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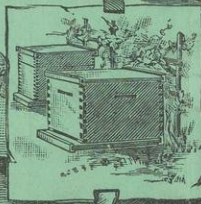
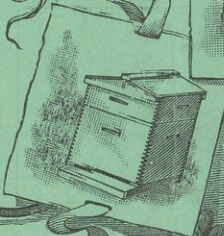
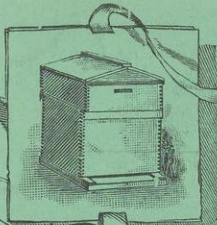
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PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND
KINDRED INDUSTRIES.



PUBLISHED BY

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January 1905.





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The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

A Journal Devoted to Bees, Honey and Kindred Supplies.

VOL. XIII.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., DECEMBER 1905.

NO. I.

Good Things In the Bee-Keeping Press.

BY SOMNAMBULIST.

On page 299, Progressive Bee-Keeper, S. E. Miller voices my sentiments in regard to what he terms "stabs and side thrusts." They are certainly unsuitable for the pages of a bee journal and I doubt not but that Mr. Miller had plenty of company about the time when he felt "disgusted." His idea of utilizing sawdust for smoker fuel sounds practical and will be remembered and tested in these parts next season. I am both surprised and chagrined that more of our Missouri bee-keepers do not "speak out in meeting" through the medium of the PROGRESSIVE and let their light shine for the benefit of their fellow bee-keepers, and if they can not tell of material successes then let them tell of their signal failures, for as Brother York expresses it, "if more failures were recorded fewer failures would be made."

Smoker fuel commands considerable more attention from the writers in bee journals than one would suppose, considering that such material is so generally lying around loose. The following is from Dr. Miller's "Straws:" "Smoker fuel of little basswood blocks being preferred at Medina, page 970, is all right. If you say you prefer such fuel on the score of convenience, Mr. Editor, I've nothing to say; but when you speak as if it were intrinsically better, I demur. When you get your mother to say she

prefers basswood to oak or hickory as a steady diet in a cook stove, I'll believe that soft wood is better than hard wood in a smoker. [I have tried both hard and soft wood. The latter ignites more readily, and is a little handier for us to get, for we have car loads of it right handy. But lately we have been using the Coggshall smoker-rolls. They are nothing more nor less than old phosphate sacks rolled up in rolls of suitable size, and tied with strings. They are then cut to the proper length with a hatchet. One end is then dipped in a solution of saltpeter. When dry the cartridge is ready for use. We find this very ignitable, and ready to give off a good smoke in ten or fifteen seconds after a match has been applied. They are lasting; and, when prepared in advance on a rainy day, they save a lot of time in the height of the season. We have been thinking that perhaps we might be doing bee-keepers a good service by making up this fuel of the proper size, call them cartridges, and sell them at so much a hundred.—Ed.]"

J. A. Green in his "Bee-Keeping Among the Rockies," on page 1102, December 1st Gleanings, gives a sort of reply to this: "I wish that people would not act as if they felt their own little corner of the universe, with all its peculiarities, ought to be familiar to all the rest of the world. Now there are Coggshall and some of the rest of them who have been talking for some time about using old phosphate sacks for smoker fuel; and The A. I. Root Co. is talking of making it up into cartridges to sell to those bee-

keepers who think they must buy everything they use. Most of the bee-keepers in the States I am familiar with never saw a phosphate sack, and would not know of what material it is composed. I don't myself. I have seen phosphate sacks in the Southern States, but I do not remember what they were made of. You of the effete east, with your worn-out lands, may be thoroughly familiar with phosphate sacks, but you have no right to assume that the rest of us are. I suppose that phosphate sacks are made of jute or hemp, and are like what is commonly known as gunny-sacking or burlap. If that is so you ought to speak of old potato sacks, then the Colorado ranchman would know what you was talking about. Burlap is one of the materials I find of great service as smoker fuel in my inspecting trips. In fact it is hard to beat for that purpose. The smoker fuel used almost universally used here is cedar bark taken from fence posts. A great many do not seem to know that any thing else can be used in a smoker, and I have gone into apiaries fairly littered with excellent smoker fuel in the shape of old burlap, cotton rags, chips, etc., where the owner went to considerable trouble to bring me some cedar bark. This bark is first-rate fuel for a short job, but it makes so much ash that the smoker soon gets choked up, and must be cleaned out frequently. Away from home I use almost anything that will burn and nothing comes amiss. At home I prefer planer shavings, which are easily procured, cost almost nothing, and are easily handled. If they are inclined to blow into the nozzle of the smoker, I put on top of the charge of shavings a piece of burlap, a few leaves, a handful of weeds or something of the kind. To light the smoker I use a piece of cotton rag soaked in saltpeter water, as advised by Dr. Miller."

I have sometimes wondered if there

is a single subject in connection with bee-keeping so simple, and yet one on which there were so many opinions. There is scarcely a bee-keeper you meet but that possesses his peculiar preference in regard to smoker fuel, and yet all accomplish much the same results. Would not a complete list of all the fuel material used in the United States alone, together with reasons therefor, form a rather amusing article. I have worked with those who honored me by "looking up" to me as being in the lead as to methods, etc., but firmly and steadily insisted on filling the smoker just the same, and I may as well add, confidentially of course, that during their absence from the yard I had no particular trouble with the smoker, although it was filled by no certain rule by a long ways.

