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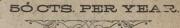
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MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER.

DECEMBER, 1891.



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VOL. 1.

UNIONVILLE, MO., DECEMBER, 1891.

NO. 10.

Communications.

NO WINTER TROUBLES.

BY L. B. SMITH.

MR. EDITOR: - With your kind permission I will write a few words for the M. B-K. First, I wish to say that I think the M. B-K. the best of any of the new journals (that are devoted to bee-keeping) that have been started in the last few years, and now, as you have added a Southern Department, I think all bee-keepers should take it, both North and South, as it is suited to both climates.

I think this is one of the finest countries for bees in the Union. We have no winter losses here, nor spring dwindling to contend with. All that is necessary here to insure safe wintering is a fair-sized colony of bees and a good young queen, ten or fifteen pounds of honey or sugar syrup and success is assured. I have known such colonies to winter out in the open air without any protection whatever, except having their combs attached to the under side of a limb of a tree. Bees often all her escort. The second time it commence swarming by the 15th went the same way. The third

of March, in this part of Texas, and continue to swarm until about the fifteenth of July, and, strange to say, I have never known bees to swarm in September or October as they do in some of the Northern But, perhaps I had better States. stop, as this is my first visit to the columns of the M. B-K. I will tell your readers of my experience with the different races of bees in the last ten years in my next.

Lometa, Texas.

IMPORTED QUEENS, ETC.

OTTO J. E. URBAN.

Well, the honey season is over for 1891. Has it been a good one? With me it wasn't. All my old colonies did fairly well, making from 50 to 70 lbs. of nice comb honey, and some of the strongest made some extracted after they got through with filling the sections. My increase didn't do much.

I would like to tell the readers of the M. B-K. my experience in importing queens from Italy, and their turnout in my yard. I ordered early last Spring and when her majesty arrived she was dead and

time I got the queen through alive, but nearly all the bees were dead and the rest died before I could introduce her. However, I got the queen safely introduced into a nucleus colony and she started to lay the second day. The queen is a large, broad-shouldered madam and a prolific layer. But her progeny of workers is too dark to suit me. I think I am done with imported queens.

I notice in *Gleanings* a good deal of stirring about bee paralysis. I had a few colonies diseased with it last spring. I used one teaspoonful of common table salt and mixed it in about half pint of thin sugar syrup and sprinkled it all over the sick bees and combs with a whisk broom such as I use for brushing bees from the combs. A few days after using the salt mixture I noticed my bees cleaning out the hives, and have had no more dead bees up to this fall. I never tried changing queens.

We have had a severe drouth here in this part of Texas for nearly six months.' Last night it began to rain heavy and is still at it. The dry weather cut our bloom weed honey short and if bee-keepers did not have much honey in the hives last summer there will be heavy losses next spring from starvation.

Why is it that our Texas beekeepers do not write more for the bee papers? Everybody ought to try to help our southern journals along and make them in course of time as good as all the old journals. Help! Brother bee-keepers, help! It is for our own good to have good,

well-written journals in the south. There is no use in sending our money up north. Let's keep it at home.

-Thorndale, Texas.

Friend U., We would like for you to tell us about the honey gathering qualities of the bees from imported queens. One of our customers remarked this season that he intended to purchase an imported queen, not that he thought them better but the name sounds big.

BEES DO NOT DESTROY GRAPES.

BY WM. SHACKELFORD.

As there has been a great deal said about bees destroying grapes I send you the following thinking perhaps it will be of interest to your many readers.

Three years ago I had a nice lot of grapes and when they began to ripen something tore a three-cornered hole or a slit from ¹/₄ to ¹/₃ inch. long in the skin. 1 watched the bees working on them but could not see them cut the grapes open. This year I had a fine lot of grapes. On looking at them about the first of September I found a great many cut open but no bees working on them. A few days afterwards it looked as if one-third of the grapes on some vines were cut open. I stood still and kept watch on the vines. In a few minutes I saw a bird slipping along through the vines. I was about six feet from it. It gave one snap at the grape and then sipped the juice a mo-ment, then snapped another. I watched it until it had opened a

dozen grapes or more. I threw at it, but it slipped through the vines to the end of the row, then went down in the grass. Bees were not working on the grapes then as spanish needle was in full bloom. The bees began working on the grapes about a week afterwards. The bird is what I call the bobolink. In the spring of the year they can be seen in the brush piles and along old fences. At least one-half of my grapes were destroyed this year by these birds. My bees have done very well this year. At spring count I had twenty-give stands, some very weak. From them I have taken two thousand and thirty-six pounds of comb honey. -Eagleville, Mo.

