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Vol. 3,

NOVEMBER, 1892.

No. 11.



The Nebraska Bee-Keeper.



Official Organ of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers Association.

STILSON & SONS, Editors and Publishers.

YORK,

NEB.



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Is my business, and the Italian is what I have to sell. Don't buy until you get my prices, for I sell as cheap as good queens can be sold for. Bees for sale in any quantity.

My Supply trade is also very large and on the increase. If you are well supplied with supplies for this season, send for my new, 1893 catalogue when it is out.

Charles White, Farmers Valley, Neb.

The Nebraska Bee-Keeper.

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Feeding and Feeders.

M. H. DEWITT.

As this is the time in the year that the bee keeper has his colonies of bees to feed up for winter, particularly those that are lacking stores, an article on this subject will not be out of place.

As a general rule, I would not advise the beginner to take honey from his bees to sell with the intention of feeding them up in the fall with some substitute for honey; and if a person is inclined to be careless and neglectful he had better never think of feeding at all.

Leave the ten combs in the lower story untouched by the extractor, and you will very seldom have reason to feed. If you use section boxes in the lower story, you had better take them all out in time for the bees to fill the combs all up for winter stores, in their place, unless you have very heavy surplus combs laid away, that will contain on an average 3 lbs. of sealed stores each; in this case, give them six of these combs and a chaff cushion division board on each side of them in place of the sections, and you have them then in the safest shape for winter you possibly can, providing they are in a chaff hive according to my ideas in wintering bees successfully.

Now, if we were only sure of having the well filled combs, we might skip

“feeding” entirely; but, alas! there will come seasons and circumstances when we must feed. Again, where one raises bees and queens for sale, he may divide and sub-divide to such an extent as to have many colonies with bees enough, but with too little food. The only remedy in these cases is to feed.

Well, if I had sealed honey in the combs, I should use it for giving the requisite stores in preference to sugar, unless I could sell it for more, pound for pound, than the sugar could be purchased for. If the honey is late fall honey, such as buckwheat, golden rod, autumn wild flowers, etc., I should consider it just as safe as any other, if well seasoned and ripened, unless I had by actual experiment good reason to think otherwise; in such a case I would feed sugar.

Quite a number of reports have been given that seemed to show that bees wintered safely on the spring honey, or that gathered in the early part of the season, when others in the same apiary when all this spring honey was extracted, and they were confined to the autumn stores for winter, were badly diseased. If the colonies are carefully packed in chaff on their summerstands or put in a good dry cellar, with plenty of bottom ventilation (no top ventilation), they will, as a rule, winter on almost any kind of fall honey, providing it is well ripened. Honey dew (which

see) should be extracted, and sugar syrup fed.

Well, supposing we have not the honey in the frames, what then? If we have extracted honey, then two questions come up; which is the better sugar syrup or honey? and which will cost the more? I would unhesitatingly take the syrup made of granulated sugar, in place of the best clover or any other kind of honey, if offered at the same price. I say this after having fed a large amount of sugar and after having carefully noted the results of feeding both sugar and honey. I would also recommend the simplicity or utility feeder to feed with, unless you wish a large one. Sang Run, Md.

◆◆◆ The Winter Problem.

Could we but do as we used to do, in boyhood days with the hard lessons, skip the time from this until next apple bloom and its consequent losses in our apiaries, we might count our profits in bee-keeping by the thousand per cent. But as it is now, after watching our bees to see them first build up in the spring, then through swarming time, then see them store their hives full of honey and the surplus cases with nice white combs and nicely capped honey, then to guard against the robbers, so for all is anticipation and now comes the fear of the winter, the great drawback to successful, profitable bee-keeping. But we must face the music and prepare our bees as best we can to live for the coming six months. And the question naturally arises how can we best prepare them for winter? We have often heard men say, "that they knew just how to winter without losses." When we find that plan which proves an absolute, perfect, winter system, we shall think that we have truly found the source of "perpetual youth." I never yet wintered bees without some loss, except once long ago, when I only had one colony to begin with, that

winter I never lost a single colony. Then I had struck a correct system sure, but in more than 30 other winters, I have lost some every time. Now this is about as near correct as many of the infallible fixed rules which some others have laid down. While attending the recent State Convention, while discussing the fitting for winter, one advocated sealed covers, and another bottom ventilation as the best, while another was as equally positive that chaff cushions over the bees and ventilation above and close below. Two directly opposite styles. Now which was correct? These two systems and their advocates were a little like the two old doctors quarrelling over the question as to whether the patient should be given physic or an emetic, but finally compromising by letting him get well without either. We have wintered bees successfully by both the styles advocated and also by the let alone style, and at other times have lost by all three systems, but from past experience we have a preference and will tell you how we have packed for this winter, but perhaps will think different when spring comes than now.