The feeding of sugar is getting a black eye from several of our writers. The following little discussion is taken from Miller's "straws" in *Gleanings* November 1st. "Feeding sugar syrup may be a useful thing, says Herr Reibenbach, in *Pfaelzer Bztg.*, when it replaces for winter food objectionable honey-dew or something of the sort, but is in general to be condemned. Honey contains from one to three percent of nitrogeneous matter; sugar, only a trace. This is absolutely essential for brood rearing, and in general for replacing worn out tissues. Sugar will keep up the heat in winter, but even in winter there is some wear and tear of tissue, which needs the nitrogenous matter of honey and pollen to replace; and a colony wintered entirely on sugar is to some extent lacking in vitality in spring. A case in point is cited. In 1894 two powerful late swarms were installed on account of their young queens, and were wintered on sugar. They wintered well, but the cold of February was

of unparalleled intensity. When they flew in March they were rapidly decimated and in two weeks every bee was dead, only a handful of dead bees remaining on the floor of each hive, with food left in the hive. Colonies wintered on honey were all right; but these two exhausted for lack of proper nourishment during the intense cold, were not fit for labor, and when they flew out from the hive they were unable to return. I strongly suspect Herr Reidenbach is correct, and I don't believe I can afford to replace good honey in the fall with sugar, even if I can get for the honey three times the price of the sugar. To be sure, bees have been successfully wintered on sugar year after year, but is it certain that they are just as vigorous as if wintered on honey? [This is a very seasonable question to bring up, and I should be glad to hear from others of our correspondents. We feed sugar syrup only when we do not have sufficient natural stores in the hive. Now it may be that we had better help out some of our bee-keepers who produce good crops of off-flavored honey by buying those crops and feeding to our bees. Of course, we need to know that no foul brood exists in the yards in which such honey was produced. If we have no means of knowing, then what? Heat the honey thoroughly, then give it to the bees when it is warm, when they will take it down quickly; but unfortunately sugar syrup of the best granulated sugar is as cheap per pound as the cheapest honey we can buy, and no knowing whether the honey would bring on dysentery in the spring.—Ed.']

In a later number the Doctor again refers to this subject and the editor replies: "Ye editor wants to know, page 1056, 'whether honey does contain food elements that the bees really need, not found in the sugar syrup.' I

think that the authorities agree in general with Reidenbach's statement that honey contains from one to three per cent of nitrogenous matter, while sugar contains only a trace. But the question might still be raised whether bees can not get along very well with sugar if they have plenty of pollen available. [In the quotation referred to I did not quite convey the meaning I had in mind. If you put the word 'necessary' before the word 'food' it will clear up the statement. Of course, I knew that honey contained other food elements than those found in sugar syrup; but the question was whether those other elements were necessary.] I am inclined to think they are not, for reports for many years back have shown that sugar syrup was preferable to honey as a rule.

On this subject the editor of The American Bee Journal comments as follows: "In the European bee-papers the question of feeding sugar to bees is being discussed with some warmth. Testimony from actual experience is given on both sides. All are agreed it is better to feed bees sugar than to let them starve; and it is better to replace unwholesome stores with sugar. It seems to be understood, also, that with nothing but sugar syrup in the hive no brood can be reared, because the building of tissue requires the nitrogenous matter that is contained in honey and pollen, but absent in sugar. Indeed, in this country reports have not been lacking where bees refused to rear brood in spring when confined to honey alone, the amount of floating pollen in honey seeming insufficient for that purpose. The anti-sugar men seem to have pretty good reason on their side when they claim that a food which lacks material to build up young bees must also lack material to keep up the vigor of old bees; and

that although it may not be easy to demonstrate the difference, it is reasonable to suppose that a colony supported for a time on the nitrogen-lacking sugar will not have quite the same vigor as when supported on the fuller food. In any case it seems a pretty safe thing to consider a good quality of honey the standard. If something else had been better as a general rule, would not Dame Nature have so provided."

L. M. Gulden in discussing the "wintering problem" in American Bee Journal says "The second cause of winter loss—stores poor in quality—bids fair to be of even greater moment than an insufficient quantity of stores. This is especially true of our yards, which are located in the timber. Here our flow from white clover usually opens the last part of June, and continues until about July 15, when it is supplemented by the bass flow. This flow lasts here about ten days. The basswood honey is gathered only to a limited extent from the blossoms, by far the greater quantity coming from the secretion of the leaves or, in other words, "basswood honey-dew." It is this white honey-dew, together with the dark dew gathered later in the season, which causes such disastrous losses in our yards, located in the timbered region. The bees crowd this into the brood-chamber toward the last of the flow, and it is not practicable to extract it and feed good stores in time for winter. It is clear white and apparently nice honey, but when bees are wintered in the cellar it becomes watery, bursts the cappings, and the bees become swollen, daubed, and contract dysentery to such an extent that they sometimes entirely desert the hives, and, at best, come through the winter in a depleted condition, from which they hardly recover before the new harvest is on. If

any one can throw more light on this phase of the wintering problem, and make some suggestions calculated to overcome the trouble, they will be gratefully received, and the object of writing this article will have been accomplished." That is a proper spirit in which to write for the journals always keeping in mind, "'tis more blessed to give than to receive."

But how about that statement "basswood honey is gathered only to a limited degree, from the blossoms, by far the greater quantity being from the secretion of the leaves," or "basswood honey dew." Does that hold good with basswood honey here in Missouri? If 'tis so, better keep it pretty still, just whisper it from behind your hand, for putting that, and the following straw together, "'twill be rather rough on that portion of the dear public," who in these parts at least, refuse to have aught to do with any but basswood honey. "Nectar gathered by the bees from flowers, and deposited in wax cells," is given as government definition of honey, p. 1063. If I am not mistaken, I saw a few days ago a government document in which honey was defined as "obtained from flowers and other parts of plants." There are two or three definitions for honey; but the government document you refer to in the last sentence reads thus: "from flowers and from the exudations of plants." The question is, whether or not honey should not be limited to the nectar of flowers only, gathered and stored by the bees. Chemist Selser of Philadelphia believes that nothing else should be recognized as honey. This will simplify the work of the chemist, and prevent the bee-keeper from putting on the market honey-dew honey and other honeys so-called, of doubtful source.—Ed.

