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MOON'S
BEE WORLD.

A GUIDE TO BEE-KEEPERS.

VOLUME I.

NOVEMBER, 1873. 74

NUMBER 1.

[For the Bee World.]

Apicultural Ignorance and Superstition.

Great progress has been made in the science of Apiculture within the last quarter of a century. Twenty-five years ago but little, comparatively, was known of the natural history of the Bee, and that little was confined to the few who had given years of study to this wonderful insect. But since the introduction of the Movable Frame, which forms the great epoch in Apiculture, profuse light has been shed upon the internal workings of the hive. The mysteries of bee-keeping have, to a great extent, been solved, and now all bee-keepers are, or should be, as familiar with the habits and instincts of the Bee, and with the laws under which it acts, as with those of their domestic animals.

And yet it is a fact, however much we may regret it, that ignorance and even superstition, in relation to api-

culture, prevail to a remarkable degree with a large class of the bee-keepers of our country. It is not a little mortifying to the intelligent apiarist to find this class of persons generally cherishing their ignorance, refusing to be enlightened, and maintaining with the most dogged obstinancy their absurd and silly views. I have often been amused, although at the same time pitying their lack of knowledge, while listening to these wise-*à*-cre descending upon "Bee ology." Permit me to refer to a few of the theories entertained by such persons:

One gentleman, residing not a thousand miles from my place, a farmer of considerable worth, and on common subjects professing ordinary intelligence, maintains that the Queen is the "King" of the hive, while the drones are the wives of his *harem*, and the mothers of the colony. Consistent with this theory, he believes in encouraging the breeding of drones,

holding with some that the greater the number of mothers, the more populous will be their colony. He argues in support of his view of the gender of drones the unanswerable argument, that he has "often squeezed the eggs out of them."

Another thinks "bad luck" will attend his bees if he sells a hive, but it will be all right to let it be stolen. If a person gets any of his bees he must steal them, leaving their value on the stand from which they are taken.

Another believes in "luck," thinks he must make *confidants* of all his bees, and must actually tell them of all his troubles. His neighbors informed me that he was known to put this theory into practical operation. On one occasion at least, the death of a member of his family, he placed himself in due form before his colonies, and unburdened to them his troubled heart. If his bees did well after that, of course it was attributed to his compliance with the laws of "luck."

In the fall of 1868 I purchased a few stocks in box hives from one of these superstitionists. He was the wisest man (in his own conceit) on the subject of bees that I have ever met. I don't think Langstroth, or Quinby, or Moon, or any half dozen such, all together, could hold a candle to him. There was but little on the subject he did *not* know, and but little any one else *did* know. He gave me an item or two of information, that I think worth giving to the apicultural world. I have read all I could lay hands on relating to bees, but never come across this in print:

After I had purchased my hives and

paid him for them, he asked me when I intended to move them. I told him I would take them away with me then. With a very ominous shake of the head, he said, "It won't do, if you move them now you will have no luck with them." I, of course, did not want to have "bad luck" with my bees after I had spent my money for them, nor did I want to have to travel back seven or eight miles for them at another time, and I was disposed to ask for the *whys* and *wherefores* of his prediction. He then, in a very candid and solemn manner, as if revealing to me an important secret, informed me that "bees should never be moved on any other day than the 22nd of February. If you move them any other day, you will be certain to have bad luck with them."

"Why so?" I naturally again inquired.

"I never move bees on any other day, and I always have good luck with them," was his answer, and then in a very fatherly tone he continued: "If you want to have good luck in any thing, you should never leave home on the 22nd of February; you should not borrow or lend on that day, nor buy or sell, nor do any thing else but attend strictly to your own affairs at home, then you will always be lucky."

As I could not see how I could "stay at home" on the 22nd of February, and at the same time go several miles after my bees, I concluded to take them with me then, notwithstanding these admonitions. But I paid dearly for my incredulity, as the sequel will show. I got my bees home in good condition, and in due time housed them

for the winter. But when the 22nd of February came, I had not a bee left to chide me for my folly. The only consolation I had, was in learning that *all* the bees of my ocular friend had also "gone to that bourne whence no bee ever returns." This was the season when the Dysentery was so fatal.

I could give other similar instances, but my article is already too long. It is the province of Bee Journals, and the duty of writers for them to endeavor to dissipate this ignorance and superstition, and to disseminate truth in its stead.

M. C. HESTER.

Charlestown, Ind., Oct. 31, 1873.

[For the Bee World.]

OUR INTEREST.

Mr. Editor:

DEAR SIR.—I am truly glad to know that you have turned your attention to the interest of us, "the Beekeepers of the South."

I will give all the aid now in my power to the building up of a Journal in the South, and if my pen can do any thing for the good of the people, I promise that it shall not remain idle.

EXPERIENCE IN BEE CULTURE FOR TWO YEARS IN DESOTO COUNTY, MISS.

I am not able to give a flattering report from my Apiary for the past two seasons. I commenced with about ten stands in the box and round hive. I purchased from Col. J. K. Rugg, of Nashville, the county right to the Mitchell Patent Buckeye Bee Hive, and transferred into that, in the spring, all save one that set near the drip on the north side of my dwelling, which froze. I was so eager to get my bees

in their new home, that I put them in too early, and gave them no honey—consequently the first four or five swarms died. When I had finished transferring, and my bees began to gather honey and do well, I had about five stands. I had bought some during the transferring season, and my whole loss was about eight. I had eleven. I let two of them swarm, which made me thirteen. From that number I lost one in the latter part of the summer, which leaves me twelve. Ten of them were in good condition, and gave me a surplus of from \$5,00 to \$12,00 each; from the other two I received nothing. The honey harvest began on the last days of April, and continued through the month of May, and from that time until the Golden rod opened in the fall I got no surplus.

I had to commence to feed three stands early in the spring of 1873, and they all came through safe to swarming time and the honey harvest without any loss. The honey harvest was about the same as last year. My twelve colonies increased to twenty-six. I then thought that I would experiment in the making of a swarm out of a hive that had an abundance of bees, and one morning when I was walking around from hive to hive, I chanced to see a queen crawling on the platform in front of the hive. I thought that was the very idea. I caught her in my cage and then removed the hive from the old stand that I wanted to divide, and placed a new one in its stead, and thoughtlessly let the old queen go in the new hive. The bees went in and I had a fair

size swarm of bees, and they went to work building comb, &c., but to my surprise, when I examined carefully for the brood, there was none; then for the eggs and found none; then for the queen and she was not there. I then secured some of the comb with eggs and brood, and put in and raised me a queen, but too late to save the colony. I lost two after swarms in the summer, (starved to death.) I lost two of the old colonies, and I thought they were of the best I had, until I noticed that they were too far gone to save. They were entirely eaten up by the moth, and one of them was the one from which I took the queen when I made my first swarm.

I have taken and sold and eat about \$10 to the old colonies, at 25 cents per pound. My surplus is almost entirely in the season when the poplar is in bloom.

Finding some difficulty with the Buckeye, I determined to remedy the evil by building a hive of my own, which I did, and with some more improvements I will have a hive suited to our climate.

I am anxious for the success of your undertaking, and hope you will establish a journal in the reach of all the poor people, and that will be welcomed in every family in the South.

Your friend,

W. R. BAKER.

Hernando, Miss., Oct. 16th, 1873.

[For the Bee World.]

Mr. Editor:

DEAR SIR:—I am pleased to hear that you are about to devote your time and talents to bee culture in the South,

making your head quarters at Rome, Ga. I sincerely hope you will be successful, not only in teaching the new method of handling bees in the Movable Comb Hives, but also pecuniarily, for I think you will surely deserve to be.

I have not been as successful with my bees as I should have been. Last winter I gave them too much ventilation, and the consequence was I lost some thirteen colonies. I shall pursue a different course this winter, and hope to be able to report in the spring that I have saved every colony.

