# The progressive bee keeper. Vol. 5, No. 4 April 1, 1895 

Higginsville, Mo.: Leahy Manufacturing Company, April 1, 1895
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APRIL 1, 1895.


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A Year Among the Bees,-by Dr, Miller; price, :0c. Manual of the Apiary,-By Prof. A. J. ivok; price, 125. .
The A, B, C of Bee Culture, by A. I. A, B, C
Root; price, 1.25. Address,

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## LEAHY I' ${ }^{\prime}$ 'G. CO.,

 Higginsville, Mo.}

## UNION FAMILY SCALES.

WE HAVE frequent calls for a scale to weigh honey, etc., and we have now made arrangements to supply you with ecunter scales, with platform and tin scoop, made with steel bearings, brass beam, and nicely finished and o:namented. Will weigh correctly from one 1 alf ounce to 210 pounds.

Price-3oxad and delivered on cars only $\$ 3.50$; with double brass beams, $\$ 4$. Weight of above, boxed ready
 to ship, about forty pounds.

These Scales can be shipped from here. and we can fill orders promptly, as we have a large stock on hand.

26 page Catalogue of Apiarian Supplies sent Free on Application

## 1895 NEW CATALOGUE. NEW PRICES.

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## Hives, Smokers, Sections. Honey Extractors, Comb Foundation,

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Apiarian Supplies at Bed Rock.
Write for Estimates on Large quantities. Send for my 24-page, "large size" Catalogue. Address,

E. T. FLANAGAN, Belleville, St. Clair Co., Ill.

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Is now out with a new cover and an elegant engraved front cover design. It has been entirely re-arranged, largely re-written, and, besides a lot of new engravings, is packed full of useful information on bees, so that it is now more than ever a unique

## TEXT-BOOK ON BEES, FREE FOR THE ASKING.

The assortment of supplies has been carefully selected, so that we now offer ouly what are the latest and most practicable and useful appliances-all che "old s'yles" being eliminated. Our new machinery and general enlargements enable us to make the most and best goods wé ever turned out. Send your name on a postal, and find out all about what we are doing.
the A. I. root co., medina, Ohio.
Please mention the "Progressive" in answering this advertisement.

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It is always economy to buy the best, especially when the best costs no more than something not half so good. OUR FALCON SECTIONS are acknowledged to be superior to any on the market. The same is also true of our HIVES and BEE KEEPERS' SUPPLIES, of which we make all modern styles. OUR PRICES will be found as low as those of any of our competitors, and in many cases lower, and you are always sure of getting first class goods. We also publish THE AMERICAN BEE KEEPER, a monthly Magazine (Fifth year) at 50c a year, invaluable to heginners. Large illustrated catalogue and price list free. Address.

THE W. T. FALCONER MAN'F'G. CO., Jamestown, N. Y.
W. M. Gerrish, of Easi Nottingham, N. H. is our Eastern Agent. New England customers may save freight by purchasing of him.

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## GISTEN HERE! l l6o-Page Bee-Book FREIL

 To every New Subscriber sending $\$ 1,00$ for the Weekly American iseo Joursal for a year. (The book is "Be se and Honey" by Thos. G. Newman). Besides articles fr $m$ the best bee-keepers, the Bee Journal now h is 6 Department Editors - Mrs. Jennie Atchley in "The Sunny Southland;" "Canadian Beedom" by "Bee-Master;" "Questions and AnswerA" by Dr. C. C. Miller; "Notes and Comments," Ex-Pres. E. 'T. Abboit; "lloctor's Hints" on good health. by Dr. Peiro; and "Among the Bee-Papers" by "Gleaner," who gleans the best from ati the bee-papers each week. Space fnrbids telling more. Better send or Free Sample Topy, or ' 00 as ner above offer. 20-Cent'Trial' Tyip (3 months o. 13 wks .) to New subseribers 4ddress. GEORGE W. YORK \& CO., 56 FIFTH AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.艰" Please mention the "Progressive" in answering this advertisement.


# Largest Factory in the West. 

COMPLETE STOCK...
Cood Supplies and Low Prices, our Motto.
We are here to serve you and will if you give us a chance, A beautifully illustrated catalogue and a sample copy of the Progressive Bee Keeper a live, progressive bee journal, sent free for your name on a postal card.

The "A mateur Bee Keeper," a 70 -page book written expressly for beginners by Prof J. W. Rouse. Price, 25̌c; by mail, 28c.

LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO., Higginsville, Mo.

## Old Reliable Bingham Smokers AND

## Bingham \& Hetherington Honey Knives.



Bingham Prevfort 気maicern. Cheapestand Pext on yarth. Patentc: :-7, 15:2 end 1892

A

Bingham \& Hetherington Uncapping Knife


Patented May 20, 1879. RE NOT new experiments for you to pay for and find out to your discomfort later on. With the single exception of inverting a Bingham bellows by A. G. Hill, Bingham has invented and patented all the improvements in Bee Smokers and Uncapping knives made within the last 20 years. We are not dependent on anyone fur a sluble la ature of value in bee smokers or honey knives.
Our Smokers a:ad Kinites Liave been the standard in Europe and America for fifteen years. No comp!ining lettis have ever been received-but we have hundreds from the yest best beekee ,ers full of thanks and praise for our inventions. Nearly all the large apiaries in this an 1 foreign couitries use our smokers and knives

The Little Wonder and Plain smokers have single coiled steel handles and narrow shields. The other three have don bled coiled steel wire handles and extra wide shields. The shields and han Hes are an amazing comfort when working. They protect the bellows as well as the hands. All Bingham smokers for 1895 will have right-angle movable bent caps, coiled steel wire handles, inverted bellows and direct dratt. They burn chips or anything else and never go out. Sent post paid any where in the United States on receipt of price. Little Wonder, 50 c ; Plain, 70c; Large, $\$ 1,00$; Conquerer, $\$ 1.5$ ); Doctor, (the largest smoker made) $\$ 1.75$. Knife 80c; circulars and dozens or hundred rates, and Smokers and Knives by return mail. Address,
T. F BINGHaM, IIBRonts, MIGH.