A question as to the cause of dark

honey is raised in one of the Dr's "Straws": "Leipz. Bztg. says that this year's honey is darker than the honey of other years, the cause being the excessively dry weather that ruled for months. Does dry weather make honey darker here? I think L. L. Andrews says that in his part of California alfalfa honey is amber. Why dark there and so very light in Colorado? Weather, soil or what? I have noticed, that in dry years, comb honey looks more water-soaked. I presume it is owing to the fact that honey, when it does come in, comes very slowly, and the bees are a long while in sealing it. I do not know whether dry seasons affect the color of extracted honey or not. We should be pleased to have reports."—Ed. Many times discoloring has been laid at the door of honey dew with us, never before having read the above heard of "white honey dew." To those who have dark honey to sell the following suggestion from Bee-keeping among the Rockies in Gleanings, may prove of interest: "A bee-keeping friend tells me that he sells a great deal of dark honey to a confectioner who uses it in the manufacture of high-grade candies. This is comb honey, mind you, not extracted honey. When I first heard this I thought the buyer had the idea that he had to buy it in the comb to be sure of a pure article, but it seems he has an altogether different reason. The whole thing, comb and all, is put into the candy. He claims it makes it "stand up" better. That is, I presume, it endures better the changes of temperature and moisture. I had heard already of using paraffine for this purpose, but he claims that the honey comb is superior. It is possible that here is a market that might profitably be cultivated and enlarged.

Yet another of Dr. Miller's "straws"

reads: "To scrape bees thoroughly is not such a very big job, says H. H. Hyde, p. 1068, for one man can easily clean from 25 to 50 colonies a day. I wish my good Texan friend would tell us how much of the bee he scrapes. If he means just the hind legs he'd have a busy time getting through with 50 colonies in a day; but if the bees are scraped all over even 25 colonies would be too many." You neglected to state Dr. whether your computations were based on theory only or on actual or practical experience? As you are probably aware the latter carries the more weight.

Honey Flora Of Southern California.

After working in an apiary in Colorado during the season of 1892 I spent six weeks traveling over mountains and valleys and discovered an unoccupied and almost unbroken expanse of alfalfa about three miles wide by ten or twelve miles long between the beautiful and thriving cities of Boulder and Longmont, which seemed to be an ideal location for an apiary;—where Mr. Morehouse located his apiaries about ten years later. But before tying myself up to an apiary I could not forego the opportunity to tramp upon some of the sage covered hills, and mountains of far away and still farther famed California. When I dropped off the train at River Station in Los Angeles it was nine o'clock in the evening. I had not gone far from the depot until I saw an unoccupied switchman and among other questions I asked him:

"There is quite a good many bees kept in this locality, isn't there?"

"Yes," he said, "you will see beech-ranches most anywhere you go."

"And they get all the honey from the sage I suppose?"

"Yes the hills and mountains are

covered with sage; even those hills over there adjoining the city."

So I decided to go up on one of the nearby hills and get a branch of sage, and bring it down to a street lamp to see what it looked like. After climbing a half mile or more, I found nothing but dry grass; but the hill farther on being a darker shade I thought might be sage. After a half hour's climb down one steep hill and up another I found it to be young eucalyptus and pines that now help to beautify Elysian Park.

I jourined on higher up and farther away and finally came to a patch of growth which Nature planted but could not decide between several kinds of shrubbery and concluded to camp there until morning. At break of day I saw a wide, deep canyon skirted with dense brush growth, up the middle of which ran a road with houses all along. I was soon down in the road and inquired of one or two women and several men but no one I saw could distinguish sage from greasewood, and I continued to go on until I reached Lincoln Park some six miles out. Here I inquired of a man who was working on the lawn if there were any bee-ranches near.

"Yes sir; right over there on the flat, about a half mile, is about six hundred hives."

"Ho! there is more than that," exclaimed his wife.

"Well, how many is there, then?" he returned.

"There's eight or nine hundred at least."

In about fifteen minutes I was amongst the hives of Mr. Shattuck. He showed me the first five banders I had ever seen. When I asked him how many colonies there were, he said, "three hundred and fifty."

As Mr. Shattuck's apiary was situated in the widest part of the canyon I did not trouble him to go to the

hills to point out a sage plant, but in answer to an inquiry he said, "I would find sage on the large mountains."

From there I rode by train to Pasadena and afoot struck out for the largest mountains, about six miles distant. From an eminence I saw, in one of the small canyons, a house with a good sized apiary beside it. I was soon at the door and told the lady that I was a bee-keeper from the East and wished to inquire if this plant having the white blossoms was the sage of which we read and hear so much about.

"Yes, oh yes that is the white sage. It has such beautiful white blossoms."

Says I, "it grows so plentifully about it would seem to take the place of the garden flowers."

"Yes," she said, "it is so grand to live in the mountains in California; there is a profusion of most beautiful flowers all the year round."

I began to feel better now and mumbled, sage, sage away here in far off California. I picked a blossom, smelled of it, sat down on a rock and admired it, and it finally came to me that it was time for breakfast, which was in the valise which I carried.

I spent two days along those mountains, ascending three trails and several canyons and following the washes out into the valley to observe where the sage was most likely to grow until the morning of the third day I turned into the mouth of San Gabriel canyon and seeing a board bearing the advertisement of a bee ranch and home for sale, and a man amongst the hives, I stopped to interview him. When he mentioned that it was a good bee location I suggested that there did not appear to be much sage.