Upon inquiry among bee keepers from the country, I find that the bees have done remarkably well along the rivers and on the bottom lands. On the high grounds, particularly in the pine districts, the reports are not so good.

I am now pretty well posted, and hope to be very successful next season.

Respectfully, W. H. FULTON.

Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 15, 1873.

(For the Bee World.)

A Bee Journal South Needed.

Mr. Editor—I am glad to hear that you contemplate publishing a Journal in the South devoted exclusively to Bees. I am always glad to hear of Southern industry and enterprise of any rural branch. I think such a Journal, as well as one devoted exclusively to Poultry, is very much needed in the South, where I am told the Bee flourishes. I think of nothing better calculated to awaken the enterprise and advance the interest of the

farmers, the mechanics, the old and invalids of both sexes generally.

It looks too bad for the South to depend on the North for Apicultural papers. The same care and management of Bees, and other stock, is not required in the Sunny South, as in the North, and I may so say of Agriculture generally. Therefore the South must and should have her own Bee and Agricultural Journals. I have thought that we had Bee Journals enough for the whole country, and I do think three good steady ones enough, but they are all published in the North. We should by all means have one in the South. These being all published in the north, as a general thing are full of conflicting theories and practices, to such an extent that the *Novices* are bothered what course to pursue, "*Who is right,*" whose hive is best to buy, &c. &c? Now in my opinion half of all this conflicting opinions could be avoided by publishing one of the Journals in the South. I do not say this as one prejudiced against the North. I am for the whole country, earnestly wishing to see rural enterprise in the South as in the North, and what lover of his country does not.

I wish to see a Journal started that will be destined to stand firm for many years, and advocate every branch of Apiculture, that it may be worth ten times its price of subscription. But all sharks, swindlers and hive venders of the world (Bee men,) who know no more about bees and their management than Barnum, should be exposed through its columns, and the people protected from such sharks, who

care only for the money. There is my next door neighbor, who in 1860 lived five miles from me, and sent \$10 by express for a Buckeye hive and right. No hive nor answer. He writes to express agent, gets his answer that the \$10 was received by the *shark*. We have every other evidence that the shark got the \$10, pocketed it and whistled. I told my neighbor that even if the hive had come it was not worth twenty-five cents, to say nothing of the express on it. Now, Mr. Editor, when I have the evidence in my hands, and so far as you will permit, I will say what I please against this sort of sharks. For I believe that hundreds of men, as nice and honest gentlemen as my neighbor have been swindled the same way.

I will not be understood as referring to all parties. Some are perfectly honest men, and their patents good ones. But I think that out of about one hundred patents, about five are fit to put bees in. But I have said enough without telling any thing about bees. My next article will be on hives; and I hope to be able to be in each number with an article, *not on sharks*, but on Bees, hereafter. I will close this article by wishing the BEE WORLD great success, and the sharks in the Gulf of Mexico. R. M. ARGO.

Lowell, Ky., Oct. 20th, 1873.

[For the Bee World.]

*How to Introduce Virgin Queens
and make New Colonies.*

Mr. Editor:

Take your Queen Nursery and put into each cage, between the tins, a few cells of sealed honey in new comb, or

a small piece of sponge, well saturated with honey, for feed for the hatching queens, so that they will not starve if the bees fail to feed them. Now cut from the combs as many queen cells as you have prepared cages in the nursery, and suspend one in each cage with the sealed end downwards, as found in the combs, remembering, always, never to jar or compress the cells in any way, and also to see that you have good, large, perfect cells, and generally not cut from the combs before the ninth or tenth day.

The cages of the nursery being thus supplied with feed for the queens when they hatch, and a good, perfect queen cell in each, the doors of the cages are to be closed, and adjusted in the nursery frame.

Then remove from a strong colony one of its centre combs, and introduce the nursery into its place, to remain until the queens emerge from the cells. As they emerge, each cage containing a virgin queen, may be removed from the nursery and placed in one of the adjacent combs of the same colony, on either side of the nursery, by cutting out a piece among the brood large enough for the cages. Then each comb, separately, with the cages and all the adhering bees, is removed and placed in a new hive between two combs of hatching brood, taken from other colonies, the bees being brushed off. On the next day, near sundown, each of these new colonies so made may be opened, and the combs, bees and queens, well sprayed with perfumed sweetened water, and the queens set at liberty by opening the door of the cages, she can pass out while the

bees are engaged cleaning the spray off of themselves, combs and queen, and receive her kindly, being of the same scent, and hatched in the same hive. As soon as the queens become fertilized and laying, add more combs of hatching brood from other stocks to each new colony, brushing the bees from the combs added back into their own stands, repeat these additions of brood and combs until your new stocks are complete. Thus we can raise and introduce virgin queens into new colonies with general safety. The cages can be removed from the new colonies in a day or two after the queens are set at liberty. While doing this you can see if your young queens are all safe.

If we use all black stocks in this method we can soon convert them into Italians, if we use none but pure Italian queen cells. Each comb in the nursery colony becomes the active workers in the new ones, and the brood from other black colonies adds to the supply, until the new queen's brood begins to hatch. JEWELL DAVIS.

Charleston, Ill., July 1873.

[For the Bee World.]

Bee Keeping.

Mr. Editor:

In this article we do not intend to soar away up into the different breeds of bees, like some do, but simply tell how we keep bees "to hum."

TRANSFERRING.

We are aware that this subject has been hacked at so much that there is not much left, but still we think it will

bear a little more cutting for the sake of beginners.

In the spring after the fruit trees have begun to bloom we begin :

We first carry the stock to a spot shaded from the sun, turn it up and put an empty box on the bottom, and drive out the bees by drumming on the side of the hive. We then pry off the side of the hive, cut the first comb out, and fasten it into the frame, (as it stands in the hive) with thorns driven into the comb through holes in the sides of the frame. After all the combs have been transferred we brush the bees out of the box into the new hive, and set it on the old stand. It is impossible to get all the bees out by drumming, and we brush those remaining into the new hive as we take the comb out. We do not put much honey in, but every piece of brood we can save. We find it best to transfer in a room where robbers cannot trouble us.

QUEEN RAISING.

We begin to raise queens about the same time we transfer. We unqueen the hive we wish to raise from, and have it queenless nine days. We have small boxes made, large enough to hold two of the frames of the hive we are using (we never use more than one kind of hive.) To make a nucleus we take two combs from a strong stock, with the adhering bees and put them into one of these boxes ; but in making several we break a strong stock up and divide the bees and combs between four boxes. At the end of nine days open the queenless hive and count the cells, and for every cell make a nucleus (as we only raise queens for our own

use, we never have more than eight nuclei, and if we have any surplus cells we destroy them.) We fasten all up but those that have queens (these we leave on the old stand) and put them into a dark cellar, and leave them there till the next day after sunset, when we set them out where we intend them to stay, and open the entrance. The next morning we cut the cells out and give one to each nucleus, by inserting them in the comb. We then return the queen to the hive we raised the cells in. In a few days the cells hatch, and in five or six days from that time they go out to mate with the drone, and then we have surplus queens for swarming or to introduce to queenless stocks. On looking over this it looks rather obscure to us.

1. It may be asked what we do with the queen when we take her away to raise cells. We have a box made large enough to hold one frame; we then remove the comb the queen is on, with the adhering bees, and place this nucleus some distance from the hive, till the cells are raised and removed, when we return the whole thing to the hive again.

2. What we mean by fastening up all the nuclei except those that have queens, is, if we break up one stock we have four nucleus, one which will have the queen; this we leave on the old stand and fasten the other three up and put them in a cellar.

3. In breaking up a stock we do not mean the one we are raising cells in.

4. While the bees are fastened up in the boxes we take care to give them air. We do this by boring holes in

each end of the box and cover it with wire cloth, before the bees are put in.