Friend S., only those ignorant of bees ever accuse them of destroying grapes. Bees get the blame for many unreasonable things. Why it is we do not know.—[ED.

TO BEGINNERS.

BY M. H. DEWITT.

FULL WIDTH ENTRANCE FOR WIN-TERING—Always give the bees in chaff hives the full width of enterance. Years ago bee-keepers thot it an advantage to contract the entrance at the approach of cold weather, "to keep in the warmth," as they said; but, friends, late years have demonstrated that this is a most fatal mistake. Ever since I have given a full entrance I have lost scarcely a colony in chaff packed or chaff hives. It has been ascertained that bees need plenty of bottom ventilation. Some of the box hives that used to winter the

most successfully, year in and year out, were raised an inch from the bottom by means of a block under each corner. Again, the entrance will clog with dead bees if it is contracted.

SPREADING THE BROOD NEST-A good many of those who winter successfully urge that before the final packing the brood frames should be spread from the regular breeding distance, that is 13 to 13 inches from center to center, to $1\frac{3}{4}$. have generally spread out brood frames during winter; but I do not think it is really necessary. I feel pretty sure we can winter just as well with the combs at breeding distance. Another season I shall try it on about half of my colonies, and then I will report the result. We should use a Hill's device over the frames, so the bees can pass from one comb to another. It gives the bees an opportunity to pass from one comb to another as fast as the stores are consumed, and during the winter if you lift up the burlap you will find, as a general rule, the bees are directly beneath the device. Some have advocated in lieu of the Hill's device, cutting holes or passage ways through the combs to give the bees an opportunity to pass from one comb to another. With a shallow frame, like the Langstroth, the cutting of holes is entirely unnecessary if the Hill's device is used. With a deep frame it may possibly be an advantage.

ascertained that bees need plenty of bottom ventilation. Some of the box hives that used to winter the cloths, carpets, etc., but have come

to the conclusion that there is nothing cheaper or better than a large piece of burlap cut in the form of a square, and hemmed at the edges. This should at least be as large as the inside of the hive and after the Hill's device is put over the center of the brood nest the burlap is put on top and carefully tucked down at the edges. On top of this I put a large chaff cushion, which, likewise, should be a little larger than the inside dimensions of the hive, so that when it is laid over the brood frames it will crowd up into the corners and shut out all possibility of draft. The whole top of the brood nest will be made tight, for whatever air or moisture passes from the cluster must rise slowly through the chaff. Bees that are prepared as above described will winter perfectly safe if the other conditions are right.

-Sunny Side, Md.

Friend D., your advice would do in the day of the Simplicity hive. but how about the flat covers of todav? The cushions and burlaps are being replaced by flat wooden covers, which are much better. A flat cover well glued down and the back end of hive elevated so the moisture that condenses on the cover will run down and out at the entrance is better than most cushions. We have recommended old carpet to cover over the frame. but it holds considerable moisture. The most satisfactory packing on top of frame would be to put a bee escape on early so the bees could glue it down then pack an upper story

full of fine hay or straw, on top of this covering the hole where the escape comes out with burlap. On warm, sunny days take off the cover and let the sun shine on this packing from two to five hours. Whatever packing you may use it should be kept dry.—[ED.

ADULTERATING HONEY.

MRS. MILTON CONE.

Friend Quigley:—Since living in this city, I have spent some time in investigating the honey upon the market here.

I find very little dark honey, either comb or extracted, as far as I have looked have found most all of it very beautiful. As it was not in our power to produce any "white honey" this past season, and have heard of so much that was dark in other localities. I was led to remark "This has been shipped from California or some distant point. judge this is not Missouri or Kansas honey," and was invaribly answered: "O yes! this honey was raised by Mr. —, naming someone whose place of business was not so very distant, and whose reputation for an honest deal, I had no reason to doubt. Walking along from the market, and wondering all the while how it was that their bees found white honey when ours did not. I stepped into a Commission House where I saw a great deal of honey, here I ventured to ask how it was that the honey I saw in glass pails was so transparent, when it was not possible for us to show any so nice? The dealer "We don't deny adulterreplied:

