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AUGUST 1891.

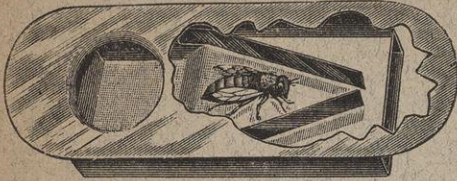


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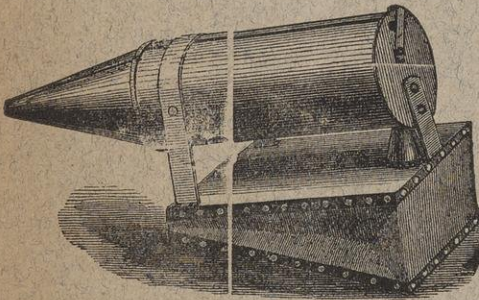
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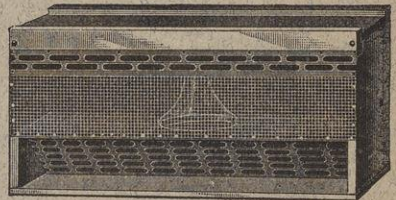
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MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER.

VOL. 1.

UNIONVILLE, MO., AUGUST, 1891.

NO. 6.

The Southern States.
 CONDUCTED BY
MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY,
 Farmersville, Texas.

Well, dear friends, I shall take time to say a few words this month whether I can spare it or not.

* *

We are just starting on our cotton bloom honey harvest. Horse-mint closed last week and was favorable all the way through. We had a fine rain the 16th, which insures a good cotton bloom crop. I hope you all are having a prosperous year, and if so, let's not forget to thank the Giver of all good for it.

* *

I have reared and shipped a little over 400 queens this season so far, and orders on hand for 200 more. Is that pretty good for me or not?

* *

Friends, I am here to tell you that nearly as much depends on the chance of a queen after she hatches as before if she makes a first-class queen. She should have bees enough, honey enough, and good weather enough to mate at about

the proper time. I have known some of my best queens to fly out at three days old and commence to lay in two more, five days in all.

* *

Don't melt up your old combs, but give them to me, I will give you bees-wax for them. I will take a sharp honey knife and shave the cells all down close to the base and let the bees rebuild them, and I think you will be astonished to see what pretty, nice, straight combs I will have, and no saging or breaking down either, and you can melt the cells. Friends, try it, and report, no patent applied for.

* *

We had a couple of days week before last of what we call hot winds and our newly made nuclei nearly all melted down, not on account of shade, but for want of old bees enough to keep the hives fanned cool. Even the chairs and furniture in the house get so hot they almost burn one's hands. This is the first hot winds that we have had for a good many years.

* *

Some, I believe, are wondering if Dr. Miller's straw stack wont give out some time. I think not, for I believe it is somewhat like

the laying propensities of a queen, fed and nourished by the body and will give out only when the body passes away.

* * *

I see in Gleanings some are making a great big boogerboo about "Hatching chickens in bee hives." Why we did that as far back as 1884, a report of which you can see in Gleanings during that year. It is not a good incubator, though, after all.

* * *

I am requested to give my ideas in regard to eight or ten frame hives for the south. Well, I like a ten frame hive the best, but I am using all eight frame hives at present. For the ten frame hive, I like it best, because it is the nature of bees to store honey over and around the brood nest, and the more room we have right over the brood nest not to have too much, the more section honey we get. But for extracted it does not make much difference. But for the sake of lighter work I use eight frame hives, they are lighter, and with my help (the children) it is quite an item.

* * *

I say pity on the brother or sister that can't keep their frames spaced without some sort of an old cumbersome complicated affair to space with. Why, dear friends, we should be able to tell at only a glance when our frames are right, and if you should give me hives with fixed distances, I would try to be as clever as you were and give them back to you, for I do not want my frames spaced alike all

the year round. In early spring, if my colonies are weak, I want my combs just as close as I can get them so the bees will have room to pass, then later on, I want to widen them a little. Many other reasons I could give, but suffice it to say I do not want fixed frames at any prices.