5. These nuclei can be joined in the fall, thus making up the original swarm.

6. Great care should be taken in cutting out cells. We cut about an inch from the base, and when inserted in another comb, should stand in the same position in which they were built.

ARTIFICIAL SWARMING.

We advise the beginner not to undertake this till he thinks he is able to stand the buzz of the GENTLE bee, and not get scared like we did the first time we tried it. (Ah! we were a hopeful bee-keeper in those days.) However, we give our plan, which is generally followed by most of bee-keepers. We simply select as many strong stocks as the hive we are using has frames; we then take a comb with adhering bees from the centre of each stock, putting an empty frame in its place, being careful not to remove any of the queens, put them in the new hive; we then give it a queen from one of our nuclei, set it where we want it, and the swarm is made.

INTRODUCING QUEENS.

We follow no particular plan, for it depends altogether on the disposition of the bees. We have removed one queen and then put another right in, and the bees did not molest her, and then again we had to keep them caged for a week sometimes before they would take them.

We generally remove the queen twenty-four hours before we introduce another. We then cage the queen to be introduced—put the cage between

two combs and keep it there for forty-eight hours (we feed her every day, by saturating a sponge with honey and placing it in the cage,) at the end of which time, if the bees are not hostile towards her, we let her go. When making swarms it is not necessary to cage the queen, but as soon as the swarm is made carry a queen to the entrance and let her go. If any one concludes to follow our plans and does not succeed, let him never again believe.

CONNOISSEUR.

[For the Bee World.]

Mr. Editor:

The present year has been about the same in this neighborhood as the three succeeding years. All have been very poor for honey, though the Italians usually have made some surplus, while black bees have made none. It has given us a good opportunity to prove the superiority of the Italian bee over the blacks.

I am pleased to hear that you have located in the South, and believe you to be the right man in the right place, and any thing that I can do for your journal I assure you will be promptly and cheerfully done. I am &c.,

Very Respectfully Yours,

S. D. BARBER.

Mutton Ill., Oct., 1873.

[For the Bee World.]

Bee Notes.

In the genial climate of the South we need not go to all the trouble and expense to winter our bees like they do in the North. In most of places there bee keepers must have cellars or

special depositories for them during the cold winter months. Here our winters are sufficiently mild to allow the colonies to remain on their summer stands. But while our climate favors our bees, we should nevertheless put them into the best possible condition for our short winter.

It is always advisable to have all our colonies go into winter quarters with plenty of young bees. When breeding is suspended, very early in the fall, the colony must necessarily have a very small force of nursing bees to attend to the wants of the brood in the spring. It has been demonstrated time and again, that young bees act the part of nurses, while old ones can but poorly perform this office. As the laying capacity of the queen is always influenced by the extent of the forage, when this is scarce in the fall breeding can be promoted by proper feeding at regular intervals. Several ounces of sugar syrup given in a feeder every other evening to the colony will be sufficient.

In localities where the golden rod and aster flowers abound, in favorable seasons, many hives, particularly of Italians, may have too much honey in the brood chamber to allow any room for brood rearing. From fifteen to twenty pounds of honey (in some seasons much less than this will do) are amply sufficient to carry a colony through winter in our climate, and allow for its consumption in brood rearing until fruit blossoms appear in the spring.

My practice is to carefully examine all hives at the middle of October (it should be attended to sooner in a high-

er latitude) and extract all honey over the above amount. Colonies that are in want of stores should have some frames exchanged with others that have more than they need. A strong colony of bees consume less food in proportion than a weak one; and consequently, always pay the best.

In regard to "ventilation," it is best not to pay too much attention to the medley of theories of this subject of Northern *bee-savants*. Their bees are generally "*ventilated to death*" during the time they are "*slanging*" each other, and fighting over their theories. As bees are generally correct in their way of doing things, it is best for us to observe how they prepare their house for winter, and see how persistent they are in stopping all cracks with propolis against the cold winters.

After all my hives have sufficient stores, I lay a stick across the frames for a passage for the bees, and cover with a "quilt" in place of a honey board, which I never use. My honey quilts fit closely around the sides of the hive. They are made two thicknesses out of clean corn sacks (a sort of gunny bagging.) The material is porous, and at the same time warm, and much better than tight close stuff. Entrance is contracted in proportion to the strength of the colony.

As the bulk of our honey is gathered from the middle of April to the middle of June, it is essential that all stocks should be strong in workers by the commencement of the honey harvest, otherwise it will pass and no surplus be gathered. Hence all colonies that are going to yield us any profit must be breeding very early in the

spring. To promote this, stimulative feeding should be commenced the last of January and kept up until the bees can gather honey from the flowers.

Hives that have not plenty of brood by the middle of February must be suspected of having old or non-prolific queens, which should be superceded by young prolific ones at the very earliest moment. J. P. H. BROWN.

Augusta, Ga.

[For the Bee World.]

Chips from Sweet Home.

Messrs Editors:—Bee culture is still progressing. Not many years ago bees were universally kept in boxes, hollow logs and straw hives, and we read of a swarm being found in the carcus of a defunct lion over 3000 years ago. If such a circumstance was related in your journal, it would need to be backed by many reliable living witnesses and then but few of us would believe that bees would act so contrary to their natural habits.

When box, gum and straw hives were used, honey was obtained by *robbing, murdering* the innocents which has improved each bright and shining hour. But soon one advance step was made by placing boxes on top of the hives, by which means the lives of the industrious bees were saved to improve another year, and the honey was found to be of much better quality as there were no young bees or be bread, or smell of brimstone. But we still *robbed* the bees of their comb which had cost them more labor than the gathering of the honey.

Reader, what would you think of a man who, carrying water, smashes

his bucket every time he empties it, then, making a new one for each fill. Is it not equally as much of a loss for those delicate cells to be destroyed for each fill of honey? But how can we avoid it? Come along with us and we will show you how we can take from *two to four times* the quantity as free from wax as the box honey is of young bees and bee bread, and less time than you can care for the same amount of box honey.

"Very well, we will go if you will fix us so that the bees will not sting us."

"Bees go for anything that is *black*, so we would advise you to leave that black hat and coat, and put on these light colored ones; now slip this bee veil over your hat and tuck the bottom under your suspenders."

"But our hands are still bare."

"Just put them in your pockets until you learn that *Italians* are not liable to sting when they are busy gathering honey. With this old chisel we raise the top or cover off the (Thomas) hive and blow in a few puffs of smoke (thus, suiting the action to the word) and the most of the bees which were in the top are driven below in the body of the hive those few bees left on the comb we brush off in front of the hive with this clothes broom, these frames are only 6 inches deep whereas the bottom ones are twice that depth."

"Why not have them the same depth?"

"We find a shallow frame is more convenient to uncap (as we will soon show you) and less liable to be filled with brood and now as we frame the

of bees we put them in that frame which we made just for that purpose viz: to carry full and empty combs; now we replace it (the hive) with empty comb, as we always have one extra set. Come in the bee house, close the door; you see those few robber bees which followed us in have gone to the windows, as we have them *revolving*, a flip puts them outside; before emptying these combs we uncap them by means of this knife which is sharp on both sides, and the handle is bent to one side; be sure and keep the comb vertical or it may break. We uncap from the bottom going upwards, giving the knife a sawing motion. If you like honey try some of these cappings as they are sweeter and more delicate to chew than the comb, these cappings are saved and allowed to drip; we used to put our knives in hot water, but now think it unnecessary; in putting those combs in the top we first put in ten frames, then only 9, then 8, so now we have comb about two inches thick which holds twice as much as ordinary comb, and the bees only have half the capping to do that they formerly did and I only half to uncap, the thicker the comb the better."

"How many times have you emptied that comb?"