ating with glucose. It does not sections, when we had worked and hurt it a particle." I replied: planned to have heavy, white ones, "Well, it hurts us, the honey pro- and perhaps a temptation to some ducers." He says: "Oh no! That to use sugar that is so cheap. But can not be, for there never will be such procedure can only harm us, honey enough raised to fill the and aside from the imposition pracmarket, and we can just as well d, viced upon the community in an this and make something out of it article of food, we ought to considand do no one any harm." Now I er the great wrong done an article think, perhaps he may be honest in of medicine. I believe I am cured his convictions of thus preparing of acute neuralgia by eating PURE such an article, and labeling it honey (more by it than the bee honey. At the same time I would stings) and it is medicine for many like to know if there is a remedy, other ailments, so I consider this a any way, of preventing this. It certainly does injure the market on pure honey, so many people buy it for what it is called, and then condemn all of it as being sugar or something else but honey. young man visited us last summer, while the dark honey was coming in and we were so discouraged, who had worked in a large apiary where he was actually engaged in feeding sugar, in order to get sections finished up quickly and more of them. He said to us, "Why don't vou do likewise?" Our answer is this, to him and to all: Let us all do this business in such a way that our record will be fair if our honey is not, and our conscience clear, so that we may be able to look each customer in the face when we say "This is pure honey," and also feel in our hearts that we are worthy (in a measure, at least) the blessings of Him who sends the showers and the sunshine to make our business a success or failure.

It is disheartening, to say the least, to take off light weight, dark for one year.

subject that ought to be agitated, and all who raise honey urged to keep honor bright.

Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. C.-The matter of adulterating hurts bee-keepers more than the consumers. While glucose may not be injurious to health, it cheapens the article and is sold under a false name. We think the remedy is to have a law that will force them to label it just what it is. There is now on the shelves of a grocery in our town a few small glasses of stuff labeled "Pure Mississippi Valley Clover Honey, packed and refined by -----." Now any bee-keeper would know this to be a fraud. The very looks of it condemns it. We have urged beekeepers to be careful what they sell, for their reputation is of more importance than a few dollars. We shall be glad to have this matter discussed freely in our columns.-[ED.]

Send us the names of four subscribers with \$2.00 and we will send you the MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER free

D. A. JONES' REPLY TO SOME CORRES-PONDENTS.

We wish to give full credit to scientists, and in fact we owe them a great debt of gratitude for the able work they have done for us, and yet we are sure in the past some scientists have made mistakes and none are infalliable. No doubt many of those who have read Cheshire have noticed his state- lately to make some further tests ment on page 177, Vol. I, in reference to the capabilities of bees building square cells. He states: "This matter is not unimportant, for, if the books are believed in, the manner of cell elaboration cannot be understood. Even Langstroth, to whom the debt of apiculture is very great, has an illustration of the intermediate cell with a prolonged internal angle of 62° , which a number of English writers have improved (?) to 51° , whereas about 100° is the limit the bee can reach." Now, notwithstanding friend Cheshire's elaborate calculations and his positive theories on this point, we have known bees to build cells in direct opposition to, and in defiance of all his rules and regulations. Many will recollect us exhibiting at Toronto Exhibition large pieces of comb with cells in almost every conceivable shape, and when Mr. Cowan, the able editor of the B. B. J., was visiting us in 1887, we gave him a number of large pieces to take home to England, disproving beyond question these statements made by Cheshire. While scientists work largely with which will produce foul brood.

FOUL BROOD EXPERIMENTS. their microscopes, we go by practical experience. Experimenting for years with thousand of colonies ought to be some proof of a person's knowledge in reference to matters pertaining to their business. back numbers of the C. B. J. contain many pages describing the various experiments in connection with the curing or foul brood, and we do not desire to go over them again, but we have had occasion in order to prove some points. Now we have taken bees from a foul broody colony, that had honey in their sacs, and shaken them all up together so that we could not tell any difference in them. We took part of them and mashed them up, and mixed the mashed bees in honey, fed this honey to a colony and gave it foul brood. We took the other half and fasted them until all the honey in their sacs was consumed, in fact, until they starved to death. We then mashed them, and fed them to a neuclei, or small colony, first mixing them thoroughly in honey, and the result was not a trace of foul brood. We have had repeated experiments clearly indicating to us that the honey is almost the only cause of spreading the disease. We have no knowledge of the disease ever being spread by the bees, after the honey in their sacs was all consumed. Of course, we have known it to start from hives that contained foul brood, but not after they had been scalded.