"Why," he exclaimed, "there is sage everywhere. A short distance below it is so thick and tall you could hardly walk through it;" meanwhile

breaking off a stalk six to eight feet long. He pulled off several corollas and pressed out the honey, each of which showed a drop about the size of the small o of this type, or perhaps one-fifth of a bee-load. I looked about and showed him what I supposed to be sage and he pronounced it wild buckwheat and nearly valueless to the bee.

Wild buckwheat, in size of bush and appearance of flower, very much resembles tame buckwheat, but the stalk of the wild is tough wood and remains to bloom from year to year. Every season white sage starts from near the ground, new stalks succeeding the old and in suitable soil attain the height of six to twelve feet.

Returning to Los Angeles by way of Verdugo Canyon I came across an apiary of 300 or more colonies, the owner of which declared the plant which I pointed out as buckwheat to be no relation to it; and that white sage only made a pretense of yielding honey.

When I journeyed to get apicultural knowledge it was time wasted because of this confusion as those bee-keepers who were located in white sage localities thought the white sage was best for honey, while others praised the black and boll sages, and even the buckwheat is the main honey producer in some localities. Sumac, oranges, ice plant, alfalfa and eucalyptus are too important to be ignored in others. But there is no more diversity of the honey yielding plants in Southern California than of the variations of climate, which exerts a corresponding influence on the honey flow. It is divided by numerous mountain ranges, the sides of which may present exactly opposite aspects in honey flora. Then the coast winds have their influences, and the desert winds their's. And there are other locations which are desirable on account of the absence of these winds.

White sage is most frequently found growing in the sand and gravel beds which have been brought by the water down out of the canyons and lies spread over the valleys, sometimes several miles in extent. Black sage chooses the sides of mountains which have considerable clay and lime in the soil. Boll, (the right name) Ventura County, purple, button and silver sage are only suggestive names for the same plant. It prefers those mountains where the soil is abode or gumbo and black in color. Wild buckwheat will venture upon the desert almost equal to a cactus.

What is better for the uninitiated than confidence in every story. It can be proven only by actual application and this would require much time. I left the other sages still unsought because they were to me, unheard of. California goes so much by tons and car loads instead of the wherefore of production. Lately I read of a strawberry as large as a good sized apple. That much and nothing more. If I could read how it was produced, step by step, I might then decide—"Well, I guess I don't want any of the plants of it." Bee culture should be so understood as to show not only how to go in, but who, and where to stay out of it. This would save money and time for those who would fail, and would give the successful ones more success.

C. W. DAYTON,

Jan. 1, 1905. Chatsworth, Calif.



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Incidents Of a Queen's Life.

BY GUMPUS.

Chapter IV.

"The worst thing I see about this place," said Redhead as he rolled a cigarette, "is that a fellow has to go five miles to see a girl." "Yes," remarked the queen, "that is one reason I had for remaining here, so you boys wouldn't be everlastingly running after the girls, for a boy's no earthly account when he has girl on the brain. But nothing would do you but you must have a "bike" and ever since you've had it you've kept the road hot between here and Phil Smith's apiary going to see that little wizened up queen, that runs the millinery store. I was in hopes that you and Duffy would set a good example for your younger brothers, but I gave up all hopes the other night, when you both came in so drunk you could hardly walk. I have tried every way in my power to raise you up in the right way, by first advising and then persuading, and finally imploring you to do right, but I see it is all of no use, for you just go ahead and do things that you know you should not do, and that which you have every assurance can bring only dishonor to the name of your aged mother and disgrace to your sisters as well."

"Now mamma we didn't do anything so very bad, we and some more boys just found one of Phil's barrels of hard cider, we didn't drink much, just sucked up a little that leaked out at the bung and we wasn't drunk at all, at least I wasn't, Duffy may have been a little "tight." "Now you can't come that," put in sister Sweetie, "wasn't I awake, and didn't I hear you telling Duffy, as you led each other up to the door, that you just couldn't get your head in that auger hole and there was no use to try, and

didn't I see Duffy standing there grabbing at the bed and telling it to stop until he could get in. "Tight," nothing you were both so drunk I had to pull of your boots, while One-eye got a mustard plaster to put on your backs."

"Well, such is life," said the queen, and one who takes the responsibility of raising a family had as well expect that the more they sacrifice for their children, and the harder they try to raise them up to make useful men and women, the less their efforts will be appreciated, its that way the world over. There's old queen Clover Blossom in Uncle Billy's apiary that just let her children grow up like weeds, and there is any number of them that I can recall, who have grown up to be respected by the entire community, in fact, I don't think of all the hundreds she has raised, I can remember a single one going wrong. "Hark! what is that?" she continued after a short pause. "It's Farmer John," said Fluffy, who is just coming in, "and he's got a nice new house for us, just like the one we had in Uncle Billy's apiary."

"Yes," said the old maid, "and such a mess as we will have here too, you'll see if we don't, I bet he will have honey smeared all over this orchard, for he is as clumsy as a cow and he's sure to try to move honey and all," but for once her prophecy was not fulfilled, for Farmer John was smarter than she gave him credit for. He just simply turned the barrel on it's side, and taking his smoker, blew in enough smoke to cause them to cluster up, and sing meekly as if to say, "There that will do, we will give up." Then cutting out a queen cell he fastened it into a shell of foundation in one of the frames of the new hives, and replacing the frame in the hive with the others, all of which was filled with foundation comb,

he sets the new hive on the stand where the barrel stood, puts cover on, and sets a few old barrel staves around it, so it will have something of the appearance of the old hive, to those of the bees who are out at work, (and he knows there are a great many out, for it is a nice day in the midst of a good honey flow,) he then takes the old barrel, bees, honey and all and removes them some distance to a new stand, and goes about his other duties, feeling sure that he has two colonies, instead of one, but he is more sure of it when he returns a week later and finds the new queen hatched out for there is the cell with the little lid hinged to it but it is empty, showing that she has been allowed to hatch unmolested. So he proceeds to transfer the old colony to a new hive, this is done by moving the combs, using the smoke freely until they submit, and brushing all the bees that adhere to them off on a paper, that he has placed in front of the new hive, being very careful not to hurt the queen, and each comb as the bees are gotten off, is placed in a bucket with a tight lid, so the little rascals can't get to it, and he then drives them all into the hive, having nothing in it but the frames full of foundation. This is much as a drover will drive a flock of sheep, only he uses his smoker instead of a whip and as he sees the queen go in with the rest, he goes on his way rejoicing, for as it is still early in the season, he is confident that there is a bright future for his new charges.