We are using chaff hives largely, but those not in double walled hives are put into an outside case and packed so that virtually they are the same as the regular chaff hive. Some have sealed covers, others chaff cushions over the bees and brood frames, after first putting sticks across the frames for winter passage. Over sealed covers and chaff cushions alike, we pack so as to keep away all frost possible, as here is where I think much of the trouble comes, is in too little packing over the bees, steam arising and condensing too close to the bees.

Before packing we see that all have what we think sufficient food for winter. 20 to 25 pounds of good sealed honey, either by exchanging combs or feeding them; when packed, the hives should be raised about four inches at the back end. The front entrances open at least

one-half the width of the hive, covering the whole so as to keep dry and undisturbed and left on summer stands, is the way we propose to winter this time as we sickened of cellar wintering, but may go back to it again, but not this year.

Oh my! what an expense and so much trouble. Well, what if it is expensive and a little trouble. Every colony of bees I get through until June 1st, is worth \$15 in cash, or at least mine have all been worth more to me than that the past two years, and some have paid double that; don't it pay to buy an old dry goods box and tuck them up snug? You would be called inhuman if you did not give your cow a decent shelter for winter. Then why not take as good care of a colony of bees costing \$5 this fall, but which with good success will pay as much clean cash profit next summer as your best cow?

Try it this fall and write us next summer how you have succeeded.

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A Kentuckian's Style.

FLAG SPRING, Ky., Sept. 13.—Mr Editor. I have't seen an article from this part of the U. S. in the BEE-KEEPER yet, I will try to tell you something about my apiary here in the northern part of Kentucky. I am a young man intending to make the business my occupation. I love the bees and their product, and I love to work with them. I commenced by having two colonies given to me about seven years ago, and I have slowly, yet steadily increased, unnow I have 38, for this is a poor honey section of country, that is, there are no large yields as in some places, yet they always have made some surplus. Some colonies make about 100 lbs. of surplus in a good season. This year was the poorest I ever knew. I never had to feed any until this year. I guess I will have to feed pretty heavy this fall to carry my bees through the winter. We, as a rule have a good fall flow of honey

from aster, but it has been so dry all summer that it is almost killed; but it is raining today and perchance there will be some honey come in yet if the frost stays off long enough. I shall be thankful if there is enough honey comes in to winter my bees on. My bees are the blacks and hybrids, well I have one colony of pure Italians, which I like much better than the others. I use the Dovetailed hive.

I have used them for five years or thereabouts, and I can see no reason for changing for the D. T. H. as made by Root, is the best hive for the average beekeeper that was ever made. The singled walled hive for southern latitudes and the double wall hives for the north; there could be no more convenient hive made, for I have used them ever since they came out and I know what I am talking about. I like the modified Hoffman frame, and I would say to all of those that use the loose or non spacing frame to get a few of the modified Hoffman frames and try them and if you don't bid farewell to the non spacing frames. I can't see why, I have always run for comb honey, but I expect to extract partly hereafter.

The way I winter bees.

I winter on the summer stands. Last winter I used principally the outside winter case. They all wintered well, but those that I packed after my fashion in the single wall hive came through just as well as far as I could see. I regard the outside winter cases as too fussy and too much trouble and expense for this climate. I am going to use some of them again this winter though my plan of wintering is this: Take off the super or supers, all the better if there are two, take out the sections or section holders and put them away some place until next year, put on the frames a Hill's device or something equivalent, then spread over this a piece of burlaps or a piece of some old slazy muslin is just as good, the size of the hive or a little larger. The super

should be placed on the hive before the cloth is spread on, then fill the super full of chaff, leaves or cut straw or anything you may have handy of the like, then put on your other super if such you have, with its furniture in it. The double walled or chaff packed hive for Northern latitudes packed in this way would be all that was required.—A. T. MCKIBBEN.

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Notes from Maple Apiary.

Mrs. A. L. HALLENBACK.