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## FIO: FOFR EXANSAS.

IWILL handle a complete line of the Higginsville goods the coming season at the Leahy M'f'g. Co.'s prices. Parties residing in Southeast Kansas or Southwest Missouri can save freight by purchasing these goods of me. I will also continue to breed Queens from the best 5 -banded stock. Send for my catalogue at once. Address,

## P. J. THOMAS, Fredonia, Kans.

Cedar Vale, Kas., February 18, 1895-Gentlemen: I just received a bill from Mr. P. J. Thomas a few days ago, and am well pleased with the same. The hives are dandies. I have been talking your goods up with bee keepers. What is the best you can do on twenty No. I "Higginsville Hives," to start with.

Respectfully,
B. F. THOMPSON.

# The (1rogressive Be J Jem 

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Industries. FIFTY CEṄTS A YEAR.
Published Monthly by Leahy Manufacturing Company

## VOL. 5.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO , APRIL I, 1895.
No. 4

## A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST.

## BY WILL WARD MITCHELL.

A little old red schoolhouse standing near a country lane,
Not far from where my Grandma Ward lived many years ago,
The fence around it broken down, a shattered, ruined pane
Of glass in every window, and a doorway quaint and low.
Within the olden, golden days I was a student there,
A reckless little vagabond not passing ten years old,
Barefooted, ragged, light of heart, with long and unkempt hair-
The homeliest (and the smartest (?) ) boy in school-so I was told.
We didn't study Latin there, nor isms, nor ologies,
But 'readin', spellin', grammar, jografy, an' 'rithmetic."
Were the most importantstudies, for the city colleges
Would teach the rest-as though of schools we "chaps" could have our "pick."
We played no break-neck football then, baseball was new to us,
So new we didn't know of it-but played townball or "cat",
Or "fox" or "nigger"-gracious me! we made an awful fuss -
Or 'Marching round the levee' with the girlswe all liked that.
Of all those schoolmates that I knew in childhood's blissful years,
Two ever haunt my memory like wandering ghosts of old-
The one my faithful, earliest chum, young Arthur, had no peers
Or rivals in my friendship, then; the other, angel-souled-
I loved when she was but a child, dear little Lizzie B.,
And Arthur, well I liked him best in times long past away,
He is a teacher now-it seems he learned his A, B, C,
But yesterday. And Lizzie? Little Lizzie died last May.
I passed old Fairview schoolhouse once, about a year ago,
So changed it was it scarcely seemed to be the same old place;
I, too, was changed, so Arthur said-of course it must be so,
But midst the children there I saw not one familiar face.
'Tis but an April fantasy, a leaf from bygone days,
A picture in my memory of a dear and hallowed past,
I would not give one hour of now for all the yesterdays,
For each succeeding year has been more happy than the last.
Higginsville, Mo., April 6, 1895.

## STAR APIARY NOTES.

## S. E. MILLER.

$\rho$AGE 63, March 1st Progressive, the third word in the twentyseventh line from the top should be corner instead of cover.
Mr. C. I. Holt, page 168, March 14th American Bee Journal, gives a short description of Apis Dorsata. The editor, in commenting on the article, says Mr . Holt lives in Kentucky and claims to have the bees which he describes. Now if these bees have been in the United States since 1891, as claimed by Mr. Holt, why is it that we have not seen anything mentioned about it in any of our bee journals until now? Surely the bee papers nust be behind the times on this subject, or else there is a mistake somewhere. Among other things, Mr. Holt says: "Put a young Italian or black queen in a cage with an Indian drone, and he will fertilize her at once, and will fertilize as many as four queens befure he stops." How's that for a drone?

Mr . Heddon seems to be very much worried over the pitiable condition into which bee journalism has fallen in the last few years. It is well we are not all as hard to please as is Mr. Heddon, or surely many of the journals devoted to bee culture would suffer for the want of subscribers.

I have read very little of Mr . Heddon's writings in the last few years, but well remember the strain of his articles when I used to read them regularly. If he would use a few of Dr. Miller's "don't know's" in his teachings, I think they would be more agreeable to his readers. Mr. Heddon is one of those poor mortals whom someone is always trying to abuse-one who has
done wonders for the enlightenment of bee keopers and never receired any thanks in return. Apparently, he would have all bee keepers who do not keep one hundred colonies, keep their mouths shut, and not attempt to write articles pertaining to bee culture. It seams he would have all men see things as he sees them, think as he thinks, and do as he does. When Mr. Heddon learns that this will never Come to pass, and that there is no use in him trying to bring it about, he will save himself much worry by letting others do their own thinking.

March 8th, bees were bringing in pollen. and strong colonies had a patch of brood in one comb as big as a man's hand.

Many thoughtful bee keepers are wondering about the honey resources of the future. To be sure, many of the trees and plants that now fnrnish nectar abundantly are fast being destroyed, but when these are gone, will we not have others to take their place? As the country becomes cleared up of timber, fruit trees are likely to be planted to a considerable extent, which will give the bees a start in the spring. As to the main flow of nectar, some one of the many varieties of clover will take the place of the flowers that now grow wild. We know already what can be done with alfalfa over a large part of the west. Over the eastern part of the country, alsike, sweet, and other clovers will have to take the place of our present flora to a great extent One task lies before us as bee keepers, and that is to teach the farmers to look to their own interest and thus aid us in our chosen pursuit. I believe I would be safe in saying that fifty per cent of the farms in this country would be greatly improved and yield a larger profit to their owners by a judicious use of some one of the many clovers, such as they might find adapted to their soil and climate.

Do not expect your neighbors to demonstrate the value of clover as a farm crop, but take the lead and leave them to follow, which they will not be slow in doing after you have once shown by a practical demonstration that it can be grown and yield a greater net profit than corn or wheat, and while you are about it, show them that you can make more cash per acre out of alsike clover
than they can out of the common red. By this means you will soon have them coming to you for alsike seed, and in a short time you may have acres of it within easy reach of your bees. Many farmers only know two kinds of clover, the common red, and the white, and if some one does not take the trouble to teach them better, they may never be any wiser.