"He isn't such a bad man after all," said the queen when he had gone, "It isn't every one that would take as much interest in us as he does, why lots of people just let their bees live in barrels, or boxes or anything they can get and I had an idea that was the way he was going to treat us, but I guess that old barrel was the only thing he had to put us in, but this is a

fine house." "The worst fault I see with Farmer John," said One-eye, "is that everlasting smoke, it nearly choked me, Uncle Billy never smoked us that way. "No," said Sweetie, "but he was better acquainted with us than Farmer John is, and maybe if we made friends with him, he won't be so hard on us either, but Uncle Billy smoked his old strong pipe all the time, and if there's anything I detest it is tobacco smoke." "You're right Sissy," said Duffy, "he ain't very well acquainted with us, and I don't think he is very anxious to get acquainted either, judging from the way he was tied up. He's a "tenderfoot" you can see that plain enough, but golly it would do me lots of good to slip down his back and give him a dip, but alas I am not built that way." "Neither am I," said Red-head, "but that's no reason I can't buzz around his ears every time he comes near. I caught him out the other day when he didn't have any veil on and run him into the West Virginia vine for refuge. He's a fine fellow ain't he? can't tell a bass voice of a drone from the soprano of a worker, but I couldn't fool Uncle Billy that way, I tried it lots of times I could just buzz around until I was tired, and he wouldn't pay any attention to me.

"This is a sight," said the queen a few mornings later, after a heavy rain had fallen during the night, and the water was standing an inch deep in the back part of the hive, "this won't do, we will all take sick and die with this house setting this way. Farmer John made a great mistake when he put it here, that he did not set it with the front a little the lowest so the rain that beat in at the door would run out. Instead of that he has the front the highest, and every bit that runs in, stays, lets all go out and get some poles and see if we can't raise

the back part up a little. It is indeed bad," she resumed, finding all their efforts in vain, "for one to be totally dependent upon others, and neither be possessed of means by which to make known their wants when overlooked by them, nor be able to force them to do their duty when they willfully neglect it."

"I wonder what can be the matter with Reddy," said Frisky to Sweety one day, as she sewed a button on Fuzzy's pants, "he goes around with his head down and a far away look on his face, like he had lost one of his best friends." "Why don't you know!" replies Sweety, "he was to be married to that Miss Royal Jelly, that runs the millinery store down at Phil Smith's apiary: and just when he had gotten his license, and engaged the services of Parson Superfine and she had made her wedding dress and learned to stand up in it and look unconcerned, lo and behold! Phil put one of those old queen cages on the front of their house, and their wedding had to be indefinitely postponed, for if she comes out Phil will take her and give her to some one else. Yes," she continued in a confidential tone, "he told me all about it the other day, how they had arranged to spend their honeymoon by taking a trip to Texas and he even had the cards printed announcing their marriage, and stating that they would be at home to friends at 1160 Cinder Ave. after July 12th, but you musn't say anything about it, because I promised him I wouldn't tell, he wanted me to tell him what to do about it, and I told him I didn't know what was the best for him to do, but I felt like telling him that he was making a kind of a fool of himself, but he looked so pitiful, I couldn't. She is not the only queen that was ever hatched, if he does think so, and the very idea of him going down there and kissing her through the zinc, is

perfectly ridiculous."

"I have just been reading," said the old maid as she laid down the newspaper and pushed her spectacles back on her head, "an account of a whole family in Kansas, dying from losing their stings, it seems that a ten year old child turned their house over to see what there was in it, and they became so enraged that they pounced upon the child and it's mother, who came to its rescue, and every one lost his sting, and as a result all died in great agony, wasn't it awful? no, it don't say what became of the child but they are a nuisance where there are bees."

And thus the long summer days, of sunshine and fragrant blossoms sped swiftly along, so fast indeed to be neither noticed or numbered by our busy little friends, who were working as those of their habits and instincts can work and the days grew into weeks, and after a while in fruitful autumn, we find them with their hive filled with crystal stores, and who is it that knows the feeling of satisfaction which they experience better than their master, Farmer John. After a long and laborious season, he too finds his cribs and bins filled to overflowing, and ample provision made for his family for the coming winter, nor is it any too soon, for even now "the frost is on the pumpkins" and Farmer John is preparing comfortable quarters for his stock and not forgetting his bees for he has made chaff cushions to put on over the frames to absorb the moisture that accumulates in the hive, for if there is nothing to absorb it, it will gather above the bees just as "Jack Frost" gathers on our window panes, and when it melts it will drip on the bees.

Farmer John has learnt a little about bees lately, for the swarm he found in the orchard set him thinking; and thinking started him to reading

and he has come to the conclusion that too much moisture is the name for many ills in the apiary, and hence he has made up his mind to keep his bees as dry as possible, so after putting on the chaff cushions, he lays aside the cover for the winter and puts on instead, a hood that answers the purpose of cover, and leaves an air space between it and the sides and the ends of the hive. His bees are now in good condition, he thinks to winter "out-doors" and judging from the contented buzzing on the inside one would think that the helpless little creatures fully agreed with him and he goes away satisfied that all is well.

