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THE BEE-HIVE

PUBLISHED FOR AND IN THE INTEREST OF BEE-KEEPERS, BY ONE OF THEM.
VOL. 3. ANDOVER, CONN., APRIL, 1889. NO. 10.

Written for the Bee-Hive.

A BEE'S SOLILOQUY.

BY JOHN JAMIESON.

Some things I know from observation,
But many more from inspiration ;
I had a bee prophetic view,
And likely most I say is true.

We love to see a tidy place,
Where we with pride can show our face,
With no vile litter strewed around,
To mar the beauty of the ground.

How pleasant to have shrubs and trees,
With food and shelter for the Bees ;
With dandelion, and sunflowers,
Amid the honeysuckle bowers.

The specialists seek to control
Our precious stores, from pole to pole,
And fatten in their honey-stall,
And drive poor greenhorns to the wall.

The specialists should blush with shame,
To talk about a prior claim ;
God gives the plants, the flowers, and trees,
Let all who choose, keep honey-bees.

Monopoly is all the rage,
In this great race-for-money age.
In sugar, coal, gas, oil, and land,
'Tis cornering, on every hand.

Our English guest said one thing true,
"We must encourage those with few."
The nectar's not all taken up,
Let all who wish to, take a sup.

Let all who want a mighty share,
Or to become a millionaire,
Quit keeping Bees, or ne'er commence ;
If that's their aim, lack common sense.

Let specialists do as they will ;
But do not try the weak to kill.
A poor man, with some hives of Bees,
Can help himself and live with ease.

With them and cows, and Plymouth Rocks,
Small fruits and trees, of choice stocks,
Can putter round, he at his leisure,
And ev'ry day, have constant pleasure.

(Continued next month.)

* Ladies' * Department. *

Written for the Bee-Hive.

A Wintering Experiment.

BY MRS. OLIVER COLE.

How the Blizzard Upset Calculations.—Bees
Dying With Plenty of Honey.—"Out-
Door and Cellar Wintering Hive."
—Pollen Theory.

SISTER BEE-KEEPERS:—I have not heard any thing from you through the Ladies' Department. In the month of Nov., 1887, I promised to have another chat with you, and tell you about my experiment with cellar and out-door wintering.

I told you that I took fourteen colonies from chaff hives, putting them in single walled Langstroth hives, and placing them in a dry cellar with a plank floor, separate from the vegetable cellar, for an experiment.

I kept the temperature about 40° by making a wood fire in the rear of the cellar. The first row of bees I took for the cellar, the next row being equally good in all respects and in chaff hives, was out all winter. There has been so many different opinions on the wintering problem, I thought I would test it for myself in this way and see which would be the best for me, after seeing how many colonies I could save out of each of the two rows. I kept the bees in the cellar until the 10th of March. This was a warm, sunny day and bees were flying. I had them carried out in the afternoon.

All flew but one, and I felt very

proud that so many had lived through the winter, for nearly all of the bees out-doors were surely dead. The next day I was going to look them over. How we feel the first time we look over our bees in the spring, to find half or more gone, never to return.

If it were not for winter loses we might get rich. When the next day came, in which I intended to look over those cellar bees, it was cold and snowing, and we had a blizzard in March. For two weeks I could not open the hives, then came the surprise—over half were dead, chilled and starved on the frames with plenty of honey in the hives, but not near the clusters. Many bees that flew away in such great haste the day they was set out, being so old, forgot to return. They are more eager to fly, I think, after long confinement. They dwindled away so that I put them into three colonies, and it took them all the spring and part of the summer to build up; while those in the chaff hives suffered but little loss through that cold spell of weather. So much for my experiment. I never had very good success in wintering bees. Our winters here are usually very severe, so I have tried many ways and kinds of hives, and spared no pains or money to put my bees in good shape for winter, for the past ten years of bee-keeping. Now I think I have the coming hive. I tried some of them last winter; my bees came through clean and strong, and built up very rapidly. I call it an out-door and cellar wintering hive, also a woman's hive. It is very neat, no loose chaff to handle fall and spring. About five inches of chaff is inclosed around the body of the hive; the cover is tight, with tin roof, and sets over the surplus deep enough to use brood-frames for extracting.

When the surplus case is not on I keep a cushion of eight or ten inches of chaff over the brood-frames. The frames are two inches deeper than the Langstroth; they are hanging frames.

I consider a deep frame much better for wintering bees for several reasons: I have my largest swarms from those deep frames, and these large colonies give us the most honey if there is any to be gathered.