"I cannot tell you how many times but we have slung from them for 3 seasons, and they are tougher and better for such usage. We shall empty this this evening so as not to be annoyed with flies, bees, &c. If any pieces of wax, &c., gets in the slinger they rise to the top, and as the faucet is in the side of the bottom, they are

left till the last, so that no straining is needed.

D. D. PALMER,
Eliza, Mercer Co., Ill.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have concluded to advertise the machine and Italian Queens. See adv. in this journal. D. D. P.

[For the Bee World.]

AN APPEAL TO BEE KEEPERS.

Are you tired of railroad men, friend Bee Keepers? I for one, am very much fatigued with their roughness in regard to my goods.—One hundred dollars would not cover the loss that I have experienced by their rough handling. In spite of all kinds of warnings on the addresses, they handle the queens, the hives and the boxes of comb honey as if they were recommended not to allow the contents of a single box to pass their hands without being smashed.

I have had so many queens killed by the smashing of combs, that I prefer to have them starving on the way rather than give them combs somewhat heavy with honey, my risk being smaller.

This spring I have sent three stocks of bees to a bee keeper of Iowa. All kinds of warnings were written upon the addresses, and besides, the express officer had promised to see to their careful handling. Well my three stocks were put in the cars bottom side up.

Fortunately they had only thirty miles to travel, and no change of cars. One half of the bees only were killed but the queens were safe.

I have tried three times to send

honey by railroad; the third time only 13 miles, and every time all the combs were smashed down. Yet I had had the care of showing a part of the glasses of the boxes, "But say the railroad men, we do not warrant living animals, or things contained in glass." And still they take higher charges because they are living animals, or glass.

"But it is impossible for us to go with such a speed and to handle your goods with the care that you require." Why? your speed is not greater than in Europe; there is, in France, every other year an exhibition of bee culture. Honey is sent in jars, and in comb, from every part of the country; even from Italy, and through every railroad; yet, not three per cent of the combs are broken.

This year at the exhibition of Vienna, they had honey in comb, coming from the remotest parts of Europe, there combs had traveled across the railroads of France, Germany, Italy, Austria, and they arrived in good order. Yet the railroad rates are lower on the continent, than in this country, they are regulated by law. The railroad companies of France, Italy and Germany do not possess the railroads in full property, for these railroads will return to the nations after a lapse of 99 years. Besides, the railroad companies are liable to pay damages and interest, if they have not cars in sufficient quantities to transport all the goods immediately. Yet, the railroad companies of Europe have not received such bounties as those of this country.

We have not arrived to the time

when the honey crop will be large enough to encumber the railroads; ours is the necessity of carefulness.

Some people will think that as I have been raised in the old country I am partial for the railroads of Europe. To show that such is not the case, I will cite a well known American citizen, who, after his return from Europe, wrote in his journal, an Agriculturist, the following article:

"BAGGAGE SMASHERS."

To R. R. Managers:—A species of downright robbery is now practiced upon very many of the public conveyances in this country. We assert as a fact from our own observations, that many men employed to handle baggage take a special delight in seeing how hard they can pitch a trunk about. We have seen them use extra exertions to give a large trunk a hard thump, and to see how far they could throw a lighter one—as if trying to earn the name of a "baggage smasher" instead of that of careful baggage men. Let any of our railroad managers stand where they will not themselves be seen, and note the handling of the baggage at a station. They will usually see the trunks thrown out or in, without the least care to save them—the corner of one pitched with force against the side of another—in short, no care is used to spare them in any way, but every thing done to injure them that can be done. Probably forty thousand traveler's trunks are daily handled upon our railroads, in the aggregate, and the unnecessary hard usage they receive amounts to twenty-five cents each, or \$10,000 a

day! Judging from our own past experience, if setting out upon a journey in this country we would willingly give twenty-five cents a day, in advance, to have our trunks handled with the same care that is exercised on the European railroads. Here one hundred day's traveling and stopping will thoroughly use up a \$25 trunk, no matter how strongly made. After a six month's tour in Europe, including 12,000 miles by railroad, with our baggage taken off and carried to sixty different hotels, and returned to the cars, the trunks came back in a condition suitable for another trip of equal length. In but few of the railroads was any charge made for carrying the baggage. A traveling companion, who also brought his trunk in perfect condition to New York, had it jammed, broken and its contents injured badly, in going barely 150 miles from the city. Will not our railroad managers do a great favor to the public by looking into this matter—giving a word of caution to the careless or mischievous, and dismissing the incorrigible baggage *smashers*?"

This request of Orange Judd was not heard by the railroad managers. He could have added that the travelers themselves are not as safe on the American railroads as on the railroads of Europe. Before coming to this country I was accustomed to the heavy stone railroad bridges, that will outlive the pyramids. When I saw the wooden bridges of this country, that shake under the weight of the trains, I was astonished that the government takes so little care of the life of the citizens. In Europe, the governments,

before granting the railroad charters, have a plan made before hand, and the railroad companies are forced to comply with it. Therefore accidents are very rare, and we, Americans, are held by European people as very courageous, to dare travel on American railroads, where accidents are so common.

All these complaints have been addressed to the railroad managers time and again, but they have too much to do to lose their time in listening to complaints, and mending the bad management of railroads. Are they not there to fill their pockets with the money thus taken from the good people of America?

Railroads are not made for the benefit of the people, but for the benefit of the stockholders.

The time is at hand when the people will no longer support such base speculations on their lives and their purses. The farmers are organizing Granges everywhere. Let us all join the Patrons of Husbandry, to compel the railroad managers to become the help of the tillers of the soil, instead of a curse, as they have been till now.

To encourage the movement in favor of Granges, I propose to make, to Grangers, a discount of ten per cent upon the goods ordered from my apary.

CHAS. DADANT.

Hamilton, Ill., Oct. 15, 1873.

Subscribe for the "BEE WORLD," the first and only Bee journal ever published in the South. Pass it around to your neighbor. Ask him to sustain a home journal.

[For the Bee World.]

Our Interest.

Mr. Editor :—I was pleased to learn while at the State Fair that you had contemplated establishing the "BEE WORLD" at an early day in Rome, Ga. Truly this enterprise we believe, will be felt and appreciated by not only Bee-Keepers, but all classes. From an experience of several years in apiculture, I am decidedly of the opinion that we need a Becs journal for the South; for what is adapted to the Northern bee culture very much differs from the management of bees in the South, and in some cases might be considered useless management.

For instance in my section, I care nothing about bee houses for winter management. They do well left on their summer stands all the time, besides we very frequently have them to swarm the last of March, while in the North, June and July is about the time of swarming, which the reader will discover, is nearly two months difference, and by the time we get the news in a Northern journal, our bees have got through swarming, and the news does not benefit us much. We want a live journal, one that we can speak through to the people, one that we can advocate practical bee keeping to every one; yes, a journal that we can, if necessary, expose anything calculated to retard the progress of a branch of rural industry that is adding so much wealth to our country as apiculture. Let it be taught in the most simple form and we believe the South will contribute

very largely to support a journal devoted to bee-culture. Mr. Editor you have commenced a noble enterprise, and you may rest assured we will help keep the ball moving. The South is just beginning to awaken to this great interest, that until in a short time past, has been greatly neglected for the want of a journal and persons qualified to teach the true system of Bee Keeping. It will be my greatest pleasure to render any and all assistance in my power to aid the journal, and I know of many more you can rely upon. Set me down as a subscriber to the "BEE WORLD," and many more will join me in sustaining a home journal—yes, a journal devoted to apiculture, the first of the kind ever published in the Sunny South, the home of the honey bee. Long may it live to benefit man.

Respectfully,

H. L. LONG.

Leesburg, Ga.

[For the Bee World.]

Bee Items.

Mr. Editor :—Perhaps some of your bee friends in the sunny South would like to hear from Northern Wisconsin. Well, the last winter and spring carried off so many of our bees that we scarcely had enough left to talk about. Many that was wintered out of doors was lost, while many that was put into comfortable quarters came through very well. I was among the unfortunate; lost heavily—saved those only that were in the Bager State Hive and on their summer stands. But if our winters are to continue as bad as the

two last, it will not do to trust to any out door wintering.