Queens are also said to lay eggs

This statement we have no hesit- disorder, if it could be communiation in saying, was made in good faith, yet experience in America at least, proves that it is quite astrav. I have made tests in more than 500 instances of queens from foul brood colonies and the disease in not one instance ever appeared again. See the thousands and thousands of foul broody colonies that are fasted every year and which never show a sign of foul brood afterwards. If the queen gives the disease or if the disease was carried by the bees on their bodies, fasting would be of no use. If the disease is in their bodies in any way, so that it could afterwards come in contact with the honey, why does it not produce the disease again? Perhaps some of these scientists can tell us why it is that a bee with its sac filled with foul broody honey can consume or remove every particle of it from the sac so that clean honey put into the sac never gets a trace of foul brood. We have set a clean colony of bees without combs on top of a foul broody hive, placing two partitions of wire cloth between sufficiently far apart to prevent the bees from feeding any of the diseased honey to the upper colony, but allowing free circulation of atmosphere between the two colonies. until the top colony was so permeated with the foul broody odor that it was impossible to tell from the smell which colony was diseased and which was not. After vestigations by half a dozen or so remaining in this close proximity scientists in their studies, and hunto the diseased calony and giving dreds of practical bee-keepers in them every chance to contract the their bee yards. Whether the

cated through the atmosphere, we have removed them to a clean hive and they never showed a sign of foul brood. Next, we placed a number of combs containing honey in the same place over this foul broody colony for a few hours, and upon placing these combs and honey in a perfectly healthy colony the disease almost immediately broke out. This is only one proof among many which we have that no matter how the bees be exposed to the disease they do not contract. it, but immediately the honey is placed in proximity to the plague, it takes up the germs or whatever means the disease is carried by, and when fed to the nuclei brings foul brood every time. We have taken a queen from the worst foul broody colony in our yard, introduced her to a queenless colony in a few minutes after she was taken out. Every egg she laid produced a healthy bee. We then placed her back in diseased colony again, and the nearly every egg she laid produced a larvael, which died of foul brood. We have again put her in another clean nuclei, when every egg she laid produced healthy bees. We have made this experiment frequently and thoroughly, and we are speaking of what we have seen with our eyes, not with the microscope. This whole question, in fact, seems to resolve itself into a dispute between experiments and in-

scientists have discovered the germs ward. We find bees breed up early of foul brood or not, is a question. in the divisable brood chamber But the testimony of thousands of hive. This hive is deeper than the bee-keepers, added to years of our L hive, having a passage way beown experience, is our evidence to tween the two sections. The brood the fact that the scientific baccillus is spread sidewise until the top alvei is entirely harmless except section is full before they begin to when fed to the larval in the food. crowd downward. A colony of We are very glad that Mr. Corneil has brought this subject up and probed it a little more, because it brings out fresh facts and new points that are worthy of our attention; just as long as tin cans or other vessels, in which foul broody honey is sold, are scattered about back yards and lanes, or left lying around where robber bees can get at them, just that long will we have to keep posted on how to cure foul brood.—Canadian Bee Journal.

REE HIVES.

This is a subject of interest to all. And the beginner is puzzled to know what style of hive to adopt. There are certain leaders, and all others follow, regardless of who is right. We were raised with the American hive and up to five years ago used nothing else. Having sold these hives to a neighbor at the time of adopting the L frame (to be popular). We were surprised to find bees in American hive so strong early in the spring as compared to my bees in the L hives. but my bees gave a larger surplus, probably because they were looked after, and more room given as soon as needed. For a summer hive the shallow hive is the best. A deep, square hive is better for wintering and early spring breeding, bees want to crowd their brood down- by F. A. Gemmill.

bees in a tall hive can keep warm more brood than they can in a shallow hive. But after the shallow hive has bees enough to fill it from end to end. there is no difference.

There is a point in regard to the size of hives, perhaps many of you never thought of. A great many bee-keepers have adopted S-frame hives and are getting less surplus honey and have to feed for winter. Now we favor small hives at certain seasons, and at other times we want a larger hive than the 8-frame.

The main failure of many beekeepers in securing a crop of honey is in not getting brood enough early in the season. It would pay those using 8-frame hives to use a set of half depth extracting combs, putting them on before the sections went on during fruit bloom, or about the time clover commences to bloom, giving the bees a place above the brood nest to store the honey being gathered at that time. and as soon as they were ready for the sections remove this extract-... ing super and put it under the brood nest, the bees will then remove this honey to the sections. then at or near the close of the honey harvest this super can be put on top of the section and in place of a lot of unfinished sections, you have this honey in shape to extract or to feed those in need of it. We use the New Heddon hive in this manner. All bee-keepers should read the essay on the above subject



BEE-KEEPER PUBLISHING CO. Unionville, Missouri.