The Way I Manage With These Hives:

I let them remain out until after the last possible fly, which was the 17th of January (this has been an unusually mild winter until recently) then I have them taken into the cellar through the zero weather, and set them out when the severe weather is over. I do not allow them to fly when first set out. They soon quiet down and when a day comes so they can fly they are in good shape. The hives do not warm up so quickly as to coax the bees out too early; the changes of the weather do not affect brood-rearing; they build up very fast.

I read a great many different opinions in regard to pollen. My experience has been never to take away this pollen. When preparing my bees for winter and I find a colony with but little pollen, I look around among those that have some to spare and give it to the colony that has but little. I used to take it and the old honey away and feed plenty of granulated sugar syrup in time to have it well capped over, then I thought I had my bees put up in good shape. They would come through in good clean order, but April would usually clean the bees all out. The bees not having pollen would not begin brood-rearing early enough to sustain the colony. By the time pollen could be had the bees were old and would be so thinned out that they could not keep up heat enough to rear brood; this causes spring dwindling I think. Pollen is natural for the honey-bee. The first thing they look for is pollen, and Nature has furnished it for them. I have learned not to take it away from my bees, and I think early honey is the best stores they can have for winter.

Sherburne, N. Y., Feb. 12, '89.

Written for the Bee-Hive.

What Causes Dysentery ?

BY CHAS. H. SMITH.

Too Much Disturbance; Extracting, and Experimenting—"Pollen Theory"—Artificial Swarming—Friend Smith's Preventatives.

ONE says food, another temperature, and still another cries that both are the harbingers of the evil. My bee-keeping commenced one spring. Fall found me with four good colonies, but I did not fear the winter for them at all. I had not yet learned what effect our severe blizzards had upon the bee.

I was advised to construct cases large enough to take a hive, and then admit of a bountiful supply of chaff between the hive and case. I did as directed, but left one swarm so that I could examine them as occasion demanded—and these demands were frequent. I think I must have looked into the hive once a week all winter. I would simply raise the mat a little way and just take a peep at the bees. In February we had a fine, sunshiny day and all four swarms flew freely, but none spotted the hives and snow only my pet swarm that I had become acquainted with through my frequent visits. When spring came three colonies were alive and one—the one—was dead. What was the cause? Not food, for all four colonies had the same. Not temperature, for all were subject to the same, being packed alike, and containing about the same amount of bees. I think it was caused by disturbance.

I became very much interested in articles upon this subject, that were then filling the bee-journals; but the more I read the less I thought I learned, until I saw the "Pollen Theory" by Mr. Heddon, then I believed that I had really learned all that was required, to assist me in preventing any loss by the dreaded disease, and the following fall

and winter I would demonstrate the accuracy of this theory.

Accordingly I extracted all of the honey during August from my 81 swarms of bees. From 40 of these I also took away all combs containing pollen, putting in their place dry combs free from pollen. I then fed granulated sugar syrup to the 81 swarms until all had enough. I would have taken away the pollen from all of the bees but I did not have enough extra combs to do this. I examined every colony during the latter part of September and I found the syrup all nicely sealed. My bees wintered splendidly, the loss being only six colonies; but the idea was, *none* of the bees showed the least sign of dysentery.

What did this mean? Why did not those having plenty of pollen show it by some diarrhetic signs? It seemed to me that the sugar syrup was entitled to the praise—not the absence of pollen.

I suppose Mr. Heddon and others would have explained the matter by telling me that the 41 colonies having pollen, were in such good condition otherwise as to remain undisturbed, thus having no desire to eat this pollen. If such was the reason, then surely the sugar stores should be given great credit.

But since that time I have wintered bees upon late, mixed stores, with an abundance of pollen in the combs, and there was no sign of dysentery. Perhaps the next season I would use only early gathered honey and plenty of it, only to see my bees wasting away, from the effect of dysentery, and with no remedy at hand.

How shall we account for these various conditions in a manner clear to all and satisfactory to ourselves? I cannot do it. I will say though, that I believe the free use of the extractor is a great promoter of the disease, and in more ways than one.

I have practically given the whole matter a farewell thought in so far as

my bees are concerned, believing that I lose more money by experimenting with new ideas, than I do from the loss of colonies from this source.

There is no cure for this disease excepting a good fly; the day must be very warm and the colony not too far wasted to have even this of any avail, and as these requirements are seldom at hand when needed, we must consider the cure uncertain.

Three years ago I came to the conclusion that I did not care for any more artificial swarming as a mode of increase, and now it would require a deal of pointed argument to compel me to change my mind. Some so it is on this question of disease. I have learned my by-laws by which I am to be governed, and matter pertaining to the subject is of only passing interest to me. I have decided to raise comb-honey in preference to extracted. To keep all colonies strong. Pay no attention to stores, whether early or late gathered, so long as a sufficient *quantity* be present. If to be wintered out of doors, pack in chaff and place out of the winds; otherwise put in cellar. Never mind the pollen—2 ounces or 2 pounds, it's all right. And finally, leave them severely alone.