Quite a large number of those that came through the winter seemed to be dissatisfied for some cause, and some of them attempted to superceed their queens by raising others, and the consequence was that they either became queenless, or were so reduced in numbers that many swarms barely came through, without any increase or surplus honey. Such swarms as was considered in fair condition done but little until late in the season—the spring flowers was late. About the first of August another drouth came, similar to the last year, and should we have another polar winter bees wintered out of doors will be sure to share the same fate as those in the past. There seems to be a cloud over the minds of some about wintering, as so many have experienced such a loss they feel almost discouraged. It will no doubt taks some time to recover that deep interest once felt in bee keeping. For one I shall increase my energies by pushing ahead, having improved the Badger State Hive so as to operate on the high *pressure principle*, am confident of much better results than we have generally thought possible, and hope to realize a fair remuneration for our trouble and expense. I have only steamed up two swarms this season, recollect that I dont live where Gallop or Hasmer does. where the honey forage is so abundant; but in the extreme North of Wisconsin, as far as bees are kept at all—the result as follows: two swarms increased to seven good ones, and gave 220 lbs extracted honey, and 84 lbs comb hon-

ey before the first of August, and \$19 at the State and other Fairs, you may judge from my management that my bees have not been idle. I have at prestnt forty-five swarms to take through the winter and although I consider my hive equal to any other for wintering, yet I would not like to winter out of doors, when we have such cold weather.

I have set my self to work building me a bee house, to make them more comfortable; if we should have another Greenland winter, which to all appearances is at hand, as it has snowed more or less for a week.

Well, I am occupying too much room. I will close—will soon give a description of my bee house and Badger State Hive.

Success to the Editor and the "BEE WORLD."

A. H. HART.

Appleton, Wis., Oct. 31, 1873.

(For the Bee World.)

Messrs Editors :—Perhaps it will not be uninteresting to your numerous readers to know the condition of Bees in this and some other localities. I have traveled over some twelve counties and found where the bees were wintered out of doors, that nearly three-fourths died, while those that were protected, came through in fine condition.

The past season has not been so favorable for honey. In localities where they had timbers, such as Bayswood, whitewood, &c., was very good; the severe drought prevented the flowers from secreting much honey, and many swarms have, at the present time, consumed nearly all of their honey.

Wife has managed the bees at home this season, and will give the result of her management. Had twelve swarms to start with in the spring and some of them very weak; tried queen raising the fore part of the season with not the best of success, and gave it up and turned her attention more to honey and the increase of stock. Sold one hundred and thirty dollars worth of bees and taken about two hundred and fifty pounds of honey, which was doing pretty well considering the poor season and her first trial; and further, our Sept. yield of honey was cut off by frost.

Wish the "BEE WORLD" a long and prosperous life.

R. A. SOUTHWORTH.

Odell, Ill.

[For the Bee World.]

Bee Keeping in the South.

Mr. Editor:—I am much pleased at the prospect of your publishing a journal in our State on the subject of "Bee Culture." It is certainly an enterprise in the right direction.

A periodical in the South, in our very midst, that may furnish us information on the improved apiculture suited to our climate, open to the discussion of the varied points connected with the treatment and care of bees here is greatly needed. Those who have given any attention to bees, know that instructions suited to the long, cold winters of the north are not applicable here. They confuse and mislead us. Disappointment and failure are often the result of following such guides. It is true that northern journals may furnish much valuable in-

formation, give us many correct and appropriate directions; yet they fall very far short of meeting our whole wants. We need the experience of educated and successful bee keepers in the South; when and how they begin and carry on their spring treatment, how they manage their swarming, what hives they have used successfully, how often and how late we may increase our colonies, how late we may transfer with the probability of their accumulating a winter's supply of honey; what attention they need in winter and various points in which Southern practice must differ greatly from Northern time and treatment. We want to know the value of the Italian compared fairly with the common bee of this country. That which does well North may often entirely fail here. Improved and scientific bee keeping is awakening a very general interest, and your journal may do much good in assisting to turn that interest into a correct and practical channel. My own experience with bees has been limited; but I have obtained large yields of honey—lost very few bees—in short, succeeded so well that nothing has paid me so well for the time, trouble and amount invested. My Improved Hives have been a perfect success.

Just here let me say to those who have transferred bees into movable frame hives late in the season; they should be very careful to keep their bees well fed through the winter.

Success to your enterprise.

S. M. H. BYRD.

Cedar Town, Ga., Nov. 19, 1873.

[For the Bee World.]

Mr. Editor:—We are pleased to learn that you have accepted the proposition to publish a journal devoted to bee culture. The South has long needed such an enterprise, and we hope all, and especially bee keepers, will appreciate it and give you a liberal support. We need information upon the subject of bee culture, and your life-time experience fits and prepares you for the position you have assumed. The bee keepers of the South, at least a large majority of them, still use the old gum or box hive. If they are not the best, do as you have heretofore done while editing the North American Bee Journal—allow all bee keepers a free and frank discussion of the merits and demerits of the different hives now in use, or may hereafter come in use. In this way the people will learn and will be profited by your journal. Since your arrival in Rome you have produced quite a revolution in bee keeping, and important revolutions that will benefit many. We feel indebted to you for the information received, and will, no doubt, work as faithful to sustain the journal.

JAS. H. DAVIS.

R. W., Ga.

[For the Bee World.]

Hives.

Mr. Editor:—In practical systematic Bee-keeping one important thing is the hive; and after you have adopted what hive to use, it is of great advantage and convenience to have every hive alike, or of a size, that one frame will go in every hive. Every frame should be exactly the same size.

But what here is *best* is what we differ on so much. I have not seen nor tried them all, nor is the man living that has done so. I have seen and tried nearly all the leading ones. I once paid \$11 for a *non* patented one, including twenty-eight honey caps on top and sides, and the express was \$6,25, costing in all \$17,25. The inventor being a prominent bee keeper of undoubted honesty, I thought such a man could not invent and recommend a hive but that would work superior to others. I put a strong swarm in it May 16th, 1870—have kept them strong ever since, and *pure Italians* at that, with this result: Only the top boxes were filled. The sides are left alone. The hive is a swarmer in spite of practice. The trouble to use it a single season is more than it is worth.

On another occasion I sent on \$5 for a hive represented to be easier to handle without crushing a bee, of all others. This was the thing I had long wanted, for I hate exceedingly to hurt a poor bee in the handling. But wait and hear the result: The express \$4,75, costing \$9,75, for a perfect *bee masher*—fit for kindling-wood, and nothing else.

Of all other hives I have ever tried, at great expense and loss of time, my experience is, that the best is the plainest loose frame hive, made well but cheap, is the *best hive*.

I began in 1866 with the plain Langstroth, but like all other novices, I vainly thought I could invent a better one or buy a better invention. Experience keeps a dear school, and I have profited by it. I have rejected all other hives but the plain Lang-

stroth as the best one in existence. I once thought the Tryumph was a better hive, but after using it further, I find that owing to the close top frames, when you exchange frames with another hive and close up, you mash from one to one hundred bees, endangering the queen herself. On this account I have rejected it with all close tops or side frame hives.

The Langstroth hive is now public property, the patent having run out last month, the 5th, and yet I believe it the best hive in existence. But I have invented a form to suit me better, and do not claim the invention of it: A frame top $1 \times \frac{3}{4}$; sides $\frac{7}{8} \times \frac{1}{8}$; bottom piece $\frac{3}{8}$ square, nail through the side pieces into the rabbited ends of top piece, and in the ends of bottom piece. I find these frames plenty strong, and will stand hard shaking better than the regular Langstroth, as the nails on that frame often pull out, while on this form there is no way to pull out. I give no length, as these frames can be made the length to fit any hive; but I would not risk them on a tall hive without thicker side pieces, say $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. I do not want a frame deeper than ten inches.