Have you ever, just when honey was coming in abundantly, and everything progressing finely, been obliged to stay in the house, and have to be satisfied with casting longing glances out to the bee yard from the window? If so, you can sympathise with me just now.

But, although confined to the house by "bronchial trouble, I am able to read some and write a little so will take advantage of trouble and tell you a little of this summers' experience.

It was doubtful in the spring whether I would ever get pay for the feed and care I gave my pets, but there is no doubt about it now, as the clover honey was the best crop of early honey we have ever had, and the prospect is very good for an abundant fall flow, and most strong colonies are already at work in the supers.

Have you tried any of the self-hivers this season? I have one of Alleys Perfection self-hivers but it got here just too late for my only swarms. If it works as well catching swarms as it does catching drones it is rightly named.

I thought I had found out something new a short time ago, and just as I was feeling a little smart over it I got a copy of *Gleanings*. About the first thing I saw on looking over Dr. Miller's "Stray Straws" was an article about "pulled queens" which took the conceit out of me. But as I found it out myself I am going to tell you about it,

even if Dr. Miller did try it first.

I had a nice lot of queen cells just ready to hatch, and out of curiosity thought I would open one. I removed the cap as carefully as I could when much to my surprise out crawled the queen. She was a fine, large, yellow one, too nice to lose, and I was afraid to leave her on the frame, for fear she would destroy the other cells. I took her to a nucleus hive that I had intended to give one of the cells, lifted the cover and dropped her on top of the frames without even smoking them, and down marched the royal baby right among the bees but they did not harm her.

A few days after I had some more cells, so I thought I would try it again. This time I gave one of the pulled queens to a colony from which I had taken a fertile queen three or four hours before, just opened the hive and dropped her in. Next day I looked for her and found her all right. Of course one must know just when cells are ready to hatch and be careful not to injure the queen in helping her out. The experiment is worth trying any way.—Millard, Neb., Aug., 31.

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What one Swarm of bees will do.

Many of us fail to realize the importance of the little things about us.

The honey bee is rather an insignificant insect to a great many people until it sets down on them with its business end. A colony of these busy little fellows will gather a great deal of honey for their owner during a year.

Mr. Henry Patterson, of Humbolt, for the past few years has made a business of taking care of his bees and as a consequence he has been well repaid for his trouble.

This year on August 25 he placed a colony of his bees on the scales that he might keep a record of how much honey they made daily during the fall season of gathering. The result is not as

great as it would of been had the weather been warmer during the time that the test was made—from August 25 to September 19—25 days.

The following table shows the amount made each day, the hive being weighed on August 25:

Date.	No. pounds.
August 26	1
" 27	1
" 28	3
" 29	0
" 30	0
" 31	5
Sept., 1	8
" 2	10
" 3	9½
" 4	4
" 5	5
" 6	3
" 7	9
" 8	6½
" 9	9½
" 10	0
" 11	4
" 12	4
" 13	1½
" 14	2
" 15	2
" 16	3
" 17	1
" 18	1½
" 19	1

Total 25 days 94½

An average of over 3¾ pounds per day, and honey at 15 cents per pound, this one colony of bees has made Mr. Patterson just 56 cents per day, or a total of \$14.17 for twenty-five days. In the light of the above figures during a poor honey gathering season, where is there a person who will say that "bees don't pay."—*Verdon Vedette.*

Beer, bootleg syrup and Bright's disease. Drink good water, use honey for syrup and be healthy.

There is no greater fool than the man who is too foolish to find out that he is a fool.

—THE—
Nebraska Beekeeper.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

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STILSON & SONS, Editors and Publishers.
York, Nebraska.

Conventions.

North American Bee Keepers Association. President, Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa. Secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.

National Bee Keepers Union. President, James Heddon, Dowigac, Mich. Secretary and Manager, T. G. Newman, Chicago.

Nebraska Bee Keepers Association. President, E. Whitcomb, Friend, Neb. Secretary, L. D. Stilson, York, Neb.

Jan. 13-14, 1893; S. W. Wisconsin, at Boscobel.

It is with regret that we learn that the bee hive factory of J. W. Bittenbender, at Knoxville, Iowa, was burned a short time ago. Mr. B. had just put in a new boiler and at its initial firing a spark alighted on the roof and set fire to the whole. No insurance. He will rebuild at once.