ORLY 50 CENTS A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Adve tising Rates made known on Application.

E. F. QUIGLEY, Editor.

Dear friends, we have decided on a new name for the M. B-K. Commencing with January, 1892, we shall call it the "PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER, as suggested by Bro. W. Z. Hutchinson. While our own state bee-keepers have been very liberal in their support, more than three-fourths of our subscribers live in about twenty-nine other states. It shall be our aim to improve the BEE-KEEPER. It was our intention to raise the price and make it larger, but have decided not to make the advance at present. We ask you all to lend a hand, give your ideas, methods, successes and failures. Let your light shine and it will reflect back at a time that will be of much value to you. We wish you all a prosperous and happy future.

The White Mountain Apiarist makes its appearance in a new cover and otherwise improved.

The discussion on Yellow Carniolans has at last done one man some good. It caused his money to be returned after a year had passed.

We have discarded tin separators, wood being better and cheaper.

Alfalfa is grown in some parts of Kansas and quite large crops of honey has been secured. Who can tell us more about it?

The question of a standard for grading comb honey was brought up at the Northwestern convention at Chicago. This is a move in the right direction.

Bro. Dibbern proposes to exchange one pound of his honeydew for two pounds of clover honey next season, by feeding each colony a section late each evening. This is the best use it can be put to.

The White Mountain Apiarist for October, was not issued, owing to the office being moved to Groveton, N. H. Bro. Ellingwood writes that the Apiarist will be out on time hereafter.

We are satisfied, from experiments made the past season, that it will pay to rub all closed end frames or other parts of the hive with vaseline or tallow to prevent the bees from propolizing them. It also has a tendency to prevent burr combs on top bars.

Dr. Miller wants to know what is a colony of bees—what is a regular sized hive, and is the hive a part of the colony? Now Dr., we think when the bees are in the hive they are a colony; without a hive we would consider them a swarm. As to a regular sized hive, we don't know. Would think the size most commonly used. To be successful in an business you must be in love with it. No one can make a success with bees when he takes it up because he thinks there's "money in it," will soon abandon it in disgust.

We regret very much that business kept us from attending the Northwestern Convention at Chicago, it would have been a feast long remembered by us. We have many pleasant recollections of our state meeting.

The indications are now that bees in this neighborhood will suffer unless the winter is very mild, giving them frequent flights. Our bees have spotted the hives and snow more than we like to see, and have been confined only about a month.

We ask every one to get a neighbor to subscribe and send it in with your own subscription. If you will do your part we will soon dress up the BEE-KEEPER, giving you considerable more reading. If you want any other paper or book, write us.

During the season of '92 we shall give all our time to the bees and BEE-KEEPER. There is a fascination about bees we cannot resist. Since early childhood a colony of bees had more charms for us than the dry goods boxes, saloons and other loafing places up town.

"Missouri may be slow in some the rearing of things but she has some wide to look for son awake, stirring bee-keepers."—Nebraska Bee-Keeper. "The Missouri more energy a State Society has 106 members. large enough."

Pretty good for Missouri."—Dr. Miller in *Glemings*. Now see here, gentlemen, Missouri may have the name of being slow, but don't believe all you hear.

We have received Nos. 1 and 2, Vol. I, of the *Bee Journal*, of Wi nonoa, Minn. It is well printed, and on good paper. Its name is to be changed to the *North-Western Bee-Journal*. We would think it was intended for a State Jonrnal from the editorials. The Bro. editor will find he has a very small territory. We wish him success.

This season we gave some nuclus colonies frames of heavy foundation to draw out. The bees would work the cells out one-fourth of an inch deep and stop. There was no honey coming in and the cells were not lengthened until some time afterwards. We concluded from this that there was wax enough in heavy foundation to make comb one-half inch thick if properly used.

In looking over an old bee-book, "Quinby's Mysteries of Bee-keeping," we find he claims the bees make cells of the new comb larger than needed at first. This probably explains why old comb does not produce dwarf bees. Some claim it does, but we have transferred some very old combs and have failed to find any of these small bees If this is a fact, those advocating the rearing of larger bees will have to look for some other method than breeding in large cells. Give us more energy and the present bee is large enough.

NAILED SECTIONS.—The sections used by the Baldwins, and many others near the Kansas City market, is four pieces nailed, 44x5 inches, seven to the foot. It presents a nice appearance, and we are told by those using this style that the dealers prefer them to the one piece section on account of their strength and showy appearance.