* * *

Queen excluders and honey-boards! Friends, what is all this worry about keeping a queen below? I want my queens to go where they please in the hive, and a queen that can keep two stories filled with brood, I mark her one point extra; and if she is able to fill three and keep them full or nearly so, she can hardly be over estimated, even at \$50.00, or more. And if you will just think about it a little you will see that it is a piece of foolishness to place any obstruction between upper and lower story, for I am satisfied that some of you would laugh at the old time bee-keeper with an auger hole in the top of his box hive to let the bees through, and now when you use any honey board, slatted or otherwise, between stories, you are doing just about as the old timer. Give the bees free and full access to all parts of the hive is my motto. What say you?

* * *

If your bees build bur combs and put brood where you do not want it, just have your way about it and cut off bur combs, they make good bees wax and pay for the trouble. Then put brood where you want it. I for one never get too much brood.

I find that I can use more brood and better brood to advantage in all parts of the apiary. So you say ah ha, this is all too much fussing for me, but I tell you that if you expect returns every year you must fuss, as some call it, for what works to-day may not work to-morrow, &c., &c.

* *
* *

Well, I thought I would say something about bee-keeping for ladies, but I declare, I have not space nor time this issue, for you probably know that when a woman begins to talk on a subject, or what she thinks is a subject, she hardly ever knows when to stop, even if half or more she says is no good. However, I shall try to tell you how I manage to keep bees, and push 'em, too, from 200 to 400 hives, nuclei and all. Give us all the help you can, we need it.

BEE KEEPING FOR PROFIT.

Dr. Tinker's New Hand Book. It gives his new system of management of bees complete, telling how to get the largest yield of comb and extracted honey and make the industry of bee keeping a profitable one. The work should be in the hands of every progressive apiarist. It is well illustrated. Price, post paid, 25 cents. For sale at this office.

AT THE FAIR.—We shall have samples of our bees, hives, and other fixtures at our County Fair, August 26 to 29. We shall be glad to meet our bee-keeping friends and show them our goods.

Communications.

CLIPPING THE QUEENS WINGS

BY M. H. DEWITT.

Probably there is no other item about bee-keeping, on which there is so much diversity of opinion, as there is regarding the clipping of queens' wings. Many of our very best apiarists stand directly opposed to others, who are equally as good authority. Some claim that the queen is injured by having her wings clipped, and for this reason many are superseded by the bees; while others are equally confident that it is impossible to injure the queen in the least by clipping her wings, if the clipping is delayed, as it always should be, until after the queen has commenced to lay. However, when I look the ground all over, I believe that the greatest number of the "dollar-and-cent apiarists" of our land are on the side of clipping the queens wings; and as I am on that side myself, I trust that I shall be excused, if I tell the readers in brief, some of my reasons for clipping the wings of all my queens. The second year of my bee-keeping I lost two prime swarms of bees, and as my apiary was small, I felt the loss very badly, and then and there I resolved that this would be the last one that would "run away." In accordance with this resolve, I clipped all of my queens wings in the yard, and have kept them so ever since, except those that I thought, of late years, I might sell; and although I now think that resolve a rash one,

yet in all my years of bee-keeping life, two swarms has been all that was ever lost from this cause. A person can hardly pick up a paper that treats on bees, but what he will find an account of swarms going into the woods; and there is no question but what hundreds of dollars worth of property "took wings and flew away" in just this manner; while if the queens wings had been clipped, the loss might have been saved. By having the wings of all queens clipped, the bees are perfectly under the control of the apiarist, and he can handle them as he pleases, separating them with pleasure where two or more swarms cluster together, and hive them on the "returning plan" when they come singly. In using this plan, all that we have to do when a swarm issues is to step to the entrance of the hive with a round wire cloth cage, such as has been advertised in the bee-journals, into which the queen is allowed to run, when the cage is closed up and laid in front of the hive. The old hive now moved to a new stand, and a hive prepared for a new colony put in its place. In a few minutes the bees miss their queen and come back, running into the hive with fanning wings, when the queen is liberated and goes in with them. I have followed this plan of hiving bees for many years with grand success, and I know it to be a good plan, as a good yield of honey is generally the result. There is no climbing trees, cutting off limbs, or lugging a cumbersome basket or swarming-box about. It is so

straight-forward, too—remove the old hive to a new stand. put a new hive in its place, and the returning swarm hive themselves without trouble, except the releasing of the queen.