So the time goes on, till the sighing wind blows its breath upon the forests, and their leaves now wilted, flutter to mother earth again, there to remain during the time allotted to them, also to spend in inactivity and decay, not forgetting however, that to them is assigned the duty of awaking at the first soft winds of spring, and by bursting forth in buds to announce to the world that is time for all things that live from the fruits of their labor, to be up and doing and scarcely have they ceased falling, when the winter snows envelop not only them, but the whole earth and it is during these long winter evenings that Farmer John finds time to read some of the many, many things, that a real good farmer should know and gradually he adds to his stock of knowledge, concerning bees also, for he has come to look on the apiary as one of the important branches of farming, and wonder now why he was so long finding it out, but he has other things to think about, one of them is where he will live next year, for he is a renter and must look for another location by the first of March, and is it any wonder that as he reads of the incessant sunshine, mild winter breezes, and everlasting flowers, that characterize

the South, that he concludes to move to Texas, and if possible procure some of the cheap land and establish for himself and family a permanent home. No for it is but a natural conclusion for him who has the least ambition, and as the short days multiply we find Farmer John making preparations for removal. Preceding the actual preparation however, there is much planning in which his good wife shares and many a long evening have they spent in discussing the question "pro" and "con" and they ultimately decide to charter a car and load all their belongings into it. "For," says John, "I can not think of parting with my stock for I don't expect to find any there that would suit me as well as what I have." "Then the furniture we began housekeeping with, I could not think of parting with it," said his wife, "especially that which belonged to our parents, but how about the bees John, will we try to take them?" "Of course we will," replied John, "they say that is the finest place on earth for bees and we had as well take them for we will have plenty of room in a car."

It was a reasonably fair day in February, although the snow was a foot deep when Farmer John ventured to peep into his bee hives to see if they were alive, for he intended packing his car the following day. As the bees heard the squeak of the hood as he removed it, and felt the cold draught as he removed the cushions they wondered what in the world Farmer John was going to do, but they were too drowsy to pay much attention to him and he hastily replaced them, for he saw at a glance that they were in good condition, and as he had self-placing frames it was only necessary to fasten the bottom board and hood to the hive and tack a piece of screen wire over the entrance, to have them ready for shipment.

Continued in next number.

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Those New Year Resolutions.

S. E. MILLER.

It is customary with many people to swear off bad habits and make new resolutions at the beginning of each year. As a rule these resolutions are made in good faith and with good intentions, but by the time the year has rolled around; I fear the most of us find ourselves running in the same old rut, and we are almost forced to the conclusion (like the negro was) that we had just as well swear off swearing off. Nevertheless no harm can come of making good resolutions and the bee-keeper as well as all others may as well at the beginning of the year make a resolution that he will be more thorough in his work throughout the present year. That he will be more vigilant and not let go undone that which he should and can do.

That he will be more enterprising more sagacious, and press his work forward to greater success. In short we should resolve to make our life-work a greater success this year than it has been in the past. The most of us have families to provide for and those of us who have small children find that each year the demands and needs of the family become greater, and if we would keep up we must see to it that each year our income is greater. If you have any petty quarrels with any of your neighbors now is a good time to bury the hatchet and try to establish more neighborly relations.

HOFFMAN FRAMES.

The discussion, Hoffman vs loose or unplaced frames, and many other kinds of frames still goes on apace in Gleanings. Like politics and religion this is a question that likely never will be settled satisfactorily to all. The more one reads on the subject the further he is from a decision as to what frame to adopt. Many prominent and successful bee-keepers who count their colonies by the hundreds, advocate the use of the Hoffman frame, while others whose opinions should be of equal weight condemn them out and out. If I may offer my humble opinions I will venture the assertion that the Hoffman is the most practical frame in existence today. It is still far from what we might wish for, but as long as there is nothing better on the market I intend to use them in preference to any others that I have seen or heard of, and this too in spite of the fact that I have an abundance of propolis to contend with, and that is considered one of the chief objections to the Hoffman frame.

WHAT IS PURE HONEY.

I can not now place my finger on

the particular paragraph and do not remember the exact wording or even where I read it, but somewhere I saw that the Government official (Chemists) had decided that the definition to pure honey should be—nectar gathered from flowers and stored in the combs by bees. It occurs to me that the definition should have a wider range and include some other sweets, and I think the bee-keepers should protest against this definition being definitely established. If I may offer a definition I would suggest the following: Nectar gathered from flowers. The exudations from various trees and plants and the juice of fruits, when gathered by the bees and stored in combs. If I understand the meaning of the definition as given by the chemists, it would exclude all of the latter named sweets as given in my definition. Now let me show the injustice that the Government definition might work to honest bee-keepers.

You or I may have secured a nice crop of white clover, basswood or any other choice honey, but before it is removed from the hives there comes a dearth of nectar and the bees commence to gather the juice of over-ripe raspberries, grapes, peaches or other fruits and a small particle of this juice is stored with the other honey. While this might be less than one per cent of the total amount of honey, should analysis show any of these substances, our entire crop would be condemned as impure. The same rule would apply should our honey contain only a small particle of honey dew, or the exudations of trees or plants. I think we should protest against the definition being made so narrow.

A CORRECTION,

Page 326 December Progressive I was made to say that Missouri ranked third in the number of members

belonging to the National Association. I think if the printer will look over my copy he will find that I spelled it Wisconsin. This is not such a serious error but it might look to some as if I was boasting on Missouri and we all know that Missouri needs no boasting. Page 327 left hand column seventh line from the bottom same printer made me say fine stylish, and it should have been selfish, or perhaps purely selfish. Either I am a horribly poor scribe or else that printer is a poor hand at deciphering doubtful words. Mr. Printer let us both resolve to do better along this particular line this year than we did last year.