In the opinion of your humble servant, sweet clover is destined to take an important part in the future, not only as a producer of honey, but as a valuable farm crop. Many who allow their fence corners to grow noxious weeds, are inclined to regard sweet clover as a dangerous enemy instead of a useful farm crop, but such prejudice will be overcome as people become wiser.

Bluffton, Mo.

## WAYSIDE FRAGMENTS.

## BY SOMNAMBULIST.

36EIGH-HO! The Progressive has not been forgotten. The portrait of our worthy chief graces the opening page of the American Bee Journal of Mareh 21st. Good, too, (except a little "solemncholy" for him, but no doubt he meant that expression for severe dignity). At any rate, it needs no second glance, (indeed a coup d'oeil will answer, for recognition, and upon the discovery of the same, my best girl clipped and mounted it, and now it claims a place in her album. Don't feel too much flattered, Mr. Editor, for yours is only one of a company of bee folks thus treated.

Those who did no planning the past winter months may find some of their good resolutions in quite a fair way towards spoiling. Owing to the lack of tact, with many, resolutions scarcely keep over night. Spring work is already crowding. Have you forgotten that clover? By neglect we lose money, and perhaps it's not yet too late. With the progressive farmers, Alsike is finding favor over other clovers. The following advantages are claimed for it:

First, Its numerous spreading, branching roots (instead of one long tap-root like medium clover) enable it to entrap more nitrogen than other clovers; consequently, it is the
best fertilizer. 2d, For the same reason it is held more firmly in the soil, and this fact renders it more difficult to freeze out, or in other words, more hardy. 3d, It makes most excellent pasture throughout the season. 4th, It never fails to yield a seed crop, getting in its work ahead of drought and grasshoppers. 5th, It yields more seed to the acre. 6th, seed commands a better price per bushel. 7th, It requires less seed to sow per acre. 8th, It ripens simultaneously with timothy, hence, is adapted to sow with that grass for meadow. 9 th, Being fine-stemmed, stock relish it better. 10th, It affords excellent bee pasturage. 11th, It lasts a number of years, and if permitted to ripen its seed, will re-seed itself almost indefinitely, while medium clover scarcely endures more than two years.

Really it seems it might prove beneficial to get out of the old ruts and try a different track.

Regarding sweet clover, M. M. Baldridge, in Gleanings, says:


#### Abstract

"It may surprise many to learn that the sweet clover plant is of immense value to tanners of leather. A practical tanner, an expert in his profession, assures me that the fraternity can richly afford to pay ten cents per pound or $\$ 200$ per ton for the sweet clover plant when properly prepared for their use."


All of which looks a little like a rift in the clouds. Ah, well! were there no clouds, we should not enjoy the sunshine.

In Gleanings, March 1ōth, B. Taylor calls our attention to his cleated separator, which is formed by two thin strips "cleated together so as to leave a scant $\frac{8}{8}$ space or slot between them length wise, thus furnishing the bees a short cut through rather than compelling them to go all the way around." This lucid writer is serving up some very relishable articles in the Review, in which real everyday life is vividly portrayed, and through which ne expects to do some sadly-needed missionary work. The character of this selfimposed work may be gleaned from one of his sentences, tce vit:
"To aid and encourage such" (referring to the young) "to secure even the humblest homes that are their own, is the highest duty."
He himself having learned that from the simplest mode of living is obtained the greatest amount of pleasure, is dosirous of not alone imparting this knowledge to those following after him, but impressing them with the importance of the same. For example, he speaks of crackers and rich milk being his principal diet. What is more simple, and at once more enjoyable and beneticial? My! how the thought of it makes one's "mouth water." If my memory serves me true, he proposes to practically demonstrate to us that a good living
can be obtained from one acre of ground. Long may he live to shed abroad the light of his liberal Christianity and intellect. I fear there is a class of people, however, with whom his broadmindedness might be considered scarcely "up to date."

This thought was suggested by the reading of an account of a wedding which took place in "one of the richest and most exclusive churches in New York," (according to the writer). There was a new idea to me. First time I ever knew there was anything exclusive about Christianity; in fact. I always thought it to be inclusive, but maybe the last idea is too old-fashioned. Perhaps I've been so sound asleep I've misunderstood matters, and after all it isn't "just the thing" to have a kindliness and hospitable feeling in your heart for "people who are not in your set." Society demands protection, and you know it wouldn't do to letin everybody. Wonder just what the qualifications for entrance into that "exclusive church" would have to be? Surely not the brotherhood of man, for that is entirely inclusive. Oh, yes; I forgot, there's been considerable "kicking" here of late about the introduction of religious matter in bee writings. Beg pardon; I will immediately "right about face" and "forward march."

From Mr. Bittenbender's article in the American Bee Jonrnal on undue "monkeying" with bees, we learn that zeal without knowledge is like fire without light. and he who, with eyes and ears pried open with curiosity and expectancy, follows along this line, is rapidly using the coupons on his ticket to defeat.

Last year I was utterly astonished to read of this one and that one who had completed certain apiarian operations long before I had even looked into the nursery department of my bees. I could not help thinking how clearly indicative this condition of things was of the constitutional nervousness of the American people. In talking on this subject the other day with a woman who has ideas, she declared that mothers pay too much attention to their babies. "The idea!" I hear someone exclaim. Well, this is about the way she ran on:
"They can't let them alone a minute. From the time a child is born into the world, it is trundled and tossed, patted and jumped, until it is a wonder they
ever can keep still as long as they do. Look at my husband-he can't keep still a minute. All the time he's in the house, I am in mortal fear for the furniture, and his especial delight is to select my dear little Chippendale chair upon which to perform his gyrations. You know he is a big man, and when he screws that chair around, first on one leg and then on the other, it is almost more than my nerves can endure, and I am thoroughly satisfied that it's all the result of his mother's tossing and tumbling when he was a baby."

Positively, I know one woman who wakes her baby up if it sleeps a little longer than usual, because she is afraid it may be in a trance or something. Who knows but that this may be just what's the matter with these overzealous or curiosity-stricken, would-be bee keepers? They are afraid their bees have gone into a trance or something. One thing sure, if the intermeddling be kept up long enough, they will be found going into something, and that something will be a decline.