I am well aware that this whole article savors little of theory or advancement, but I can winter my bees profitably and thus I am *satisfied*. So I will leave the whole subject for others to decide and spend sleepless nights over, and I trust I may sleep soundly.


Pittsfield, Mass.

Written for the Bee-Hive.

Does Breeding tell in Bees?

BY H. L. JEFFREY.

Facts From the Log-Book of Experience—
In-Breeding and Its Results—
Valuable Facts.

 YEARS ago when in the poultry business and took more interest in the feathered tribe than I do at present, I talked with and

wrote to about every one that I found out was of any authority, by both study and experience, and in the year 1875 I paid for my "whistle dearly," in the line of following the much-preached law that we must continually put in new blood.

I commenced pure blood poultry breeding and bee-keeping in 1868. Twenty-one years ago, from '68 till '75 inclusive, I had been careful not to breed in with, with any of my coops of fowls; but in 1875, with eight or nine other parties, we associated together. I learned a costly lesson; all of us entirely ruined our season's work by putting in new blood. For two seasons previous ('73 and '74) two or three of us had noticed some very marked beneficial results from accidental in-breeding by way of chance chicks, raised from fowls in coops saved to take sitting hens from. These, as it seemed, chance specimens, upon close investigation let out a secret, that, if certain results are required, the small stream must be bent that way and all its associative streams must be turned into the same channel. These chance birds also set the thinking machinery to going, and whenever any of us bought a new bird (cock or hen) its pedigree was requested for three or four generations back, and whenever such pedigree came, it generally showed up that in every good reliable bird in-breeding was, in all cases, resorted to by the scientific breeder, and yet out comes the *hubbalo* cry: Change your stock often by continually putting in new blood. A *splendid* advocacy for the sale of stock.

Prior to 1876 all of us associated (9 or 10) had not made any headway in raising chicks for exhibition purposes, only so far as coming out minus premiums was concerned. But these rebuffs, instead of quieting us, only stirred up madness, spunk or energy, or all three combined (the first two are only food for the third), and so we went to work with a will, to either win

or become *totally* killed in trying. After searching the laws of reproduction until satisfied that, as a propensity was present in both parents, sire and dam, so it would predominate more perfectly in the offspring; and also that all of the established strains of fowls and animals were the results of judicious in-breeding, we went to work.

These proofs also convinced us that we had got a most formidable *enemy* to fight against: that the same laws and same procedure that was to give us good results, was also the road to give us the damning disaster. Consequently we had to place the probable result of obtaining an intensity of setting qualities in the balance of an intensity of laying qualities. Constitutional weakness and constitutional strength, are both gained by the law of in-breeding. A male bird with weak constitution, if bred to close kin, doubles the weakness in the offspring, and *vice versa*. Also a male with a preponderancy to disease, bred to females in no way related, also strengthens that tendency to disease in the following generation. There are many of your readers that will say: "What has all this got to do with bees?"

It was an eye-opener to me for the bee business, and by it I learned many things, but I worked to the disadvantage of being alone working with the bees; whereas, with the poultry I had the eight or nine associates to compare notes with.

I commenced, as I before mentioned, with the bees too in 1868, and in 1873 I obtained my first Italians. In the latter part of 1873 and in the season of '74 I learned, by experience, that I had a few crosses between the Italians and black bees, that for box honey went ahead of either race in its purity, and some of the bee-keepers for three or four miles in all directions, found out that this mixture of Italian and black blood was a capital thing, and I made up my mind that I was going to

make H. L. J. noted, by having an A No. 1 race of bees. So I collected together all the very best stocks to be obtained in this Italian and black cross-bred bee, and I went to work breeding them. Every stock that did not possess those eclipsing qualities, was marked to be no more; their queen was killed and one raised for them from a stock whose record stood upon their honey qualities, and in the predominating number of cases those queens proved to be no better than those that were taken out.

And by working thus in two tolerably isolated apiaries, from 1874 till 1880 inclusive, and finding out that there was more truth than fun in the remark I heard an old doctor make about one of his patients, that was a combination of white and colored blood: "*There just nigger enough in him so you can't treat him like a white man, and just white enough in him so you can't treat him as you would a nigger.*"

In this same way I found out that I had got enough black bee to spoil the Italian and just enough Italian bee to spoil the black, and at the same time in two or three other apiaries I was at work with the pure Italians, and the close kept memoranda of all operations and results, just and conclusively proved that, I had been at work to find out that I was working to produce a race in which the greatest quantity of stinging quality to the square inch was predominating; that the greatest propensity to rob at every possible chance that occurred was in the majority; and that if there was any quality in a bee that the bee-keeper really did not want, go to work and breed the dybrids of any two or three races of bees and you will get that very quality, and enough of it too. And after long and successive years of toil and study you will come out like the white brush of the Devon cattle, at the tip end of the tail.