Of all sides gathering hives, I find the Alley the best, and I think it a very good hive—better adapted to side gathering than any others, having narrow and deep frames that run crosswise with the ends to the honey boxes. I have tried it the two past seasons, and they were both very poor seasons with me, too poor to give a hive a fair trial. It is not as easy to use as the Langstroth, but I can use it easy enough without crushing or exciting

the bees. If spared to try it in a good season I will report. This hive is only for cap honey—I consider it useless for the *Extractor*.

I do not like a hive filled up with too much wood or metals. Bees glue the ends of the frames down, and it is very inconvenient to be always loosing them. But this can all be avoided by letting the frames rest on a piece of thin sheet-iron, placed edgewise on the rabbits. When this is done there is no use putting metal corners on the frames, and so filling the hive with metals to the wonder of the bees. I doubt whether the metal corners will hold the frame any firmer than nailed the way I described above.

As to *moth-proof* hives, they are not invented yet; but the Langstroth has the least moth harbours. Moths never trouble me, nor no *Bee-man* who rightly understands his business. The bee-moth is the old fogie's friend and enemy both. I hope by and by to come out in detail on the *bee-moth*, and will then tell the old fogy how the moth is both his friend and enemy.

R. M. ARGO,

Lowell, Ky., Nov. 19, 1873.

[For the Bee World.]

Honey Plants.

We are often asked what are the best honey producing plants—also if bee keeping will pay?

There are many fine plants that bees gather both honey and polen from during the honey seasons. In the spring we find the willow, alder, elm, maple, poplar, dandalion, current, goossberry, strawberry, peach, apple,

pear, plumb, cherry, blackgum, locust, with many other finer plants.

The summer we find the white clover, linden and alsike clover and buckwheat, to be the plants for our chief reliance, yet in many localities where but little of either are grown, often large quantities of honey is gathered. Sourwood, linden, cotton plant, bee-balm, boneset, mustard, turnip, sweet clover, thistle, yields largely. Buckwheat is a fine honey plant, and yields a great amount of honey when the seasons are favorable. The production of this plant may, in some localities be more easily effected than many others; we find that it grows different in the south than in the north. In the south it continues in bloom from early bloom till it is destroyed by frost, while in the north it only remains in bloom some two or three weeks. But this plant is like the clover and all others, the secretion of honey is governed by the climatic influences; and being a later summer plant, the seasons are more liable to effect it than those of earlier blooming. Our experience has been that it requires occasional showers and good heavy dews to have it secrete much honey. "Bees gather honey from flowers, it being a natural production and governed by certain laws, to portions of the floral kingdom. There are certain laws in the floral and vegetable development for the secretion of honey which is just as dependant upon a peculiar atmosphereic influence for its secretion as man is upon food to exist.

There seems to be a delightful harmony existing between the flower and

atmosphere for its production, too much of either heat, cold, wet or drouth will counteract its influence; this harmony that exists with the flowers for the production of honey must, like the christian's faith, and works, go "hand in hand" to accomplish its design. We believe that it is a law of all physical elements, both in the animal and vegetable kingdom should be kept in due combination and in habitual exposure to certain influences conducive to their vigor. In unequal proportions their legitimate functions are impaired and their secretive properties are unable to perform. This is known to be true in both the buckwheat and clover; some seasons they yield but little honey. Sow buckwheat at intervals only a few days apart; some may not yield any honey while a portion of either the earlier or later sowed will give a large crop of both seed and honey. Why is this? the climatic influence is against its production, the harmony that is conducive to its development and support when necessary has been destroyed. This same law and change effects our grains; some seasons we have a bountiful crop, again, and at others with the same care, we fail, we get scarcely enough to pay for our trouble, we have no surplus to spare, yet the farmer does not give up, he only doubles his diligence. If your bees have not good pasturage sow such as will not only give the bees a good crop but the bee-keeper—such as clover and buckwheat and take your chances with the Agricultural world, and see who can reap the greatest harvest for the amount of capital invested. Try it bee-keeper and report progress.

Ed.

[For the Bee World]

PROGRESS.

Mr. Editor :—It is claimed that thought is power of human progress ; without it man is a clod and improvement impossible. The historian discovers in every age men whose thought took hold of the future possibilities yet unrealized ; they were the enthusiasts of their time. While we acknowledge all this, we must confess that we have for sometime past felt considerable enthused upon the subject of bee culture. We have a fine country, abounding with a great variety of flowers of almost every hue. With this and many more very important matters connected with bee keeping, we can make it one of the successful branches of rural industry.

If we take the same care of the bees that we do with other stock, it is our opinion that we shall reap a much greater profit than from any other stock ; the honey bee does not deface your fields by destroying the growing grasses like the domesticated animals, nor does the bee mar the garden plant or levy taxes on your grains as does your fowls. They, in fact, differ from the whole insect world. No plant, tree shrub, or flower is impaired by their presence. They gather their own living and a surplus for their owner, requiring only in turn a habitation of the simplest construction with a very little attention on the part of the bee keeper, and more than all this you see they work for the poor man the same as they do for the rich, yes, here the poor man can share from their industry the same as a Prince or a King—what a blessing to man.

Now, Mr. Editor, we must congratulate you for the enterprise that you have seen fit to engage in. Truly it is a step in the right direction, and an enterprise that we people of the South can appreciate—an enterprise that has long been neglected for the want of a competent and experienced apiarian to manage. Bee keeping has always been deemed an interesting and profitable business, and we believe, is fast assuming national importance, and we hope to see it practically brought into use in the South. Success to the "BEE WORLD."
A. D. M.

Round Mountain, Ala.

(For the Bee World.)

Fertility of the Queen Bee.

As spring advances, the losses which the hive has sustained during the winter are repaired. The fertility of the queen is prodigious. A single queen will lay, during the summer, from 200,000 to 250,000 eggs, and some even lay more, but the lowest is very considerable; hence the hive is some over peopled, and it becomes necessary, therefore, that thousands should quit their hive and lay the foundation of another colony. This expatriation is not confined to the young bees, who have not as yet labored, but the old. They who with infinite labor had constructed one city, voluntarily leave all they have done to begin life again.

SWARMING.

About the time the bees construct royal cells the drones are hatched ; consequently, drones and queens appear at the same time—when Providence has covered the surface of the earth with the flowers from which the young bee may collect its food. Sometimes there are as many as twenty royal cells, each of which contains a queen. The natural hatred subsisting between queens apparently so vile and injurious, is the means by which the species is saved and its instinctive habits perpetuated.

As soon as the worm is transformed into a nymph, the old queen becomes infuriated. She rushes towards the cells and attempts to tear them open but is prevented by the bees, and the sight of these cells agitates her to such a degree that she runs about the hive in a state of delirium. This excitement she soon communicates to the workers, by touching their antennae, and, after scampering about in all directions, a great portion of them, accompanied by the old queen, rush out of the hive to seek another home; in every instance it is the old queen that leads the first swarm. Experience enables the apiarist to foretell this event; for, on the evening previous to swarming, the bees often suddenly leave off their labors, as if aware of the approaching change, while a few scouts are sent out in search of a spot fit to receive the new colony. Something very like concerted action and foresight is evident in these proceedings. But after every preliminary step for departure has been taken it frequently happens that a shower, coming suddenly, will put an end to their plans, and cause them to return to the hive. Instinct here is so closely allied to reason that it is difficult to mark the distinction. If it were blind impulse that drove them out of their hive, why do they change their purpose? Nay, farther, like *reasoning* beings, capable of erring, they sometimes make a false judgement, and after hesitating, actually do swarm and are caught in the so much dreaded shower. After the old queen is gone, the bees watch the royal cells, and as soon as the worms are in a state to become nymphs, they close them up.