I see some are still harping on the "mutual admiration society" and the deficiencies of apicultural literature of today.

As to the former, I much prefer being a member of said society than occupying a position with the lady to whom her child said:

> "Ma, are all folks bad?"
> "Why, no, child, whatever makes you ask such a question?" replied the mother.
> "Because you've been talking about people all day long, and I've never heard you say anything good of them."

As to the latter, some folks are never satisfied, never can be satisfied, and never will be satisfied, in this world or the next. Their stock in trade is to complain, and without something to complain about they would be miserable. People of this kind-and they are not so rare but that you can put your finger, metaphorically at least, on one
or: more of them most any time-take a real pleasure in being miserable. It seems a strange, paradoxical freak of nature that some seem to prefer to complain, Jike the man who went to heaven and after a short stay there, was asked how he liked it. His ruling passion proclaimed itself in his reply, which was, "Oh, the accommodations are tolerable, but this halo don't fit worth a cent."

I highly bonor the sentiment, "With charity to all and malice to none," and I never did exactly believe in telling tales out of school, but I cannot longer resist the temptation to tell you that W. Z. Hutchinson, of the Review. has "done gone" into the "fortune telling" business, and has called on all the prophets and seers of the fraternity to assist him in rending the purple veil which divides the present from the great future, and ascertaining as near as possible "the future of bee keeping." Eugene Secor, in his response, probably came as near the truth as any of them. Here it is:

[^0]Hasty rides a "high horse" on the subject of a cleanly lubricant for making foundation. He avers that soap, "as usually made, is vile," and that he can taste it "in the top side of a section of honey when only a little bit of foundation is used." And he further declares that instead of getting used to it, his "abhorrence of its faint meanness of flavor" grows "worse from year to year."

The discussion of "honey packages" is now being led by Messrs. France and Aikin in Gleanings. As this is an allimportant subject, anyone having any suggestions to offer or questions to ask,
should speak right out in school, or else they must not feel hurt if their favorite package is neglected. As it now stands, 60 -pound tins have the preference, although it is admitted that "two cans in a box make a package that is is just too heavy and awkward for one man to handle." Methinks I can hear, "That's so," from all over the land.

Here's another fact in Mr. Aikin's article: "We must lessen the cost of retail packages."

I am well aware that the question of deepest concern with beekeepers hereabouts just now, is to get something to put in any kind of package; but never fear; the day will again roll around when matters will be reversed, and we may just as well be preparing ourselves for emergencies, so we shall not be caught asleep, and thereby enable ourselves the better to keep "kool" when the rush arrives.
Truly, yours for the "rush."
Naptown, Dreamland.

## ROSE HILL NOTES.

BY OBSERVER.

W"HEW! What weather! Yesterday and the day before bees were at work on the elms and maples. Today (March 20th) the heaviest snow of the season, nearly six inches deep, is on the ground. Hard on the bees? Yes, I reckon it is, but they are all right so far.

What makes Heddon's Quarterly, due January 1, put in an appearance the 1st of March? Try and be a little more prompt with that April number, James. We all want to see it on time, you know.

Heddon is down on the new "Higginsville cover" that Root, Falconer and others are paying a royalty to manufacture. Now I am a Heddon man,
first, last, and all the time, but not every time, and I'll bet a button, James, that you have never seen or used the new cover, let alone having tested it. It is hardly the fair thing to condemn before trial; that's too much on the Tzar of Russia style. But perhaps James aspires to be the autocrat of all beedom.

And now looming up on the horizon of that apicultural literature that Eriend Heddon says has so degenerated in the last decade, is that young (apiculturally) writer, Emerson Abbott. Bright, glittering, vivacious, self-reliant, he utters his dictum as if he were past master in apicultural lore. But let us see what he has been advocating lately. Tins for spacing frames are long out of date, Friend A., and are as objectionable as the wooden ones you condemn; the bees stick them as plast as they do the wooden onos, and in getting them loose you bend them all out of shape, and it takes time and labor to get them in shape to use again.

Going back to A. I. Root's metal corners are you, Friend A? Now don't. please don't. We have "been there," and know what we are talking about, and it's evident you don't, or you would never advise anyone to tolerate for a moment those abominable nuisances. Why will such a smart man as Abbott advocate such obsolete trumpery?

That worthy "Gleaner" in the American Bee Journal has greatly the ad vantage of us monthly fellows. We'll have to gag him up some way yet, or he'll completely take the wind out of our sails.

Aspinwall has a patent on a sort of wooden comb that he puts in the brood chamber about swarming time to prevent swarming, and after the swarming fever is over, removes them. It won't work, PYou'll see. Too much bother; too much expense; too much
fol-de-rol, say I, and so will you if you try them.

We knew Ernest Root was incubating something to take us in with some time ago, and now he's 'done and gone and done it." That twelve-frame hive is what's the matter now. Say, Friend R., can't you give us a rest? We don't want any more new hives for awhile yet. What we want is more honey, and more money for the honey. Will the twelve-frames give us that?

Just follow Doolittle in his argument in favor of an eight-frame hive, and at the conclusion you would bet your bottom dollar that he was right. Then turn to what the Veteran Dadant has to say, examine his facts and figures, and you're all at sea again. Then let Heddon take the platform, and he'll convince you in five minutes that the divisible brood chamber hive is the ne plus ultra to secure the ducats with, and B. Taylor will endorse all he says, and he ought to know surely. Now what must a poor ignoramus think about it, when the great doctors so disagree? Study your own locality, for LOCALITY is at the bottom of all this seeming disagreoment.

Say, Friend Heddon, now, confidentially, you know, couldn't you let old Uncle Barnard have the honor of originating that divisible brood chamber hive? You got the patent and the ducats-isn't that enough? Come, be a little generous.

Frank Coverdale makes a good point in favor of alsike clover in March 1st Gleanings. Have known of its value for many years, but the farmers in this part of the planet think they know it all, and you can't get them to touch it. More's the pity for them and for us bee keepers.