I know that I shall stir up a hornets' nest on this hybrid question, and I also know that in a few cases the first

cross does surpass the the pure races for box honey purpose; and that they also surpass the pure races in their propensity to sting, as I have hundreds of times learned by my own feelings, since the year 1873.

At the same time that I was carrying on these hybrid tests and experiments with breeding up that bee that was to be a superior race of bees, the coming bee, did come sting first, and sting they could and sting they did to most excruciating pain. I also worked to select out the best Italians, and how did I succeed, or did I succeed at all? Yes, I succeeded to the extent that I learned the Italian bee is not to be surpassed, and it has come to stay; not only with me, but with thousands of others, and that we only want the hybrids so far as we cannot possibly help ourselves without paying two dollars for the worth of one.

By following up those observations and records kept, I have in almost every case been able to trace every hive of bees within my care or under my observation, that has given any superior results, to particular race or strain.

During the years '87 and '88, two very poor ones, those hives from which any good results were obtained, it was quite easy by the registers kept, to trace them back to some particular stock or stocks combined, from which the queens had been bred and selections had been made to use for breeding. Bees are just as susceptible of control in breeding, though not to the close extent, as are any other kinds of stock. Their good and bad qualities are as easily perpetuated or intensified as in any other kind of stock, only like other kinds of stock don't try to embody every thing in one animal.

In the beeves we have either beef or milk. In the sheep mutton or wool. But in the bee the one object is honey; to get that we must have strength of constitution, prolificness in the queen for the sake of stocks strong in num-

ber, vital strength, that they may be hardy, amiable, that they may be pleasant to handle. All these qualities are embodied in the Italian bee, and by selection and careful breeding we can have, and to the observer they will show themselves plain enough.

G. M. Doolittle once wrote that he would not take the best imported queen there was and be obliged to give up his already obtained results in his own strain of Italians. And why?

Because he had selected for years to get them where they were. On that fact depends his success as a queen breeder. On that depends the fact that he always has as good an average yield, and sometimes better, than other bee-keepers. On that has been the reason why there is such a demand for the Doolittle queens, and that is why he receives better prices than other queen breeders. All these facts I have tested for myself. On these facts hung the result of why?—In one apiary in 1886, 22,000 lbs. of honey was taken from an apiary of 19 colonies in May, that increased to 45 by July 25th. On these facts was the why?—That in 1888, 500 nice one-pound sections was taken from a little apiary of 4 colonies in May, that were 8 good ones in June, while an apiary run on the hap-hazard plan that numbered 45 colonies in May '88, only gave 400 nice sections on honey, and two-thirds of the stocks were in starving condition in Nov. '88.

Two things are seldom thought of in breeding bees: first, the drone is the result of an unimpregnated egg; and second, that the drones of any queen are very likely to possess the qualities of the workers of the queen that is the mother of the queen that lays the eggs for the drones. Consequently, raise your drones from queens that are daughters of the queen whose workers give the desired results.

New Milford, Conn.

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Italian Queen 25 cents—see page 122.



## NOTES &amp; CLIPPINGS

For the Month Ending Mar. 15, 1889.

HOW are the bees wintering? This is the going question now among the fraternity. In this region (northern New England) they seem to be doing finely, since they have recently had two or three good flights. However, the bright sun may often entice them out on days when the air is too cool for them to fly, and they never return. To prevent this we have removed the covers to the chaff hives and leaned them against the front, so as to shade the entrance, when they have no inclination to venture forth.

"Bees, too, after long confinement, when attempting a feeble flight, with swollen abdomen, fall and perish, but in these early flights few healthy bees perish from chill, since they are careful to remain at home until the temperature and sunshine entice them forth."—British B. Journal.

"To winter successfully, the great and all important requirement is plenty of sealed honey. \* \* \* Honey gathered in the first part of the season, stored in clean combs, well sealed, with little or no pollen, is almost all that is necessary to successfully winter a colony of bees."—F. F. Graves in Am. B. Jour.

We should like some of those honey producers who are often repeating the words, "Greatest amount of honey with the least expenditure of capital and labor," prove that with their patent hives and divisible brood-chambers they can produce honey as cheaply as, for example, the Dadants with their large hives and Quinby frame. Then having proved their words, they will be entitled to a copyright upon their use.

The March "Review" discusses the

best bees. Is it not a little premature to discuss the Carniolans? A more thorough trial may reverse some opinions held by those wedded to the Italians. In our opinion the selection of the best race is not of more consequence than the breeding for successive generations, for quality.