Fire destroyed the office and fixtures of the Progressive Bee Keeper, at Unionville, Mo., the first of October, also other stock besides books and papers. No insurance. We sympathise with Mr. Quigley, and hope he may soon get into running shape again.

Have you got any fine surplus honey? We are in receipt of several letters from eastern parties, asking for Nebraska honey. If you have something nice, write us giving amount and price asked for it. Nebraska honey is now getting to be recognized as first class and now the demand for it is more than the supply, and still we hear people saying "that we are overstocking the market." Never cry enough until we produce more than 1½ pounds to

each inhabitant in the state. Everybody here ought to have at least ten pounds, but thousands never taste it.

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Pass Him Around.

Some days ago a sleek looking, well dressed specimen of "genus Homo," called upon us, saying "that it had been represented so him that we had a few bees and also sold bee supplies, and that he was introducing a new patent bee hive. He wished to sell us at least a county right to make and sell his new style of hive which was warranted to be *moth proof* and ever so much else." We being of yankee proclivities, asked all the questions we could think of, which were answered by the slick-tongued agent and then he asked if we could think of anything more? We said, one of us is a knave, which is it?

To describe the hive is more than we are capable of doing and give it justice. As we judged it to be a combination of bee hive, incubator, meal chest or a refrigerator. It was well made and finely painted, but as a practical bee hive it would be a failure. The surplus cases were in a receptical without connection with the brood nest, the feeding was to be done as many westerners feed their cattle, in a shed, attached, yet without any passage from the brood nest.

The man who fooled away his money for a patent on such a hive, knew nothing of bees or bee keeping, and the agent who visited us knew less, and we think he was a rascal to let severely alone.

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At the state convention considerable discussion was had over the subject of "the hive I use and why I use it." Mr. Levering, of Iowa, opened the discussion by his paper advocating the 8-frame dovetailed hive. Many objected to this hive on account of the covers warping, and on this account the hive which uses a half story cover suits the best.

During a long continued drouth such as we had the past July and August,

with our hot sun and drying winds, a hive cover which does good service where frequently dampened by showers, will curl and warp, and often crack open here. Every person speaking, advocated also, the common sized L. hanging frame, and on inquiry throughout the state, we find very few of any other kind used. Whether our bees here in Nebraska put on more propolis or not we do not know, but few like the Hoffman or closed end frames on that account.

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We have received several enquiries this fall regarding Alsike clover, as a hay and honey crop on our Nebraska prairies and of its adaptability to withstand our dry winters and hot summers. We can only say we had a little growing for some years. While attending the fair at Aurora this fall, we saw very fine honey from this clover and heard it highly spoken of in that county where there were several hundred acres this season. If some of our Hamilton County farmers will tell us all about its good qualities, and bad ones too if it has any; also, who has seed and what it is worth per bushel?

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The Chemist says, "one pound of honey contains as much nutriment as three pounds of pork, yet our people will work early and late, to raise corn, to feed the hogs, to make "hog meat," to live on, without even trying to keep a few bees to gather honey for the family, when all the little ones would be delighted to have some.

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Larger quantities of propolis were packed in the spaces around our hives this fall than we have ever found before. Very little was used until about Sept. 25 and from that on until our bees were packed away about Oct. 25, the bees were busy in their work of filling the cracks. Has anyone else noticed the same, and what does it mean?

Charles White, of Farmers Valley, Neb., sold his farm last spring, but retained possession for the year, now writes us that he will remove to Aurora, Neb., where he will continue his business of queen rearing and handling supplies.

The old American Bee Journal, like some people, has put on a new dress, on Oct., 1, and comes out as though it was renewing its youth and vigor. Although the paper is a year older than its present editor, he is up and rustling, keeping step to the music.

At an evening entertainment we once saw a chemist mix up a compound of acids and old shoes, which, when placed by the side of the villainous compounds sold for pure syrup, could hardly be told from them, still people will buy such stuff for food instead of buying good honey for nearly the same.

The season just passed has been a prosperous one for the apiary supply dealers, and many are now making arrangements for enlarging their works and facilities for next seasons trade. To those wishing to buy new boilers and engines or horse powers, we would recommend them to look at the goods and prices of those manufactured by the York Foundry and Engine Co., of York Neb.