THE DRONE TRAP.—Some people think a drone trap or self-hiver will lessen the honey yield. Our experience proves to us that it increases the yield by discouraging swarming and destroying the drones that would require considerable honey to feed them. The two colonies that stored the most surplus for us this season worked through the trap all summer. Of course there is a better way to accomplish this, that is not to rear the drones.

We do not object to the importation of new races of bees for there is no better way of getting the best: but to advertise these as "something wonderful," when you have not tested them, is dishonest. There is always professional men. editors, &c, that will test these new races and are more able to give the actual value than the average beekeeper. A printed card sent out by a boomer this fall stated that his new race of bees was wintering splendid. Now the winter had not commenced, as it was the last of November. Probably he had them printed to send out next spring, but we are afraid he sent us one too soon, if he expects us to believe him.

The Scientific American, published by the great patent agency firm of Munn & Co., New York, is the most practically useful publication of its kind in the country. Indeed, it occupies a field distinctively its own. Not alone for the machinist, manufacturer, or scientist, but it is a journal for popular perusal and study. It is the standard authority on scientific and mechanical subjects. It is placed at a very low rate of subscription, \$3 per annum, which places it within the reach of all. Subscriptions will be received at the office of this paper.

C. H. Dibbern, Milan, Illinois, has sent a description of his selfhiver to *Gleanings*. It has been a success in Mr. D's hands. From what little experience we had this summer we think Mr. Alley will never make his hiver a success with the empty hive at one side. A returning swarm nearly always alights on front of hive before going in, and would be very many more chances of the bees finding their queen in the hive above than if it was at one side. Mr. E. L. Pratt claims to have a self-hiver that is a success. We shall try all of them another season and report.

HEDDON HIVE STANDS.—A. I. Root has put bottom stands under the hives in his home apiary like those used by Mr. Heddon. We have used this style for three years and am well pleased with it. We can put these stands where we want the hives to stand and level them, so when a swarm is hived we have nothing to do but set our hive on

and it is just where we want it. Our stand is made $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and when the bottom board is put on it forms a tight box with no holes for spiders to web up. Such a stand improves the looks of the apiary, and keeps the hives from settling into the ground.

Our January issue will be extra large, and if you think of doing some business in '92, you had better let the people know it, keep your name and business before the people. If you wait until time for them to use the goods before advertising that you have them for sale, you will find your enterprising competitor has already secured the bulk of the orders. We shall be pleased to hear from you and will make you reasonable rates Please notice our advertising pages.

Officers of the North American Bee-Keeper's Union for 1892: President, Eugene Secar, Forest City, Iowa: Vice Pres., Capt. J. E. Hetherington, Cherry Valley, N.Y.; Sec. W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.; Treas., E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio. The next meeting is to be held at Washington, D. C. The Bee-Keeper's Union has done a grand and good work in defending bee-keepers; the Union has but 571 members. If a neighbor gets slightly affended at a bee-keeper his first attempt at revenge is to work on the city council to have the bees declared a nuisance and have them removed from the city limits.

OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

Eight years ago the offices were filled by the present incumbents. Each year they have been re-elected by large majorities. They have done well, and been perfectly harmonious in all their actions. But would it not le advisable to have an entire change? Would it not inspire confidence and add largely to the membership? Some may think that the present officers have a mortgage on the places they fill, and to show all such persons that this is not the case, a change may be very desirable.

The General Manager knows that he expresses the feelings of all the officers when he says that they have no desire for re-election, and would be glad to give place to any others who may be selected by the votes of the membership at large. Their only desire is for the success of the Union in its great work of defending its members against the malicious attacks of the ignorant and prejudiced.

Any member is eligible to office. You should select from the list given in this report such as you desire to elect, and make out your ballot accordingly.

HOW TO BECOME MEMBERS.

As this report will be sent to many not members, but who should become such, it may be well to say that the entrance fee is \$1.00 and that pays for the dues of any portion of the unexpired calender year ending December 31. Then it costs \$1 for annual dues, which are payable every New Year's day, and must be paid within six months, in order to retain membership. If membership ceases, then all claims against former members also cease: and all claims to the protection of the Union are dissolved.—American Bee Journal.



MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,

Farm rsville, Texas.

How do queens ascertain when a cell is ready for an egg? by seeing or by scent? Which or both.