Have you any comb-honey left from last year's crop? If so feed, as wanted, to the bees. All of the old crop should be out of the way, consumed, by May 1st. Honey markets are always dull about this time of year, and do not revive until the new crop is placed upon the market.

Speaking of marketing honey, P. H. Elwood said in *Gleanings*, Mch. 1st: "I would sell to the man who offered me a reasonable cash price. This is the only good way to establish a satisfactory honey market. When nine-tenths of our honey producers do this we shall have a satisfactory honey market, and not before."

The "Canadian Honey Producer" is the "irregular" monthly for this month. What is the matter Sec'y Holterman?

Oh! how tired we get of this everlasting discussion of who invented this or that. One would almost wish some one would get patents on every new thing in bee culture, and let the U. S. Courts decide who is really first.

We are flattered to notice that friend Manum has taken our hint and given to the BEE-HIVE his experience with hives on scales. Thanks.

APIS AMERICANA.

The Queen Breeders' Journal wants to know what it can do with its surplus drones. In this case prevention is the best cure. Combs built on worker fdn. are a sure remedy.

Bands instead of honey, hybrids instead of Italians, are the latest fads.



A REVIEW OF

**Langstroth** ON THE **Honey-Bee,**

as Revised by

**CHAS. DADANT & SON.**

**B**EGINNING with the biography of Mr. Langstroth, one is surprised to find that as early as 1858 he sold \$2,000 worth of Italian queens in one season. In this connection the revisers say: "This amount looks small at the present stage of bee-keeping, but it was enormous at a time when so few people were interested in it."

If by this we are to understand that many queen breeders sell more than this annually, then we disagree with the statement; but if it is intended to cover the general trade in queens, the case is none too strongly stated.

A very complete physiological description of the honey-bee is next given, and illustrated by numerous engravings, wherein many interesting things are explained. We learn that the bee has five eyes—two composite and three convex. (Sometimes, when removing sections of honey during a dirth of forage, we thought they possessed more than five times this number.) The two flexible projections in front part of the head, called antena, are each composed of twelve joints, and covered their whole length with tiny hairs, which enables the bee to "feel" her way where she can not see. The mandibles of the bee and the hornet are well illustrated, and it would take the assertiveness all out of those people who believe that bees can injure sound grapes and other fruits, by just showing them these illustrations, without one word of argument. The different parts of the bee—its head, legs, wings, etc., are each taken up in detail, and, in connection with the magnified views, give the reader a very fair idea of the "working machinery" of the honey-bee.

The construction of the sting (we all know how that works!) is detailed

at some length, and is a "point" on which bee-keepers are more or less interested at times. One-twelfth of an inch is the extreme depth which it can penetrate.

**THE QUEEN**

next receives due attention, and we are informed that early writers believed each hive contained a "king-bee." In 1609 an Englishman (there was no Yankees then) by the name of Butler affirmed that said king-bee was a queen, and the mother of the colony. Probably Butler was a believer in women's rights.

The Messrs. Dadants speak of having seen queens deposit eggs at the rate of six a minute.

This would be 360 an hour, and if a good queen lays 3,500 eggs in 24 hours, it would require nearly or quite one-half of this time in steady work to accomplish this feat, which proves that the queen, though of royal eminence, is a busy worker.

The interest manifested in the rearing of queens by a queenless stock, is thus given: "There is scarcely a second in which a bee is not peeping into them [queen-cells]; and as fast as one is satisfied, another pops in her head to report progress, or increase the supply of food. Their importance might easily be inferred from their being the center of so much attraction." The sting of a queen is curved and not straight, like that of a worker-bee.

**THE WORKER-BEE.**

The capping covering the brood is composed of bee-bread and wax, which admits air, while that covering cells of honey is of pure wax and air-tight. The cocoon is not spun the whole depth of the cell; only around the inside of the outer end and a little at the sides.

The average life of a worker-bee, during the summer months, is given as 35 days. The bee might well say: "How short is life." Near the close



of this section the authors say: "Notched and ragged wings and shiny bodies, instead of gray hairs and wrinkled faces, are the signs of old age in the bee, indicating that its season of toil will soon be over."

(Continued next month.)