Only two errors? Capital, considering the manuscript. The printer is very sorry indeed of these two errors, but it is with great difficulty that she, (printer) can make out certain words in your copy.

WHAT SHALL WE COMBINE WITH BEE-KEEPING?

We frequently see the above question in the bee papers. Many seem to want to know what industry can be best taken up to fill in the months or

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weeks when we are not necessarily employed in attending to the bees. Probably in most cases, W. Z. Hutchinson's; keep more bees, would be the correct answer. For my part I can not see how it is that some bee-keeper's have so much time to spare, that it worries them. However I will try to advise them. In the first place when time begins to drag heavily along in November or early December you might get out and sell your crop of honey at retail instead of selling it at a low wholesale price. When this is done if you own some timber land, or can purchase the standing timber at a reasonable price, you might go out and cut your winter's wood, and if you are not tired of the job when you have cut enough to last all winter, you might cut enough to run through next summer. Then you might go to the honey house and see if you can not find something to do there. Probably you could nail up some hives and frames for next season's use and some of the older hives might not be hurt with a coat of paint. Then you might do like Doolittle; sort over the combs and cut out the part that is drone comb and fit in worker combs. You may also put foundation in the sections and fix up the comb honey supers all ready for next summers use and pile them up nicely out of the way and out of the dust. You might also see if there is no repairing to be done about the house or stable, or probably you could find a fence that needs fixing or a gate that is getting dilapidated. Such things are always happening around my place although I try to keep things in repair. Just now, there is a door that does not hang right and the screws that hold the lock on have lost their hold so that it is ready to fall off. The eaves troughs need replacing with new ones. A stile where we cross the fence in going to the store and post-

office has gone to wreck until there is no "style" about it at all. But never mind I will get around to all of it by and by. I have plenty to do but am trying to tell those, on whom time drags heavily what to do. I cleaned out the cistern about a week ago and am carrying drinking water about a quarter of a mile, from the river. I still have some water in barrels for washing purposes but I do wish it would rain. I suppose of course you do the milking. If not probably you have a boy that is old and big enough to do it. I am sure you would not let your wife or daughter do it in this cold weather. Then too you could carry all of the wood into the house and sometimes when your wife is busy you do the churn act; and the heavier part of the weekly washing. Oh I could go on and on and tell you of a great many things you might do to kill the time in the winter, but I know that these long winter evenings you will want time enough to read the bee papers and keep up with the Russia-Japan war news, so you may read the papers after supper. Then when you find something of particular interest that you wish to put into practice next summer you might make an index of it in a small book kept for the purpose as Doolittle does. That's what I intend to do when I get time.

VERY YELLOW BEES.

E. R. Root is of the opinion that very yellow bees are bad fighters. I have not had much to do with this extra yellow or so-called golden stock, but what little experience I have had inclines me to agree with Ernest. Some two or three years ago I got what was called superior stock, (they were superior fighters.) The queen was very yellow and when her bees began to hatch they were, oh so pretty. But I soon got so I did not like to look over this colony even if they

were pretty. I think they would have fought the buzz saw had it been outside of the honey house. I had anticipated raising a number of daughters from her, but I soon changed my notion and to the best of my recollection I did not rear more than five or six and am not sorry of it, for her progeny showed no particular merit barring fighting qualities.

HONEY EXTRACTORS, TWO FRAME OR LARGE.

There seems to be a general impression that a two frame extractor is large enough for the bee-keeper who does not keep over a hundred colonies. Even the manufacturers and dealers recommend the two frame size for those who have not a hundred or more colonies, or about that number. I do not know the exact limit. I have not had experience with anything larger than a two frame, simply because I have felt that I did not have the money to invest in a larger one, but the next one I purchase will not be smaller than the six frame size. As I say I have not had experience with the larger sized machines, but it looks very plain to me that a six frame machine will empty six combs in the same time that a two frame machine will empty two combs. In fact the six frame extractor should empty the combs with a less number of revolutions than is required with the two frame, for the reason that the combs travel a greater distance in making one revolution in the large machine. The only objection that I can see to the larger machines is that they are more unwieldy to handle and probably require more force to turn the crank, but this should be more than balanced by the extra amount of work that should be and evidently can be done with them.

THE WEATHER.

Jan. 9, 1905—About one inch of

snow on ground. Thermometer registered 30 degrees this morning and 20 at noon. Falling fast, northwest wind blowing the snow off the roof, and the cistern almost empty. Happy New Year.

The disposition of an unprofitable colony to store honey may be materially increased by giving them several cards of hatching brood from an industrious hive, says Wuerth.

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THE AMERICAN BEE-KEEPER.

"The different localities around Darnstadt," says Dickel in Ill. Bztg., "vary greatly as to furnishing forage for bees; some are exceedingly good, while others in nearest proximity are so poor that bees cannot successfully be kept without liberal feeding with sugar." He uses granulated sugar as the best and most economical substitute.

H. Mulot criticises the reports of eggs being transferred by workers which have made their appearance from time to time in different bee papers. All such reports have lacked proof, he says, and it is his opinion after long and careful watchfulness, that bees do not move eggs to other combs, and that it is a physical impossibility for them to do so, and says no mortal has ever witnessed such an act.—Ill. Bztg.

Some time ago Dr. Miller, in American Bee Journal, mentioned the comb foundation with a tinfoil base sent out by Schultze, a noted German foundation manufacturer. Knack says in Ill. Bztg., that bee-keepers in Germany have not found foundation with metal base a success, but asserts that Schultze's foundation with veneer base is quickly accepted by the bees and that the queen does not hesitate to fill combs of that kind with eggs, although the so constructed combs have flat-bottom cells.