In speaking of the honey plants of Nebraska, we have often called the weeds which look so much like smartweed, by the commonly accepted name of *heart's ease*. This is according to Root's A. B. C. and we have heard the same name applied to it in the southern states. Gray in his botany, says "*heart's ease is of the violet or pansy family*, and here I think is where some of the confusion arises regarding it as a honey plant." If Prof. Bessey will give us the proper name for our honey

plant, so closely resembling smartweed or as sometimes called large smartweed.

One thing which it was "resolved" to do by the last State convention, was to use as a standard section, $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{8}$ and use separators, then sell by the pound. The introduction of such a resolution, brought out a sharp controversy by some who were using odd sized hives. It also brought out the fact about seven eighths of all sections sold this season were of that size, and the carrying in stock of other sizes was an expensive luxury not in keeping with the close margins at which they must be sold; consequently odd sized sections were not favored by manufacturers or supply dealers.

The next meeting of the York Co., Bee Keepers Association will be held at the home of Daniel Longwell, five miles east of York, on December 7, 1892. The subject for discussion will be, "The lessons of the season, or what have we learned." We hope to see a good attendance and well filled lunch baskets. Come and enjoy a good time.

In the October B. K. Review, the editor requested those engaged in selling queens this past season, to report the number sold. So far, enough have reported to make 11,715, and we know of enough more to swell the list to at least 12,500, and still the bee and queen trade is "nothing."

We are after your money, and in return will give full value in good reading. 50 cents pays for The Nebraska Bee-Keeper one year. For \$1.35 we give the American Bee Journal with our paper. For \$1.25 the Nebraska Farmer and our paper. For 85 cents the Breeder and Fancier and our paper. For 65 cents the American Farm and Horticulturist with our paper. If you pay your money, take your choice.

COBS AND KERNELS.

BY M. H. DEWITT.

Friends, have you fed your bees sufficient stores for winter, if not, don't put it off another day, you had better feed them now in order to save them from starvation; they should have been fed up two months ago, better have too much than not enough.

Sugar has advanced to 7c. per pound and it is quite dear to those who have to feed sugar to winter their bees, but I prefer sugar syrup made from pure granulated sugar, in preference to fall honey to winter bees on, as they are not so apt to get dysentery when fed on pure sugar syrup. I once fed a colony that had no honey on pure granulated sugar syrup for winter, just to see how they would winter, they had no pollen in their combs, and to my great surprise they wintered the best of any colony I had that winter and come out strong in the spring, and this fall I had to feed up about all my bees as the honey crop was not more than one-fourth crop here this year; bees were in fine condition for the honey flow, but it was a failure.

The honey season is over and now is a good time to look back over the past seasons work and see if we can't improve some on our past seasons work, see if we can't find where you missed it in some way, and see if you can't do a little bit better in 1893.

Of all the different queen breeders I have purchased queens from, I got the best queens and finest bees, both in beauty and in business qualities this past season, from W. H. Laws, Mrs. Jennie Atchley and D. E. Jacobs.

The best display of honey at the Arkansas Valley Fair in Rocky Ford, Colorado, lately was made by J. F. Hogan who has 126 colonies in healthy condition. Mr. Hogan has a colony of pure Italian bees working in a glass globe, building comb and filling the cells with

stores. This curiosity will be sent to the Columbian Exposition next year, *American Bee Journal*, Oct., 13, 1892.

Mr. Alley's Punic's do not seem to be taking well, as we see so many bad reports concerning their stinging propensities. Mr. Alley will have yellow Punic's out of them next season.

I am preparing to run 150 nuclei next spring in queen rearing, have been experimenting all this season on different methods of rearing queens, and I find that to get good long lived and large queens they must be reared in full colonies, and then mated in 4-fr. nuclei the size of the L. frame. I reared some of as fine queens as I ever saw in this way. I will rear all my queens hereafter by the Doolittle method, in full colonies and upper stories.

Honey is advancing in price, those who have honey to dispose of had better sell before it is too late as it may decline in prices, but a choice article of either comb or extracted honey will always command a high price, and a ready sale.

Uniting colonies or driving away robbers, J. F. Shirk says in the Review, he does it by using a spray of carbolic acid—one dram of acid to seven of water, with half a dram of glycerene.

We learn that Mr. E. F. Quigley has had luck, by having the Progressive Bee Keeper burned up, with all his valuable books excepting his subscription book. He had no insurance and it will be quite a loss to Mr. Quigley.—Sang Run, Md.