The Api for February came late (in March in fact) along in company with

Heddon's Quarterly. It is made up of selections and comments from other bee papers mostly, and is so meek and modest this time that we will have to let it pass without giving it our usual compliments.

And now just as the five-banded fellows are disappearing in the dim distance, here come the giant bees of India. Rise up, good friend, and tell us how you secured such a march on the rest of humanity. We want to know, you know, a little more about how you got 'em, where you got 'em, and when you got 'em, etc., etc., before we invest. Been bitten so often before. See?

Rose Hill.

## NOTES IN GENERAL.

W. M. BARNUM.

DID you ever try to move a colony of bees, with combs full of honey, for any considerable distance? If sc, you have probably foresworn the practice long before this. When the combs are filled with nectar, it is reasonably sure to follow that from the jar of moving and the weight of the bees, some of the combs will crack or break luose from the frame, and the result is-a drowned out, dead colony. Ye who have this lesson yet to learn, be wise, and profit by the experience.

A friend from Mississippi writes me that many colonies of bees in his neighborhood are afflicted with this newfangled disease, "bee-paralysis." He says, ''Mr. K.'s bees were the first affected, and he is positive the disease (?) was introduced in his apiary with a queen ordered from a prominent New England breeder. It is certain few Northern queens will be ordered by myself and neighbors hereafter, if this
bs true." Now I wonder if all this be true. If so, it is nearly time we were taking the matter into serious consideration. I pause to ask, to what extent is this subtle "disease" abroad in the land? Is it possible that it has been slyly extending its slimy arms, until it has gained possession of the yards of our leading queen breeders? It is certainly appearing in many far distant portions of our country, and is liable in its "contagious form" to be inoculated into the bees of a whole neighborhood, as is instanced by my southern friend. This is indeed serious. I note that Root is publishing the names of breeders (free) who will not send out a bee while there is such a complaint in their yard. But will this do any material good? We have not got at the solution of the trouble yet, us is quite evident. York suggests in American Bee Journal that bee keepers immediately destroy all colonies so affected. But in how many instances will this be done? Not once in one hundred times! At least not until this matter is taken up and agitated as it should be. If the trouble is as largely disseminated as would appear, official inspectors are in order, and that at once. Where are we at???

The question, "How can our hive covers be improved?" has come up again. I rather like the idea of the new "Higginsville cover," but a man must look after his paraphernalia a little, or the best of it will go to rack and ruin. We need a cover that is as impervious to the weather as possible; one that will neither crack nor warp. Snow is a good protection against cold, but should not be permitted to melt on the hive. Keep the covers as dry as possible.

The question, "Will old or dark-colored combs affect the honey in color or flavor?" was recently asked in the question box of the American Bee

Journal. There were twenty-two replies. One didn't know. Seventeen were of the opinion that if in good condition they would in no-wise affect the honey, while four thought they might in color. This is an interesting census of opinion, and implies that old combs, if clean, and in good condition, are well worth keeping and using. Why is it the bee journals have dropped this most valuable and interesting department? It is in reality the most reliable and valuable part of the good old American Bee Journal.

I want to ask a couple of questions: 1st: How many readers practice outdocr wintering? How many winter in cellar or other repository? Replies to be published, separated and numbered by the editor.

Not much is being said now-a-days about planting for honey. But the day is not far-off when this will be an important matter. Buckwheat and sweet clover have the habit of not always giving forth. Basswood ditto, and the matter of planting special boney plants has been voted down. Now this is hardly a satisfactory condition of af-fairs-what have we to depend on? Will alfalfa or lucerne help us out? Let's have a discussion of this subject in these columns.

Grass is a great detriment in the bee yard, and how best to keep it down is quite a problem. Salt ashes and sawdust are expensive, and mowing is a nuisance. I noticed a suggestion in an exchange the other day that struck me as being worthy of trial. The writer advocated keeping a pet sheep in the yard; claiming that it would keep the grass down effectually, and be no annoyance to the bees. I have never known of a sheep being stung, and believe it a good plan. Try it, and report.

Denver, Colo.

# RAINFALL.-HANDLING HIVES AND FRAMES. 

C. W. DAYTON.

VrP to present date we have had twelve inches of rainfall. Six inches more in March or April, and we can count upon a heavy crop of honey with consid, rable certainty. In the winter of 1893-94 there was only three and one half inches, which all came before the 10 th of January. Our coldest weather comes in January and Febru-ary-not intense enough to freeze earth, but frosty enough to nip the tenders plants. Then the middle of the days do not get much warmer than the nights, which kind of weather is rather retarding to vegetation. It wants rain and warmth, as well, to make plants grow. Where the rain comes in December, the cold of January is pretty sure to hold back vegetable growth until the moisture is lost in evaporation. When the weather wal ms up in March, the sages are soon chcked out by the heat of the sun. This year we had $s^{\prime}$ ow ers in December, more in January, and a good shower in February, which started vegetation nicely. This, without more, cannot bring a bountiful har-vest-not more than twenty-five or fifty pounds to the hive. In some particularly well favored localities, like the north side of a steep mountain, the yield might be a little more because the moisture would not be dried out in such places. There is bound to be honey in such localities except in seasons like that of 1894 , when we had next thing to no rain at all. In some localities white sage is the more plentiful, and in others black or blue sage. Black and blue grow on the north sides of mountains, but white prefers the south slopes.