Ventilation is an essential condition to successful wintering of the honey-bee. Not only should the entrances be left open (2½ x 8 ctm.) but upward ventilation through packing above should be secured. It would, however, be unwise to fill out an upper story completely with absorbent. Straw skeps that have served a long term of years are so coated with bee glue as to prevent all ventilation, and ought to be provided with upward ventilation like other hives.—Wuerth in "Die Biene."

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First Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania State Bee-keeper's Association.

The first annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Bee-keeper's Association was held at Harrisburg, December 6th and 7th, with very great profit and success.

The first session held Tuesday afternoon the 6th, was devoted to business. After this session the officers of the Association called on Governor Pennypacker. The Governor showed great interest in the question of bee diseases and bee-keeping in general. The audience lasted full forty minutes.

Tuesday evening President Surface, State Zoologist, addressed the meeting upon the Education necessary to put our industry upon firmer footing. Dr. E. F. Phillips of the University of Pennsylvania spoke on "Habits of Bees and some Misapprehensions."

Wednesday morning session was entirely taken up with the question of bee disease, which was ably presented by General Manager N. E. France.

Wednesday afternoon session Mr. Pratt of Swarthmore spoke upon "Queen-rearing." Mr. Fuller upon "Bee-Keeping as a Business," and Mr. Gabriel Heister of Harrisburg, the eastern editor of the "Fruit Grower," and a practical horticulturist on "Bees and Horticulture."

Wednesday evening Rich. D. Barclay outlined the work of instruction in apiculture which it was proposed to undertake at the Pennsylvania State College and what had already been accomplished. This was followed by an address upon "Improvement of Honey Bees," by Mr. Frank Benton of the U. S. department Agriculture. Rev. W. H. Bender of Adams Co. spoke upon "Honey Bearing Flora of Adams Co., Pennsylvania."

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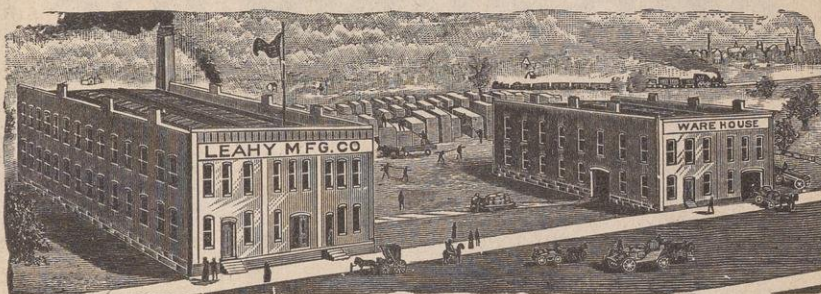
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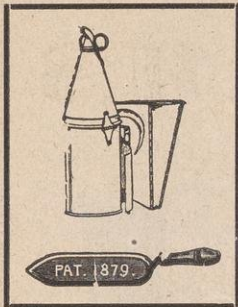
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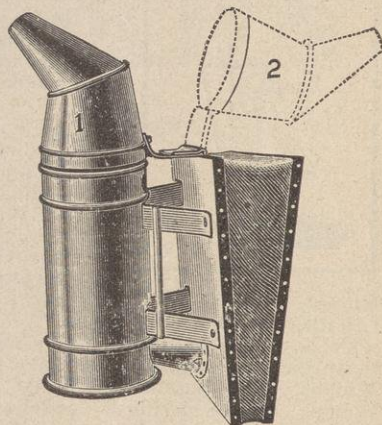
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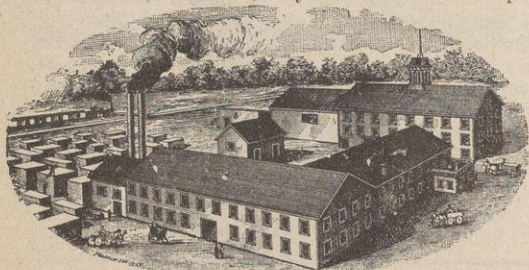
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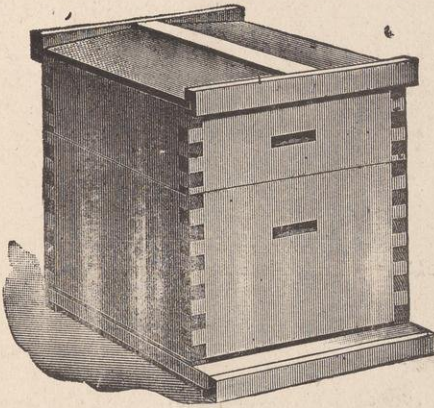


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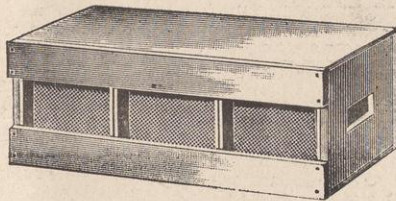
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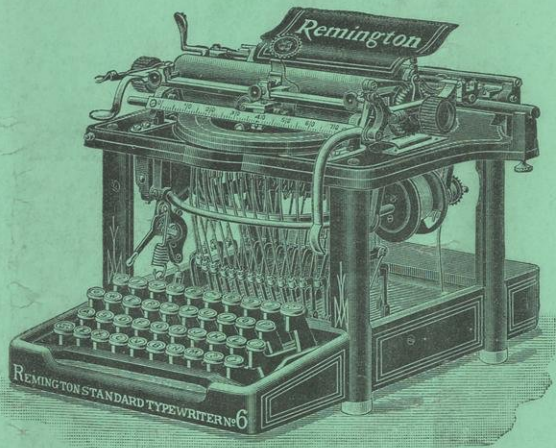
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