## The Cheapest Honey.

**MATEUR EXPERT** draws quite a comic pen-cartoon in the C. B. Journal. After giving Dr. Mason a "nip" on uncut journals, he says:

I would draw a cartoon, but the editor would not get it cut. You can sketch it out in your minds. I would have Dr. Mason to stand for Uncle Sam's country, Mr. McKnight for Canada and a very dear old friend for Scotland, and I would put John Bull in the middle, and this is what they should say:—

**UNCLE SAM** (*Dr. Mason*):—"Basswood honey is the best in the world!"

**CANADA** (*Mr. McKnight*):—"Linden honey is the best in the world!"

**SCOTLAND** (*Dear Old Friend*):—"Scotch heather honey is to be matched by none other in the world!!!"

**JOHN BULL**:—"How much have you three fellows got to sell and which is cheapest?"

## Giving Uncealed Brood.

**M. R. DOOLITTLE**, in *Am. Rural Home*, does not favor using frames of uncealed brood when hiving swarms. We well remember an incident in our experience, at the time this method first appeared.

As various authorities were unequalled in its praises, what could a beginner do but follow the lead of these writers of (supposed) experience. It was not long after this before a good-sized swarm came out. Surely this was our time to give the matter a trial. The swarm was duly hived and

a frame of uncealed brood given, thinking as we did so, "There, no more trouble with swarms absconding."

Being called away for a few hours, no opportunity was given to watch this colony, which, of course, would "never go away and leave uncealed brood;" for had n't experienced writers repeatedly told us this.

On our return we thought perhaps the colony might need more frames—but they did n't. Nothing but the hive, frames, brood, and a few straggling bees, greeted us.

Mr. Doolittle argues that giving frames of uncealed larvæ places the swarm too nearly under the same conditions that it was previous to leaving the parent hive.

This same idea occurred to our mind, and is probably the true reason of the uncertainty attending its practical application.

Though we usually give a frame of brood at the time of hiving a swarm, it is more to give it a start, than with any thought that it will prevent absconding.

## The "Dovetailed" Hive.

**M. R. ROOT** has brought out another hive which is called the "Dovetailed" Hive. It is dovetailed at the corners, has square edges at top and bottom, and takes eight frames. The ends of the frames rest on wood supports. This, in our opinion, is a grievous mistake, and will prevent rapid handling of frames. Metal rabbets are a necessity if we would manipulate our frames without irritating the bees by sudden thumps and jars, and at the same time work to the best advantage. Frames having wooden supports require double the time to remove, as any one can ascertain for themselves by trying both ways. Neither do we think dovetailed equal to shoulder-joint corners.

Italian Queen 25 cents—see page 122.




Written for the Bee-Hive.

## Alfalfa.

BY J. C. SWANER.

Its Good and Bad Qualities.

 LFALFA or lucerne honey is now commented upon considerably in the bee-papers, and it would probably not be out of place to give a few facts in regard to that plant. It is grown more or less all through this territory, and is used for making hay and sometimes for pasturing stock, though we have to be very careful of horned stock, as there is danger from hoven or bloat, when used green or wet.

It makes one of the best plants for hay, but if your hay gets wet it will rot nearly if not quite as bad as clover, hence more care is needed in harvesting and stacking.

The plant grows on almost all kinds of soils here except low swampy lands, and after it once gets established, I have not seen drouth kill it. During the summer, on dry places, if it receives no irrigation it will all dry up, and look as though it was done for; but when winter passes and spring rains come it is as bright and fresh as ever; will produce one crop, and if it gets no water, will dry up again.

If you should want to kill the plant out you will find it very stubborn, and a great deal harder to get rid of than sweet clover, although it does not scatter over the country like sweet clover. The honey from alfalfa is not considered as good as sweet clover, though in some localities it is a very fine honey, while in some others it is, well, very poor. It seems to be better in a country locality and gets poorer as you get nearer a city.

I think the dust from the roads has considerable to do with it. In this locality alfalfa honey is always listed as a second grade article, and is generally pretty dark, with a rank flavor; while in country localities I have seen some very clear, and of good flavor,

but does not come up to the standard as extra fine, when the best grades of sweet clover are placed beside it.


The main trouble in getting honey from this source is, that the farmers cut it at just the time it is ready for the bees, and they have to gather from what is left around the edges of the fields; though if seed is to be produced instead of hay you would probably have a bee-keeper's paradise, providing you were living in a locality where the honey is of fine quality.

Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mar. 15, '89.

## California Jottings.

Bee-Keepers in Trouble.

 EES are working on black sage now, and we are expecting a full crop this season, for the weather has been rather favorable, although a little cool in the nights and mornings, which causes a setback in the breeding, and demands good managing.

The fruit and raisin growers say they will begin war on the bee-keepers ere long, and it is not advisable for a person to enter into bee-keeping in this part of the State. There was a great many apiaries killed and destroyed last year, on account of the bad feelings of the neighboring fruit growers. It looks as though the bee-men must get out. I will take a trip to San Bernardino in a few days and see how things stand there. There are thousands of people passing through San Diego every day, on the way to the newly discovered gold field in Lower California.

S. Braeutigam.

San Diego, Calif, Mar. 11, '89.