Fully one-half of the bees of this country died during 1894, and I have examined apiaries where I had to rap
upon many bives before receiving the response of a live colony. I doubt if there was a season in the past fifteen years which would not have yielded at least twenty-five pounds of surplus to the hive. Only one season failed, and I believe if I could try that season over again, there would be a yield of fifty pounds to the hive. I prepared to get a big yield, but got nothing. Had I prepared to get a little, I would have gotten it. Many bee keepers center all their energies upon getting a big yield; others upon selling; others. economy of time. Either of these practiced to excess will bring failure sooner or later. The rne which is being practiced to excess now, is econnmy of time. It is advised to handle hives more, and frames less. This advice may be gocd for him who is thoroughly up or posted on the business, but if adopted by those who are coming into the business, it leaves them no chance to become posted. Such bee keepers cannot succeed except under the most favorahle conditions. By failures and difficulties, characters, as bee keepers, are formed.
I was reading lately of the "helps" which had been provided to study the "lessons" in schnols and churches, and the denunciation of such "helps" because it does not afford to the learner the same degree of understanding as the "good old way." While there is truth in not handling the bees at every time the notions of the beginner might suggest, beginners are as liable to neglect exactly that part of the work that a veteran would deem very necessary, and where the veteran would enjoy the necessary manipulation, the less experienced would hold more or less dread. For example, I have known several beginners who would keep a small amount of boney in the hives. not so much but it was necessary to examine and supply food every week or so. Their method involved the opening of hives and the
disturbance of the colonies. Besides, it there were 200 colonies, it would take a large amount of time. A better way, and, in fact, the only practicai plan, is to keep enough honey in the hives that it can be ascertained by hefting the hives whether the colony has enough. Just lift the back end of the hive with one hand. In moving the bees to a new location, I would set the lightest hives in a row by themselves, so as to give them special attention.

I notice in the Quarterly that a presser foundation fastener is better than the melte $d$ wax machine, because the press drives the wax into the grain of the word, which the melted wax does not. I object to this on the ground that if the melted wax is hot enough when applied, it will sink farther into the wood than by any amount of pressure. But then comes the question of how to get the wax hot enough. Simply by having the iron hot. Then, instead of sloping the hot iron so as to drain the melted wax back out of the section, the iron should slope forward. As the ircn is withdıaun from the section, it will cause the sheet of foundation to sweep a quantity of hot wax, which always remained out, upon the wood. This hot wax will adhere firmly to the wood, while it also melts and adheres to the sheet of foundation. By using so hot wax. it requires much time before the fastening will cool enough to be removed from the machine. To overcome this difficulty, I prepare three imposing blceks to revolve on a pivot so that when a section has the foundation fastened, the section, together with the foundation and imposing block supporting the foundation, may be revolved to one side, while another block and section by the same operation is brought into position to receive the foundation.

Florence, Cal.

## NEBRASKA NOTES.

MRS. A. L. HALLENBECK.

F notoriety counts for anything in securing happiness, James Heddon must surely be a happy man. I have been looking over the bee journals for March, and the name that is seen there the most frequently is Heddon. Perhaps he is doing as one of the teachers at our teachers' meeting a short time ago did-taking the negative side of the question just to see how much argument could be brought up for the affirmative. If so, he ought to be pleased with the result. Queer that he could wish to take a part in bee literature of today, when it is such a degenerated thing as he claims it to be.

What is the future to bring us as bee keepers? Seems to be the opinion of some of our ablest authors and writers on the subject-Doolittle being one of them-that the production of honey in the future will be combined with other pursuits and made a specialty less frequently if the bist results are secured. The past year has been one of trial to most Nebraska bee keepers. Probably one-half the bees that went into winter will die of starvation b-fore spring. Those managed in a "hit or miss" manner, will be mostly on the "miss" list when the time for roll call comes in the near future. Many are dead now, and more will starve before any honey flow comes. Only those who have their heart in the work will bear the expense and take the necessary trouble to properly care for them, and supply the food necessary to carry them through till honey comes.

The Kansas Bee Journal speaks with great earnestness in favor of alfalfa as a crop for our locality and others that suffer from drouth. Were it to be generally sown, and do as well as those
recommending it say it will, it would be a great thing for us. .

About fifteen miles from us is a large tract of land that is devoted to seed raising to supply the seeds sold by the large Omaha seed houses. Squashes, melons, cucumbers, and other vegetables, are raised by the acre for their seeds. In that locality bees did well last year, and stored a good surplus in spite of the dry weather. If our future seasons are to be a repetition of the past season, it seems as though it would be well for us to devote more of our land to the clovers-alfalfa, alsike, and sweet clover-and such garden crops as yield honey and bring good returns as vegetables besides, and less to the allprevailing crop of Nebraska, corn.

How many of the "Progressive's" have made arrangements for the family garden the coming season? To show that I believe that those who preach should practice also, I will tell you that our little greenhouse-a homemade affair that cost very little except the making it, which was all done ry one boy not yet out of his teens-at present (March 11th) contains thrifty plants of all the varieties of vegetables that can be started in this way. Jack Frost may come around if it suits him, but he can't get in, and the plants grow and grow and GROW.

Our bees, were out about March 1st. All were alive and in good condition. All were fed alike last fall, and all had stores sufficient except one colony. I wonder if anyone can tell why one colony should consume so much more than the rest? I looked them all over, and found plenty in all the other hives. There could have been no robbing, as they are wintered in the cave.

I made some big cakes of sugar candy and placed over the frames, and sat down beside the hive and watched them go to work at it before I covered them up again. Heddon does not appear to think bees can use cakes of sugar, but
somehow or other the cakes I gave some of my hives last December have about all disappeared, and the bees are in as fine condition as anyone could wish.
Millard, Nebraska.

## FIVE-BANDED BEES.

E. W. MOORE.

aGREAT many of our leading bee keepers seem to think that the five-banded bees are a cross between the three-banded Italians and the Cyprians, and this may be true to a certain extent. I know that we can start with a black virgin queen, and have her mated to a pure Italian drone, and in five generations, by having all mated by pure Italian drones, we can have as light-colored five-handed bees as anyone can from pure Italians or a cross between Italians and Cyprians.

Extra light-colored bees were known in this country before the advent of the Cyprian to America. (Some three years ago, Prof. Flanery offered queens more than pure. This year (1870) Madame the Baroness Berlepsch tells us that Dzierzon, in Germany, has offered bees with four yellow bands.Dadant Illustrated Journal, 1870.) As the Cyprian bee was not introduced in Europe until in 1872, there could not have been any Cyprian blood in Dzierzon's bees, two years before.

Ernest Root seems to think that there is a chance for Bro. Doolittle to be mistaken about there not being any Cyprian blood in his golden Italians. Granted that Bro. D. is mistaken, how about those extra light-colored bees that Bro. D. commenced breeding in 1870, and there were not any Cyprian bees introduced into this country until 1880 or 1881. Don't you think that queen had an unusually long wedding trip to meet that Cyprian drone?