It is to be remarked that this operation is not done to every cell at once; consequently the young queens are of various ages, and by this means several queens are successfully born, and several swarms thrown off. Had, on the contrary, fifteen or sixteen young

queens appeared at the same time in the same hive, the whole number would have fallen victims to their own passions; as soon as the young queen is hatched, like her mother, she at once proceeds to attack the other cells, but the moment she attempts to approach a cell, the bees immediately drive her away; she then runs to another and is treated in the same manner; the fury of her passion constantly excited by the sight of these cells sends her in a state of fury about the hive, and this, as in the other cases, is communicated to a portion of the workers, and they all quit the hive.

In this way several swarms will issue from one hive in the course of one season. This seems to explain the cause of the unusual treatment which the queen experiences from the workers; they know that several queens are necessary, and accordingly guard against the effects of that antipathy, which by destroying the royal brood would prevent swarming. If it so hapen that three or four queens should appear at the same time, or before the redundant population which had left the hive may have been replaced by the birth of additional workers, the bees keep them prisoners by shutting up the cells as fast as the queens attempt to bite their way out. In this way some of them, when set at liberty, are fit for immediate flight. The prisoners are merely detained, for when they pipe for food, and thrust their proboscis through a hole in the cell, made just large enough for that purpose, a nurse bee standing by instantly supplies them with honey. Hence, it is evident that, during the swarming season, the instinct of bees undergoes considerable modification; for when they have simply lost their queen, and taken measures to replace her, by building queen cells and feeding the grubs of common workers, and when the first queen hatches all the balance are destroyed. But in the swarming time, as just detailed, they appear aware that a plurality of queens is necessary to their hive, and, in consequence, they forget their habitual respect for the queen, treat her roughly, and keep her prisoner; not for any determinable period, but as long as her appearance would be detrimental to their ends.

Ladies' Department.



[For the Bee World.]

THE HONEY BEE.

Dear World:—"The Autumn days have come and gone, the saddest of the year." Those beautiful fields and undulating meadow lands that but a few days since, variagated with flowers of every hue and sweet-sented clover, in which the hum of bees made merry music, and the beautiful fields of waving grains; around and about clambored in profusive luxurance the tangled grape vines laden with fruit, the honeysuckle and climbing rose, amid which the wild birds chirped caroled its gay and lovely music; the green and velvety grass spread out like a fragrant carpet; the little busy bee eagerly gathering from every opening flower. Behold the scene has changed. Those beautiful fields of waiving grain and brilliant flowers have drooped and passed away; the little honey bee has ceased its summer's work, and is now quietly resting from its labor; the cold, bleak winds from the North is whispering to us of the great change that is going on, and soon must overtake us. Those beautiful leaves of various hues, that for a few months past has adorn-

ed all nature with her loveliness, has now put on her silvery appearance, and is fast falling to the ground; the little busy bee has now to wait, closed in its domicil, for a few long, perhaps cold, dreary months. The question arises, have they good comfortable places for winter. In this cold Greenland country they certainly deserve care; the wise and prudent farmer provides for his stock. Experience and wisdom teaches the apiarian the same kind treatment with his bees; also to keep them strong in numbers, that when spring arrives, he has a strong force to gather the harvest. Here is where so many bee keepers fail to reap a good harvest; their bees are weak in numbers, and they fail to give but little or no honey or increase. The long cold winters of the North operate against successful bee keeping to what it does in a milder climate. While the same law governs them now that it did in the beginning of time, in some localities they may need more protection from the cold; if so, it certainly should be given them; success very much depends upon the knowledge of the laws which govern the bee, and our work must be as near in accordance with their instincts, to manage them successfully. As the South is styled the home of the honey bee, we shall expect to hear much concerning both summer and winter management through the colums of the "BEE WORLD." EVA M.

Paw Paw, Mich.

Examine all swarms this month—
See that they are not queenless—and
have plenty of honey.

Editor's Table.



NOVEMBER, 1873.

Our Aim and End.

In presenting the "BEE WORLD" to our readers, we shall endeavor to follow the example of the fathers of the Republic—Justice to all—and to give such information as will best increase their happiness and promote their prosperity. The journal will be devoted principally to apiculture. The south for a period of time has presented an open field of labor, not only for the apiarian but for an organ in which they could practically teach the true system of apiculture and its honey resources. A journal thus published has a superior advantage in correcting and establishing a true system of apiculture that no other organ outside of its limits, dependant on the patronage, support and knowledge spread over a portion of country unacquainted with the climate could so successfully advocate; with these advantages, we expect to make the journal a true and trusty consellor. With more than forty years experience in apiculture, has made us practically acquainted with the deficiencies and necessities, depen-

dant upon a practicable and judicious management of the honey bee, which we will make known to our readers the results of practical and valuable experiments immediately in their own vicinity. We shall spare no pains but use every exertion to make the journal not only reliab'e but valuable to every bee-keeper in the land. Suggested by years of experience in apiculture and this wide field before us, our friends are expecting of us to be continually searching for the best method and most successful management of the honey bee. We shall endeavor from time to time to fulfill these just expectations and present to our readers not only our experience but the experience of the most practical apiarians of the day. Much of the useful reading is the experience of correspondents oftentimes briefly related. Our intimate and pleasant relations with most of the prominent bee keepers of this country, and a large corps of correspondents we expect to make the journal one of the champions of industrial progress.

The south possessing natural resources unequalled in apiculture, agriculture &c. Her fertile lands, pure air and water, her great mineral deposits not equaled by any country on the globe. When these and many more of the great advantages she possesses are made known, it being the basis of mans happiness, must and will be the theme of the civilized world, we shall endeavor from time to time to point out some of their advantages and especially the interest of the apicultural department, and to our subscribers and patrons of the North American

Bee Journal who so kindly aided us while engaged in its publication, we deeply regret that circumstances has been such as to prevent its publication. However we shall try and make your volume complete by sending you the "BEE WORLD" in its stead, hoping it may be received with the same degree of pleasure. We shall be found, as usual, ready to carry forward the rights of the people. The columns of the Journal will be open alike to all to discuss the merits and demerits of any and all matter pertaining to apiculture let it be done with due respect to advance the course. ED.

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The Advantages of Bee-Keeping in the South and the Future Prospects.

—

During the war most of the bees in the South were destroyed by the soldiers; in many neighborhoods, and indeed counties, scarcely a swarm was left, save those fortunate runaways that found safety in the woods, and we suppose, in many localities, those who now have bees are mostly indebted to such for their present stock. Directly after the war it was almost impossible, in many sections, to obtain or find a single swarm. Notwithstanding this fact, bees are now abundant in almost every neighborhood. If this rapid increase in so short a time, has been obtained, with but little care or attention (except in robbing time) in the old log or box hive, what would have been the result with the frame hive, under proper attention and knowledge of bee culture. None but one who thoroughly understands bee culture can form any idea. This rapid increase of bees, under the circum-

stances, and the fact that they are not here subject to the diseases that sweep off whole apiaries further north, clearly demonstrates to our mind that this is the best bee country in the world; none are ever lost here during the winter, except for want of proper attention. The forage of the South has greatly the advantage of a more Northern latitude. Flowers bloom much earlier in the spring, and there are many more of them in the forests. Bees commence gathering surplus some seasons in this latitude as early as January. We have also the cotton bloom, which the bee works on from mid-summer until frost.

It is only very recently that much interest has been taken in this section in improved bee culture, and our most sanguine expectations have been more than realized in seeing it in so short a period of time pervading so generally through the country. Frame hives are now wanted by all intelligent bee keepers, and a growing demand for Italian bees, which cannot be supplied the coming summer. When the bees now in this country have been transferred to frame hives, and Italianized, this will really be a land flowing with honey; and we have no doubt Italian bees will be shipped North. We think those raised in the South are more beautiful and more docile, the climate we suppose influences these facts.