## Wintered Well.

I think the BEE-HIVE is as lively and interesting as the busy little bee. Bees have wintered nicely here. Have brought in a small quantity of pollen



during the warm days up to date. At this date they are bringing it in profusely. Peach and plum trees beginning to bloom. Horsemint is the leading honey-plant here and the honey is very nice, but not so nice as New England honey. I think New England honey the best in the U. S. if not in the world. I came from good old Maine here. I observe that horsemint has set and hope for a good honey season. It does not require much skill to winter bees here. The greatest pest we have in this city is foul brood. I think Texas, on the whole, is a good country and climate.

C. M. Davis.

Denison, Tex., Feb. 25, '89.

A partial examination shows that my bees have wintered nicely so far, and have consumed but little honey as yet.

A. E. Manum.

Bristol, Vt., Mch. 18, '89.

My bees are in first-class shape—have not lost a single colony. They are very strong indeed. I opened one hive the first day of March; saw some brood in one of the central frames.

L. J. Waldo.

Merrow, Ct., Mch. '6, '89.

THE



PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

E. H. COOK,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,

ANDOVER, CONN.

Subscription Price, 25 cents Per Year  
in Advance.

### Editorial Ink Drops.

All subscriptions will be stopped when the time paid for expires (see notice of same stamped on wrapper) unless renewed before.

No exchange notices will be inserted hereafter except on same terms as for "Special Notices."

March 19th a few bees were noticed carrying in pollen, the next day it was snowing. This is a sample of New England climate.

Oh yes! We came near forgetting to say that another "new bee-journal" will soon burst forth on the ranks of unsuspecting bee-keepers.

Mr. Hutchinson, editor of the "Review," writes to say that Apis is mistaken in supposing the Feb. number late, as it was out on time.

Beautiful spring weather at this date (March 27th) and all indications induce hopeful anticipations of a favorable season for bee-keepers.

We desire to buy volumes 1 and 2 of the BEE-HIVE. Will those having back numbers write what they have and what they will take for them.

The A. B. J. very promptly corrected the unintentional reflection on the honesty of Eastern club agents, for which it deserves the thanks of the fraternity.

Keep a sharp lookout that the bees do not get short of honey this month. By examining then once in two weeks and giving a liberal supply of honey no trouble of this kind will occur.

We have some experiments under contemplation regarding the rearing of queens. As soon as they have been thoroughly tested our readers will be made acquainted with the results.

Even small advertisements pay, as the following testimony indicates:

"I am already receiving lots of calls from my advertisement in the BEE-HIVE. In fact, far more than I had expected. I can heartily recommend it as an advertising medium."

Jefferson, March 16, '89.

Leslie Stewart.

We shall not offer queens for sale before June, and all in need of early



ones will please see our advertising columns, where such are now offered.

Have a box or other receptacle convenient to the apiary, and as you find any scraps or fragments of wax, don't throw them away as being useless, but press them into a lump with your hand and when through work in the apiary put these wax fragments in the receptacle for them. Do not leave the wax where the sun can shine on it. One who has never been careful to save these wax fragments will be surprised to see how fast they will accumulate, and what a nice quantity of wax they will make when melted.

### The Bee-Hive and a Warranted Italian Queen for 25 Cents!

The first new subscriber to the BEE-HIVE who sends us 25 cents, saying that he saw this advertisement in the *April BEE-HIVE*, will receive a year's subscription to this paper and a warranted Italian Queen. Of course it is understood that only the *first* new subscriber will receive the queen, so if you send at once you may get her. The address of the person entitled to the queen will be given in the May BEE-HIVE, and the queen will be sent in June. Value of queen, \$1.

### \* Special Notices. \*

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

LESLIE Stewart, Jefferson, N. Y., will furnish Eggs from his imported and prize-winning Black Minorcas, Silver Spangled Hamburgs, and Black Breasted Red Games, at \$2 per 13; \$3 per 26. Safe arrival guaranteed. Illus. circular free.

R. B. LEAHY & CO., Higginsville, Mo., at present, are running the largest Supply Factory west of the Mississippi. They are turning out car loads of goods annually. Bee-keepers, by all means, should get their Catalogue.

CHOICE Italian Queens in May, \$1; June, July, 75 cents each. Send for prices on Nuclei. Bees by the pound, Comb foundation, Bee-keepers' Supplies. John Nebel & Son, High Hill, Mont'g Co., Mo.

FRIENDS:—If interested in Bees or Thoroughbred Poultry, please ask for my new Descriptive Circular and price-list. Eggs for Hatching from five leading varieties.

S. P. Yoder, East Lewistown, Ohio.

BEE-KEEPERS, it will pay you to send for my price-list. No. 1 V-groove sections, \$3.00 per M. Best foundation, thick, 40 cts., thin, 45 cts. 9 W. D. Soper, box 1473, Jackson, Mich.