So, friends, you see that the extra light-colored or four-banded bees were bred in Germany by Dzierzon two years before the Cyprians were introduced into Europe, and Doolittle and others speak of them about ten years before any Cyprians were brought to America.

I believe that by selecting and paying close attention to our queens and drones, any bad trait that our pure Italian bee may have can be bred out of them, but when you go to breeding queens for beauty, in nearly every case we will overlook all other good points. I am satisfied that there are a great many five-banded bees in America today that have Cyprian blood in them, and this I think accounts for some of them being su cross. I know by experience that extra light-colored bees bred from a black queen and an Italian drone are the poorest of any in the production of honey, and I believe if there are any five-banded bees that are equal to the three-banded Italian, they must have been bred from the three-banded variety of Italians. If there are any "golden Italian bees," and I am not positive that there are, as all my experience has been to the contrary. I know of a yard of sixty stands of threeb.nded Italians that have been kept pure, and they havn't any tendency to yellow, but show their marking as true today as they did ten years ago when their mothers came from Italy. I believe that the largest part of our fivebanded bees are from crossing with the black bee, and not from the pure threebanded Italian, notwithstandiug all reports to the contrary.

Seigert, Ind.
MORE ABOUT FIVE-BANDED REES.
W. R. THOMPSON.

HE goods ordered of you some time ago came through all O. K. I have put ten of the hives in shape for
business, and must say that the "Higginsrille Hive Covers", are ahead of anything I ever saw.
The month of February was a very severe one in this section of the country, and my bees suffered considerably. Up to the present time I have lost four colonies. Several of my neighbors also report losses.

I bought two of the five-banded queens last summer. Sold one to a neighbor bee keeper. A few days ago I called on this man, and on inquiring as to how his bees were wintering, he said, "Let's go and see." On arriving at the apiary, we found that five out of his seven colonies had perished. These five-banders had handed in their checks with an abundance of honey within one and one-half inches of the main cluster. Strange to say, my goldens were among the four that perished in my apiary and in the same conditions as the above colony.

We winter our bees on the summer stands. Perhaps this has something to do with their dying, but why not our blacks and leather-colored Italians in like conditions?

The above is all the experience I have had with the goldens, and they have not placed themselves at the head of the list with me as the bee for business.

The "Sting Trowel Theory"-what is it? I am unable to say. A few summers ago, when I first began keeping bees, several times, immediately after opening the hives, I noticed bees sliding their stings over the freshly-capped honey. What they were doing I cannot positively say, but after closely watching them, I concluded they were glazing the cappings.

On page 82, American Bee Journal, Dr. Miller gives the dovetailed hive quite a send-off. Well, Dr., you are quite right, as far as my opinion goes. As to the corners, if they are correctly nailed and properly painted, they will
last about as long as the balance of the hive. So far they have given entire satisfaction in this locality.

Harrisonville, Ills.

SOME THINGS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN OR PRACTICED.
D. E. KEECH.

2CROP of buckwheat can be raised after wheat or oats, and thus get two crops on the same ground in one year. Get the wheat or oats off, and sow the buckwheat any time in July, and it is all right here, (so far as being caught by frost is concerned). We have done this for years, and think it pays well.

To renew an alsike clover meadowafter clover is harvested, break up the ground and sow to buckwheat. The following spring plow again, and sow to oats, and when oats are harvested, the ground will be reset to clover (or ours was).

To get tomato plants or melon and squash vines transplanted in good shape-cut down paper sacks, fill with dirt, and either plant the seeds in these or transplant the plants from the boxes into them, and when time to transplant them to the garden, just set sack and all in the ground, and thus leave the roots uninjured (so we think).

To get bees in good shape to winter well-leave only seven sash in an eightframe brood chamber, as the bees can get more pounds of honey in seven than in eight, and it leaves space for bees to cluster. Also, using seven combs in upper story for extracting from, saves uncapping and gives more store room for bees, as seven sash will hold more than eight.

Dates at which honey secreting may be expected in this latitude:


Martinsville, Mo.

## OUR LETTER BOX.

EDDIE KULE'S LETTER.

JeR. EDITOR-I thought as spring is going to smile on you again before long, (and perhaps if she sees some poor bee keeper in despair, she will laugh rite out-and does not that make a man mad when nature laughs and teases him in all sorts of ways, because he is launched in his own soup?) that I would search around inside the thick walls of my "top knot" and see if there is anything that would enlighten my brothers on the subject. But my efforts have been something like father's shotgun - shoots behind the hardest.
It's just about this way: Good wintering means good springing; good springing means good crops of honeyand, and, good crops of honey means good hot cakes; and good hot cakes means good health; and good health means much happiness; and much happiness means a host of friends; and a host of friends is what a bee keeper wants when his bees get cross or bother the good wives of the farmers when
they are preparing the jams, jellies, and all the other dainty sweets which the old farmer women are not slow at compounding.

But to keep to the text: You notice some bees come out in the spring in much better condition than others that had the same kind of protection. Why is this? It must be in the bjes and not the hive protection, etc. If you wish your bees to winter well, you should have young, old, and middle-aged bees in the hive at the beginning of winter, with a greater per cent of the former. And another thing which has some bearing, is a "crowded cabin," where every fellow blows his neighbor's nose when it gets cold in frosty days. And, again, you need just enough bees-not more than enough, or not enough. For when you have enough just to cover thickly about five frames, you have a good colony to start into winter with, provided the age is all right. The most successful bees we ever wintered were those having four or five frames covered with bees, with from eighteen to twenty-two pounds of honey and sugar stores, but we always gave them a fresh supply of syrup about the first of May.

And still you notice some bees don't come out at all in the spring, unless you place the combs they roosted on into a strong colony or put a swarm in the hive thus affected, when they come out in little pieces, like the contents of father's pocket-book when mother wants some hair vigor, anti-bilious pills, or something like that.

That's the way I don't like my bees to come out in the spring, for it makes a fellow feel like Jonab did when he was in the whale - "down in the mouth."