Bro. Doolittle's plan of introducing queens on page 117, his book on Queen Rearing, is too slow a process for me.

Now friends, give in your reports and let us have them in ready for our January number, and let us revive and have a better Southern Department in 1892 than we had in 1891. I hope we may all have a prosperous year and be ready to harvest our crops.

Some of our most able writers keep discussing about the chyme fed to the queens by the bees. In my experience all young bees are full of that food from the first day of their existence until nearly ready for the field. Whether there is any queens to be fed or not, it is one of nature's freaks.

If a person fails in artificial swarming it is the operators judgement that fails not the bees. See? I often see in some of the journals "My bees made a failure this year." My friends, we should change that sentence and say "we failed in the bee business this year." Bees in the woods seldom, if ever, fail in

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this country, for we found a swarm of bees in a cedar tree that had been there at least twenty years, for they went in when the tree was standing and it was a log lying down when we found it, and they had deserted the first combs and built a new nest, as the first was too rotten to hold honey. Good bye for 1891.

Well, dear friends, here is my report for 1891. I have sold about 1000 queens, have not time to count; shipped 250 pounds of bees at \$1.00 per pound; sent off some nuclei and harvested about 2000 pounds of honey; sold hives, foundation, smokers and general supplies to the amount of about \$100. Had but little help, possibly two days in all. **

INTRODUCING QUEENS.

To introduce a queen it is not necessary that the inmates of the hive see the queen at all, only cage her in the hive on the combs twenty-four to forty-eight hours and she will be more readily received than if the bees can see and gnaw at her through the cage. This I discovered by accident.

To make artificial swarms easy and right, cage a queen a day or two in the hive to be divided before you wish to divide; then make your division, leaving one queen in each half and all is well and natural swarming will be beaten by about ten days with one of the swarms. If you have more queens than you can use you can keep them any length of time by caging in other hives.

FULL SHEETS OF FOUNDA-TION VS. STARTERS.

We have for two years been trying to dispense with full sheets of foundation, and at same time get comb built all worker cells. When we had a second swarm to build combs we had very little drone comb, but needing more comb than these could build, foundation was necessary to ensure straight combs. Since comparing the work done by colonies that built their combs from starters and those having only a few drone cells. We find the rearing of a lot of drone consumes a large part of honey that should be stored as surplus, not only is the honey lost, but a lot of workers also, and this same thing will continue year after year. While the extra honev stored in a single season will pay cost of foundation for a full set of brood combs. Many bee-keepers lose a good share these nucleus hives full of drawn of their surplus honey in this way. One colony will furnish all the drones needed for all the young queens in a large apiary; let them be from the best colony in the yard. We know it is a hard matter to control drone rearing and only the careful bee-keeper will try to, but anyone expecting to make a success of bee-keeping will have to look after these small matters. As to starters in sections, we are not fully decided. When a starter only is used we cut it three cornered, this is nearer the natural shape the bees start their comb. We don't know as it is any better. but always thought so.

SPECIAL TO NEW SUB-SCRIBERS.

Our new subscribers can have a warranted Golden Italian honey queen and a year's subscription to the BEE-KEEPER for \$1.15. Queen sent promptly after June 1, 1892. Pay the subscription price (50 cts.) now, balance when queen is ready. MUST book the order Now. Regular price of queen is \$1.00. Let us have your subscription AT ONCE.

QUEEN REARING, NUCLEUS, ETC., ETC.

We note the discussion on small nucleus hives by friend Trego and others. We found the Pratt system to small, as we were unable to be in the apiary at all times. Now as the principle of the Pratt system just suited us, we enlarged the frames to about one-third L size. making our hives equal to two and a half L frames: but we did not fill comb; we gave them three combs and some frames of foundation to draw out, and had no swarming out. Two of these nucleus hives cover the top of one full sized hive and we often put them there to get combs of honey, as we prefer this to feeding our nuclei to prevent them starving. When one of these small hives gets too full of brood we slip three small frames into a full sized frame and give it to another colony or form a new one with it. We used these in same vard with three to five frame hives and prefer the small ones, as the bees are better able to cover the combs; they use less honey and

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can protect themselves from rob- continuous passage ways, as Dr. bers. The combs and bees can be put in a large frame and united, or three of the nucleus hives set on top of each other make a very good colony to winter. We make these just the same as a large hive, with loose bottom board, bee space on top of frame, &c. Some may claim they want their queens to fill several frames before shipping them off. We always do this, but a queen will lay more in three of these small frames than you can get in two L frames with double the quanity of bees; of course you must give them plenty of storage room at the sides. Now we not have to wait to see how a queen lays as to her prolificness, as we can tell very soon after she begins to deposit eggs. We do not use these small colonies to rear the queen but only to mate them in; although when in the right condition they will rear a few fine queens as a full colony, but we find the full colony system the cheaper. Now if any of you have questions to ask or criticisms to make, we shall be glad to hear from you.