At a meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, the president claimed that nearly 500,000 pounds of honey are now annually produced in that province, and that they were furnishing a wholesome, cheap food, not a luxury, as there is more nutriment in a pound of honey than in five pounds of pork. He has kept from 10 to 150 colonies, and his average is about 50 pounds per colony.

The Home and Garden.

The Window-Garden.

Extent of Collection.—It is bad policy, especially for beginners, to start the season with too large a collection. Begin with easily grown plants, and proceed to more fastidious ones by degrees. It is a mistake to crowd the space for plants unduly. Let each specimen stand nearly or quite clear from all others, even if it be at the cost of throwing out some plants. Half a dozen fine, vigorous, uncrowded plants are much more satisfactory than three times as many crowded, and, as a consequence, ill-shaped and unhealthy ones.

Watering.—No detail of house-plant management is more important than that of watering. If you cannot appreciate this, visit the commercial plant-grower's houses, and see the trouble taken there to provide just the right amount of water to each plant. In the first place, the plantsman sees to it that every plant in his charge has drainage provided in the pot, so that any excess of water can quickly escape. Then he watches his collection hourly, and at the first sign of dryness among his plants, down comes a shower from his hose or pot. He applies water with a bold dash—that is, when a plant needs water at all, he gives it enough to saturate the soil thoroughly.

Nourishment.—At the beginning of the season, be sure that each plant has a suitable soil. If the stock comes from an intelligent florist, he will see to this: but every amateur plant-grower should have on hand a supply of potting mould, for use when plants are lifted from the garden, and in case repotting is needed. This mould may be had for a small price from regular plant-growers. In buying it, be sure to ask for the best article obtainable.

In addition to good soil, some stimulant will be needed for the plants. Liquid manure and any of the concentrated plant foods, are useful; but several different stimulants must not be given at the same time.

Repotting.—Amateurs, as a rule, repot too often, and keep their plants in too large pots. It is of no use to give a plant fresh soil before its roots have pretty well occupied the old. There is a proper time to repot, and that is when the ball of earth is well surrounded by roots, a state that can be determined by tipping the plant out of the pot.—*E. A. Long, in American Gardening for Nov.*

AMONG THE FLOWERS.

A correspondent of the Orange Judd Farmer, writing from Springfield, Ohio under date of Nov. 5, says: "We have had a few grim days, but now the sun shines out and it is Summer-like again. Everywhere, in all the yards and gardens, large or small in this Gem City, Autumn's queen, the Chrysanthemum, is in regal array: crimson, pink, yellow and in all the different shades. All are so handsome that I cannot decide which I like best—large yellow flowers of the old Chinese kinds, double as a rose, rival the loose feathery newer Japanese varieties; and peering up among these stately bushes are the small pompon of all colors looking like miniature roses, and quite as beautiful. In the florist's windows large *trees* of one stem only, and full of large flowers are shown, side by side with immense bushes of the pompon sorts. To drive thru the city and suburbs is a real chrysanthemum feast. When done blooming these potted plants need only be set in the cellar for the winter, or under the greenhouse benches. When those in the borders are entirely done blooming and the very latest clusters taken in, the old stalks are taken out and a light mulch is all that is required to keep them safely until spring. It is easy

growing vines, flowers, etc., in this temperate climate where to plant is to grow and reap a harvest of bloom. Many home gardeners express dissatisfaction with the Newer Japanese Chrysanthemums, which are puny, and do not bloom well; and run back to the original, be it white, red, pink or yellow.

The larger plants that graced the yards all Summer, are now set in the cellar, such as lemons, orange trees, oleanders, pomegranates, etc. Many plants are in place in the window gardens now; these must be well looked over to remove any spiders or other insects, given copious shower baths, and thick leaved plants such as rubber trees, myrtles, jessamines, etc., be carefully washed with a sponge dipped in soap-suds, afterwards showering the plants with clean tepid water. One essential is to have the glass bright and clean, and all spiders destroyed before putting the plants on the shelves. Many ladies do not fill up their window gardens until Dec. 1st, as very little warmth is required in this climate until that time.

Chinese lilies can be started any time this month and will bloom in six or eight weeks. Fill a large glass dish or bowl with water, and after placing it in some pretty stones or shells, set four or five bulbs among the stones. Put in a warm room and they will soon sprout, and prove very satisfactory. The Chinese say, "gash the bulb if in five or six places, it throws up more stalks and does better."