What kind of bees swarm the oftenest, and each following swarm is the largest? Yellow jackets. If you don't believe it, first throw a stone into a colony, wait until they settle, then sick your dog in; await to settle again, and
then jump in yourself; and if you don't think the last swarm is the largest, write me. Eddie Kule.

Bogville, Ark.
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## He Wants to Know.

"When doctors disagree, who shall decide?" I have been reading the Progressive now for over a year for information, and am as much at sea as when [ first started in. It may be plain sailing to those old salts, but to a land lubber like me it is all Dutch. Now one man says the "Roots" grow on top; another says there are no "Roots" at all. 'One says Heddon is all right; another, Heddon is all wrong. One says the Higginsville hive is perfection; another, that Root has it. One says the five-banded Italian is the bee; another says they are too lazy to live through the winter and won't gather any huney. One says the Italians won't sting if you kick the bive over and roll it around; another says they will go for you on sight. One man speaks of cornering a queen up between two pieces of comb, and contining her there. Now I would like to know, first, how to find her; then how to corner her, and what would the other bees be doing in the meantime? Now my bees are a business set of little fellows and will resent any intrusion. They may be Italians, and may not; some have stripes and some have not, but I think they are the little black bse. At all events they exercise their authority when I undertake to trespass on their domain. One man speaks of mating his queans with pure bred drones. Now I understand breeding horses and hogs, but how am I to confine my queen with the kind of drone I want? Now I simply plead ignorance. It may all be A, B, C, to our Solons of apiculture, but to me, a greenhorn, it is all mystery. It is to mo like starting a child in algebra who does not understand simple addition. Now what I ask is for you, Mr. Editor, or some of your able contributors, to give us some plain, common-sense talk, (such as a greeny can understand) all about the management of a colony from the
time the swarm comes out; best way to hive them; the proper time to put on the sections or caps; and so on through the season; if better to house them in winter or not; and how you can tell when they need feeding; the best method of feeding, and the best feed to feed them. No doubt these questions appear simple to a full-fledged apiarist, but to a beginner they are all important, to me at least. I have about 25 colonies, some in the Higginsville, some in the Quinby, and some in the common box hive. I put them all in an open shed built for them last fall (that is, open on the south and east, the north and west tight) two shelves, one above the other, for the stands to sit on. There are sany amount of dead bees scattered over the floor, but every hive sends out lots of bees every warm day. I have not taken them out yet. What is the cause of so many dead bees? Is it for want of honey, or is it a natural consequence? Now if some of your correspondents will give us greenies some good schoolmaster talk, instead of so much criticism, it will not only benefit me, but many other beginners. I look for them to criticise me, but maybe I can stand it. Thos. J. Edwards.

Blosser, Mo.
THE PROGRESSIVE BEE KEEPER
Published monthly by Leahy M'F'G. Co.
R. B. Leahy, .-....... Editor.

Terms-50c a year in advance. Two copies, 80c; five, $\$ 1.75$; ten, $\$ 3.00$.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., APRIL 1, 1895.
April 1st. Prospects at this date are good for a fruit and honey crop. We have had no late severe freezes, and today we are having some nice warm April showers. With no mishaps from now on, we will surely get a "barrel" of-honey. (?)

Beeswax is coming in quite freely from the bee keepers: so are orders for comb foundation. We will pay thirty cents per pound for good beeswax delivered at our railroad station, provided you will take it in bee keepers' supplies. This offer is good for thirty days.

We took our bees out of the cellar March 30th, and they are in excellent condition. These bees were wintered
in a cellar 8 x 8 feet, and eight feet high. In this same cellar we kept our vegetables, and made visits to it about twice a week for something needed in the family. We know this is against the rule, but the bees wintered well all the same. Of course care was taken at each visit to the cellar not to disturb the bees, and to stay no longer than necessary to get what was wanted. The contents of this cellar was forty hives of bees, ten bushels of potatoes, two bushels of turnips, one bushel of onions, and some other things.

Springeield, Mo.
Mister leahy - do you have bees up to Higginsville that's about a foot long? Why, what makes me think so? well, I see you got some big whoppers advertised on the front of "progressive." Maybe you don't know how much them bees has growed since they was hatched last summer. now you just look at 'em flyin over that woman down thare what's tryen to hive some bees down thare by the creek. It makes me skeered to took at them bees-about one and a half of them bees up there would fill one of the hives under that tree. Why ain't the woman afraid of them awful big bees? you'd better tell the woman to go home-I'm 'fraid they'll sting her. hittle Tommy Tailor.
"Little Tommy Tailor," I think I have you spotted. Say, Tommy, people say things look different to a fellow "up a tree." Now if you were away over yonder where that woman stands, and were up that tree, and would look away out this way where those bees "a foot long'" are flying, I don't think they would look so large. Do you? Tommy, when you get old like me, and have to wear spees, things will look differently to you.

On page 104 we publish a letter from Mr. Thomas Edwards. We publish it as it illustrates the sentiment of many letters we receive. Mr. Edwards has read the Progressive for more than a year, and it has never told bim what a queen bee looks like. It has not told him that the way to get his queen mated by Italian drones is to have plenty of said drones near at hand and remove all other kinds, and many other things that were past and laid down in text books fifty years ago. The spirit of the bee journal is, or ought to be, to bring to light that which is new. For instance, if Jim Jones or Ben Brown has stumbled on to some new method to control swarming, has a superior race or strain of bees, or has a new hive or other devices whereby he can handle his honey crop more expeditiously or
get better returns from his bees, then the whole bee keeping fraternity wants to know about it, and the mission of the bee journal is to disseminate this information, and not to tell some timid person that he or she must get a smoker and veil or a pair of gloves. Now, friends, if you know nothing about bees, go and see some of your near neighbors who keep bees, ask a lot of questions and borrow a bee book, or, better still, buy a book for yourself. Then read through twice. practice what it teaches, and I assure you that within one year you will be an enthusiastic bee keeper, a supply dealer, and very likely the inventor of the "best bee hive on earth." That was what befell me at least.

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