BROOD FRAMES.

Commencing with the season of '91 we had three widths of top bars in our apiary, 13-16 x_4^1 , $\frac{7}{8}x_8^3$ and $1x_8^7$ inch wide. Heretofore the brace or burr combs had been troublesome. When frames were to be moved, we had been using the break-joint slatted and the woodzinc honey boards. This season our wood-zinc honey boards were

Tinker advises. Less than half the usual amount of comb was built above the top bars 13-16 of an inch wide. The 3 top bars gave about the same results. The thick top bars were used without a honey board in hives 12 inches wide inside and a part of them without a division board. Those frames used without a division board had a few burr combs built between them. but none above to the section case. Where the division board was used no brace or burr combs were built. The spacing being 13 and 14 inches-Another aid to prevent burr combs is foundation for comb guides. Combs built on wooden guides are often built a little crooked. We have not tried the Hoffman frame. but think it is all right. For honey production our choice is a shallow closed end frame, but when they they are to be handled, as in queen rearing, the hagging frame is best. Closed end frames should be compressed with wooden thumb screws,

WINTERING BEES.

BY CHAS. L. STRICKLAND.

Now don't turn up your nose at this subject, for in different states and countries different systems are practiced in wintering bees, same as different courses in management in summer. I don't believe that any system will give universal satisfaction in all places and at all times. Here the chaff hive is unknown, also the cellar and beehouses. We try to have plenty of young bees and stores, in single made with two-rowed zinc with walled hives; put a thin piece

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of wood, an inch thick, under the cushion and take out one frame, that gives them a chance to cluster more compact. Bees distributed one bee thick among the combs are in a dangerous condition, for in that position they cannot generate sufficient heat, and thus, in a cold snap, are gone.

I was at my apiary December 12 and the air was just full of "happy bees." When I got near enough to hear the roaring it made my heart beat faster, for the sound reminded me of June. I have a hav wall four feet high and two feet thick on the north end and west side; the hives face the east and they look quite nice in their winter quarters. No snow drifts here. The temperature was 56° at noon and looked like Oct. weather. Peabody, Kansas.

REPORTS:

I have carefully weighed all of my colonies and find that they improved the fall bloom, as they are very heavy, weighing from 25 lbs. to 60 lbs. net stores, so think that they are going into winter quarters in good condition, while others have lost every colony. My Golden Italians have gathered a good fall J. G. BAMING. harvest.

I thought I would drop you a few lines to inform you how I was managing my bees this year, or this winter. My bees made no honey this fall owing to the drouth, but the fore part of the season did well, that is for quantity, but the most of the honey is "honey dew." Now I intend to let my bees fill their brood frames with this honey dew and have their hives full of ous labor in the cause of bee-cr-1bees by the time white clover ture I remain,

blooms. I think that is the best way to get rid of the honey. don't want to sell it for it will hurt ny sales hereafter. What do you think of the plan? All bees that came out here after the 20th of June, will starve, unless they have been supplied with stores. There will be a big demand for bees next season, people are going wild here for bees and honey. I could not supply the demand for hives. neither could I get them from ou. er factories here. I have circulat ed your BEE-KEEPER and have the promise of several subscribers in the spring. The Golden queen I got of you in July has done fine. there are several talking of usying of you in the spring. I advise beekeepers to send off for their queens. as I think they do the best. Other property does the best to not kee them too long, but mix them, an why not bees? I think they wil Wishing great success to the SOURI BEE-KEEPER, I remain,

A. J. BLANKINS

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A GREAT CRIME.

We give an extract of a from a friend, which is a fair S ple of many we receive: 3

I see from what is said on that you have to bear the crime of being a young man, and the old sc. vengers who would like to gull the public with all kinds of llv devices, and never heard of "ces of bees, would like to silence your guns because of your youthfulness. I like the bold stand for what is right. While I feel sure it will make few dollars for you, it will save many dollars to those who read the MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER. New strains of bees are like new patent medicines—a fortune to the proprietor if all suckers will bite. Wishing you success in your zeal-C. L

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