ITALIAN Queens, 1889. Select tested, Apr., \$3; May, \$2.50; June, \$2; July to Nov., \$1.50. Warranted purely mated, \$1; six for \$5. Send for circular. Money order office Nicholasville. 9 J. T. Wilson, Little Hickman, Jess. Co., Ky.

"HOW I produce Comb-Honey." Briefly explains the method I pursue with success. By mail, 5 cents. My illustrated price-list of general Supplies, Bees and Queens, free. 9 Geo. E. Hilton, Fremont, Mich.

CARNIOLAN QUEENS a specialty. Largest and purest Carniolan apiary in America. Send for Circular and Price-List. Address, 10 Andrews & Lockhart, Pattens Mills, N. Y.

FOR SALE or exchange—A few sittings of Leed Wyandotte, Golden Polish and Pekin Duck Eggs. 75 cts. per sitting. Also a few bushels of Early Essex and Snowflake Potatoes (for sections, comb fdn. or offers.) L. J. Waldo, Merrow, Conn.

EGGS FOR hatching from all first-class fowls. P. Rocks. Light Brahmas and Langshans, \$1.50 per 14. Satisfaction given or money refunded. Seven years' experience. Safe arrival. Fair hatch warranted. Mrs. C. E. Hatch, Kentland, Ind.

WANTED—To exchange our 5-drawer "White" Sewing Machine, in good order. Comb-honey, for Laced Wyandottes, Light Brahmas, Partridge Cochins, bee-supplies, or offers. Address, Harker Bros., Hornertown, N. J.

WANTED—To exchange the last four vols. of "cleanings," also Madeira Vine Tubers and Italian Queens, for fdn., books, typewriter, or any thing useful for apiary or farm. Write S. H. Colwick, Norse, Tex.

Please mention the BEE-HIVE in writing to above advertisers and you will receive prompt reply, and do us a kindness also.

25 Packets of A. T. Cook's Garden and Flower Seeds, by mail, and the BEE-HIVE one year, for only 35 cts. Bee-Hive, Andover, Conn.

## BEES FOR SALE!

Italians, Blacks, and Hybrids, in Langstroth Hives at

### Five Dollars per Colony,

including Honey Crate, set of Boxes and Separators, all complete. These are strong colonies and paid over **Eight Dollars per Colony** last year, spring count.

A. N. GRISWOLD,  
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## THOROUGHbred White P. Rock.

W. Wyandotte Eggs, \$1.50 per 13; L. Brahma, P. Rock, L. Wyandotte, W. and B. Leghorn Eggs \$1.00 per 13. ITALIAN QUEENS Reared by the Doolittle Plan; Select Tested in May, \$3.00; June, \$2.50. Warranted in May, \$1.25; June, \$1.00.

Address, C. H. WATSON,  
3 Newtown, Bucks Co., Penn.



# THE BEE-HIVE.

123

## ADVERTISING RATES.

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| One column.....  | 1.50  | 2.80  | 5.40   | 8.00   |

E. H. COOK, Andover, Conn.

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| Bee-Keepers' Advance.....m       | .55   |
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| Canadian Bee Journal.....w       | 1.00  |
| Honey-Producer.....m             | .55   |
| Gleanings in Bee Culture.....s-m | 1.10  |
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After  
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|                                  |                     |           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Imported Italian Queen (88 imp.) | \$5.50              | \$5.00    |
| Tested " " "                     | 2.25                | 1.75      |
| Untested " " "                   | \$1; three.         | 2.75 2.60 |
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BEES.

Our goods are well made, of good stock, and prices—well, just send us a list of what you want and see for yourself.

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Mention the Bee-Hive, please.

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**JOURNAL.**

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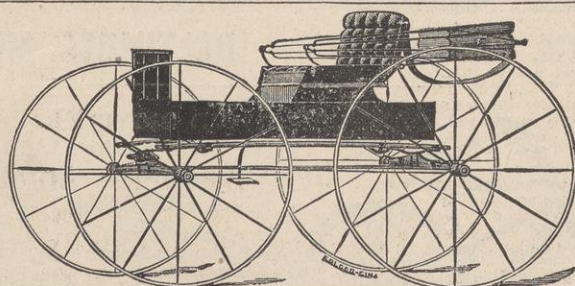
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— METHOD OF —

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

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G. D. Black, Brandon, Iowa.

— THE —

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A monthly bee-paper. Forty cents per year three subscriptions at one time to any address. \$1.00. Sample copies free.

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I will sell Pure Italian Bees in Root's Simplicity Hives, in good condition and straight combs (bees work on red clover) at the following prices:

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