There are so many plants which are good Winter bloomers that, with a greenhouse at every door, or within reach by mail of the remotest settler, no lover of plants need be without a few to brighten home and make the winter less dreary.

Among the many, few are more desirable than a Primrose, with its freedom of bloom and varied colors, ranging from pure white to darkest pink and red. It blooms and thrives in a lower temperature than most plants,

and does well with an hour's sun a day, or at a north window.

A grand old Fuchsia (Fulgens) has recently come into great demand after long neglect. The plant itself is so handsome, with leaves over six inches long, and flowered four to five inches. It has tuberous roots like a dahlia. It was introduced from South America in 1837, and many of the new, beautiful varieties have been produced by hybridizing it with other species. It requires the same treatment as other fuchsias, rich soil, plenty of water, partial shade, and frequent showering to keep off the red spider. The large, drooping clusters of long tubular flowers are very striking. The tubes and sepals are bright rose red, and the corolla brilliant carmine. I have rarely seen a handsomer fuchsia. Set on a trailer it is graceful and effective as any fine trailer.

Another old plant of many names, has come to the front as Brugmansia. Large specimens bear 20 to 50 flowers, often a foot long and of a creamy-white color, very sweet-scented. As a lawn plant in the cellar during Winter, or if kept growing in a warm room with full sunshine it gives many of its large blossoms for the Holidays. It is a stately plant indoors or out.

Aloes are showy plants that need very little care. They must be planted in a mixture of garden soil and sand, with good drainage. Water should be given in the saucers, then removed, but the ground must not be kept very wet. Plants bloom when three or four years old. These give a stately grace to any collection of plants, and are very ornamental. This Summer I have seen several varieties in bloom, and never knew before how handsome they are. A few weeks since, in a small collection of plants, I saw a magnificent Hoya carnosa, or Wax plant, in bloom. It was six feet high and four feet wide, on a trellis, and in a large earthen jar. It had clusters of its waxy, white flowers as

a snowball, and from each flower in the cluster hung a clear drop of honey. It had also buds that would bloom from time to time through the winter. It had not been reset in six years and seemed pot-bound and full of roots. There did not seem to be earth enough to sustain a plant half as large, yet I never before saw so thrifty a wax plant. The owner said she meant to break the jar in the Spring and reset in a large wooden bucket. The lady is a very active woman, is the post-mistress in the town, busy all the time, with very little leisure to devote to plants; yet I never saw a finer or more thrifty lot of plants than hers.

It is simply wonderful to see how the love of flowers has spread, and how many of all kinds are cultivated everywhere in town, village and remote country places. In this let us give thanks to the bounteous Giver of all good, that so many homes and hearts are brightened and refined by the silent influence of these lovely nurslings of sun and shower."

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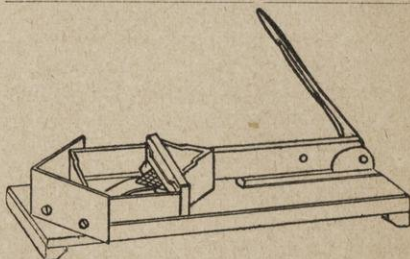
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Manure the Orchard.

It seems strange that valuable as is a well-cared for orchard so few apply manure to their trees with a view to feeding them. Without manure, few orchards produce the quantity or quality of fruit which they will if properly cared for and fertilized. The custom is to give the manure to crops making the quickest returns and neglect the fruit trees. We have to look by faith through years for profit in the young orchard, and few ever think of feeding an old, bearing tree, or imagine it will produce more or finer fruit by manuring. I have heard farmers who seem to take great interest in fruits, say that an orchard on thin land would bear earlier than on rich land and the fruit be of better flavor, although it may not be so large. This may be the case while the trees are young and for the first few crops, but I have yet to see the tree which did not begin to fail after a few crops.



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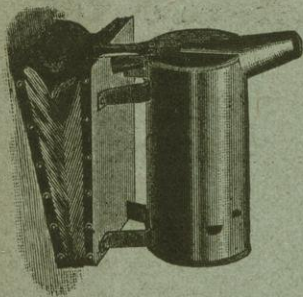
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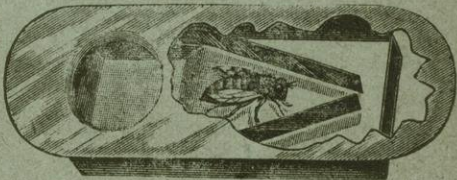
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