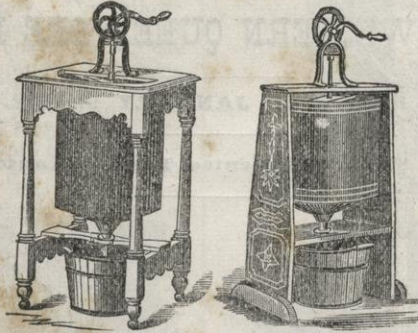
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D. BURBANK, Lexington, Ky.
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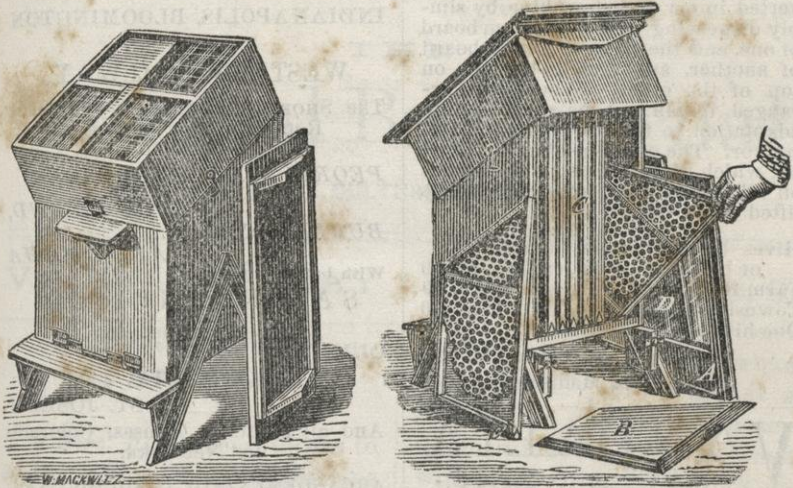
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