Italian queens can be got out at least two months earlier here than in the North or Northwestern States; drones South make their appearance too early in the spring to import Italian queens from the North with the expectation of keeping the progeny

pure, so as to Italianize a whole apiary with pure queens raised from such importation. While in this locality, by early stimulating Italian bees, queens may be attained before the black drone appears; and thus, by raising and transferring Italian queens to the black bees in the apiary all may be Italianized without the danger of the queens mating with the black drones. The swarm of Italians from which the queens are to be taken will raise the drones to mate with the queen, and it is only in getting them out in this way early that you can know that your Italians are all pure.

To our friends we send the first number of the "BEE WORLD," to many who are not subscribers as a specimen copy, hoping they will like it and subscribe.

We will soon have the pleasure of seeing the South take her place in the front ranks as a honey producing country. Why not? She is the home of the honey bee. America leads the world in apiculture. The true system or science of bee keeping is now coming prominently before the public, stripped of its errors and superstition heaped upon it in past ages, but now stands forth an attractive, honorable and practical pursuit. Let us examine its claims and test its theories.

The "Apiary World."

This is the title of our Apiary. The increasing demand for the Italian honey bee has been so rapid that our friends have urged the establishment of the "APIARY WORLD."

While it is out of our power to fur-

nish one order in fifty, we have concluded to give or admit some of the best breeders of the Italian bee in this country as auxiliaries to the "APIARY WORLD" and let them fill the orders. This will afford rare facilities to our friends.

UNITED STATES HOTEL

LOUISVILLE KY.—This Hotel is located in the most central part of the city, and kept as a first class house. It has attained great popularity under the management of its present proprietors; their tables are furnished with the best the market affords at much less than many other firstclass houses. Be sure and give them a call.

Several ask the question, what causes bees to leave their hives, both in the spring and fall seasons, leaving their brood and honey. Some of our best apiarians have met with the same; some have attributed it to disease and some to other causes. We have had them leave the hive in the spring also in the fall, when the comb was sweet with plenty of brood honey and bee bread. Our experience has led us to the belief that this unnatural course was more of a presentment of starvation, either real or fanciful—have known many instances of the latter. Examine allcases and you will find the great majority have considerable honey and perhaps abundance, but this is mostly in a sealed condition. We found a sure remedy, to either uncap their honey or feed them with good honey or sugar syrup; if they have honey, it better be uncaped, this gives them work and satisfies them they are not in a starving condition.

For What We are Responsible.

It's not an unfrequent thing that articles are received for a journal that may be entirely at variance with its sentiments; but the principle upon which the journal is conducted will be to give every one a fair hearing to discuss the merits and demerits of any improvements benefitting apiculture, but let it be done briefly. There is not room to bestow on twaddle or prosy verbiage. Whatever he says the public must take it at its worth, and not hold the journal accountable for. Any opinion that may be uttered by the journal, will be found in its appropriate place among the editorial matter, and for that we are always willing to be held responsible. The idea that an editor must necessarily believe every thing which appears in his paper is a remnant of organic days. Some papers are afraid to publish any thing that does not favor their own ideas. We shall aim to advance the apicultural interest of the country, whether it hits or misses its own theories; no honest cause was ever injured by having the light of truth shed on it. Should it be wrong, the sooner it is exposed the better. We hope every writer will aim to set forth facts in a brief and pleasant manner. We have a large and pleasant corps of correspondents, comprising many of the best bee keepers of this country; they are, with all others, invited to write for, and also to solicit for the "BEE WORLD."

The Israelites showed the wealth of the land of Canaan by declaring that it flowed with milk and honey.

Literary Notices.

The *Busy Bee* has been received, it is an illustrated annual, is well gotten up; treats on scientific and practical bee keeping, edited by H. H. Flick, and contains much to interest Beekeepers. Send with stamp for specimen copy. Address "BUSY BEE," Lavensville, Somerset Co., Pa.

Adair's Annals of Bee Culture.

We learn that Gen. Adair has changed his Annals to a quarterly. This is a step in the right direction. Address D. L. Adair, Hawesville, Ky.

We quote from the November number of the *American Bee Journal*:

We have received the October issue of the *National Bee Journal*, which is now published by Mrs. Jupper—no place given, but we suppose she has moved the office to Desmoins, Iowa. We congratulate her upon her enterprise, wishing her abundant success.

To the Clergy.

Any minister of the gospel keeping bees, will send us their post office address, we will send the "BEE WORLD" free to them one year.

Our first number was to make its appearance December 1st, and dated as such; but unfortunately the first form went to press with the date of November, before we had time to correct. Our next number will be issued January 1st, and sent the first of the month. We shall send out large numbers as specimen copies,—hope our friends will show it to their neighbors.

Questions and Answers.

ANSWER TO D. E. S.

Question—Can the Italian honey bee be successfully cultivated in the South, and introduced in the fall?

Answer—They can, as long as the weather remains warm enough for them to make their flight, to pair with the drones.

Q.—Can the drones be kept late in the fall for this purpose. If so, how long?

A.—By feeding swarms of known purity, containing fine drones, may be kept all winter by feeding a little every day or every other day. As long as the bees gather honey of any amount the drones will not be destroyed.

Q.—How am I to know that my swarms have a good fertile queen?

A.—Raise one or two frames from the centre of the hive, and you will see eggs or some larvy. They keep a small supply at all times, that in case of the death of the queen, they can raise another, and if raised in the winter she will be worthless, unless she is fertilized within from ten to twenty days, she ceases her flight and becomes a drone laying queen.

Q.—Will old bees nurse the young brood?

A.—They will. We have taken a strong colony of bees in the latter part of September taken from them their queen, placed them under ground, well packed with straw, covered with earth, the same as potatoes or apples; they remained until the last of May, remaining under ground eight months not losing a half pint of bees, taken

then out and introduce a prolific queen. They nursed their brood finely, and in less than four weeks made some fine specimens of honey and swarmed in about six weeks after the queen was introduced.

Q.—Are Italian bees superior to our native bee, if so in what respect?

A.—First, the Italian bee possesses a better disposition, can be handled with impunity. They are not as excitable, they are more prolific, increase much faster, lay up larger stores and protect it much better from robbers, and are the best moth proof hive ever invented, never have known a swarm to be destroyed by the moths.

Q.—Do you consider it policy to clip the wings of the queen?

A.—Not unless you can watch your bees and be with them when they swarm, the queen attempts to fly and falls to the ground and will be lost-- the swarm returns to the hive, and in from eight to ten days, if the weather and all is favorable, may swarm again. Where the wings of the queen is clipped, should practice artificial swarming.

Q.—Do you approve of fresh importations of the Italian honey bee from its native clime.

A.—We do, although the question of uniform breeding has never been settled by the uniform custom of any considerable number of breeders. The practice of English and American breeders seem to differ some, by in-and-in breeding, we understand to imply the union of near relatives, avoiding kindred of the first degree; long continued in-breeding would tend to diminish the size, strength and muscle, therefore we should breed-out to strangers to keep up the vigor, etc. This question deserves quite a lengthy explanation, which we will give in our next,

Publisher's Department.

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This convenient Invention is now ready for sale.

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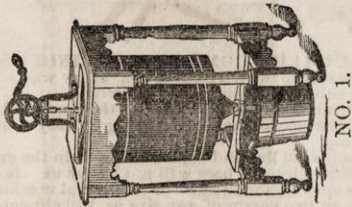
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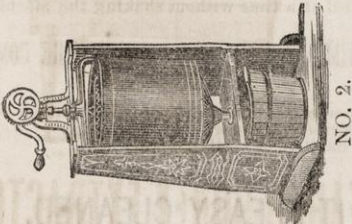
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1873

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