Again, I clip off at least two thirds of all of the wings of the queen, so she is always readily found. In making nuclei, changing frames of brood and bees, making swarms, extracting, &c., if you find the queen, you can always know that she is just where she belongs, and not in some place where she ought not to be. By having her wings cut short, you can see her golden abdomen as soon as you lift the frame that she is on. Then again, the clipping of the queens wings does away with that expense to the apiarist—the fountain pump—or one of some other manufacture which, all the apiarists think, a necessity where their queens have their wings, so that by the use of it swarms may be kept from clustering together, where two or more come out at once, or if a swarm tries to "run away," so that it can be stopped. Some claim that a queen with clipped wings is more liable to fall off the combs and get injured, than she would if her wings were not clipped; but I cannot see how their wings should help them to hold on to the combs as long as that part is done with the feet. Others claim that unless the apiarist is constantly on hand, during the swarming season, many queens will be lost, by the bees swarming out and going back, while the queen stays out in the grass, she going so

far from the hive that she does not find her way back. If the apiarist is obliged to be away from home, let some of the family get the queen in the cage, and lay her at the entrance of the hive till the apiarist returns, when he can divide the colony, or let the queen go back, when she will come out with the swarm again the next day or so.

Sunny Side, Md., July 10, 1891.

[Bro. DeWitt: There is another side to this clipping business. We lost more queens from that cause than ever run away. If you are on hand at all times, probably it would not be so bad. Should you desire to sell these queens, very few would buy them. We use and prefer a drone trap. No bees run away or go in top of high trees, and our queens are saleable should we desire to let a few of them go.—ED.]

IMPORTED AND AMERICAN BRED ITALIANS.

BY A. SIDLER.

In writing this I shall not try to prove whether the Italians are a pure race of bees or not, nor will I try to bring up their history, as I must confess that I am not well enough posted with times 1500 or 2000 years ago. What I will say, however, are facts which I have known since boyhood. There is one thing that I never could understand, and that is why American people put so much value on anything that has the word "imported" especially with animals. Are imported bees or imported Italians any better than home bred? To give an intelligent answer to this,

we must compare bee-keeping in the old world with that in America. Anyone that has ever bought imported queens or bees will agree with me that their color, as a rule, is darker than home-bred queens. Their bees are from a three banded down to very near black, while the most are good honey gatherers, a good many are anything but good. But how about their gentleness? Well I have to see the first one yet that would come anything near like some of our best home bred bees in gentleness. Why American bred queens should produce finer marked, gentler, and to a certain extent, better working bees than those bred in Italy, is, perhaps, not understood by some. But I will give here a little bee-keeping of the Old World and compare it with bee-keeping in America.

The Old World is very slow in adopting new methods, or what the Americans would call it, an improved way, and this seems to be the case, especially in the bee industry. I was born and raised in Switzerland, which lays north of Italy, about a two hours ride on the railroad brought us over the line into balmy Italy. We used to keep from twenty-five to fifty stands of bees; but the old box hive with another box on top of it, would have been an improvement, compared with the way bees were kept then. The only hive that I ever saw was made out of straw, with one side open, the same as in the old box hive with one or two holes for entrance. In July they were taken down, upset and half of

the combs cut out, and the other half left to be cut out the next year. This was the only attention given them, except, perhaps, in hiving swarms. The same condition existed in Italy, in which country I resided eight years, up to 1879 when I left the Old World for America. How bees could be improved or even bred to standard, I fail to see. Things may have changed some since then, but I should think not very much.

[Bro. S: We think the value of imported queens is over-rated; you know it sounds big, but for net returns we think American bred queens equal to any when they come from reliable breeders. The Italian bee-keepers surely have improved their methods, but you know they have not the opportunity to learn that the Americans have.—ED.]

THE DOVETAILED HIVE FOR COMB OR EXTRACTED HONEY.

F. H. PETTS.

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I am accorded the opportunity of penning a few lines to your most excellent journal.

I am very proud of our state as a bee-keeping state; of our organ—THE MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER; and of its editor, Mr. Quigley; and with the good backing we have, I see no reason why we cannot hold our position as first. We have some very extensive bee-keepers in this state, of whom we are also very proud.

The honey crop so far in this county promises to be good. Many

of my new swarms have secured 50 and 60 pounds of surplus comb honey. The arrangement of the hive has lots to do with the honey crop, in fact all; and in as few words as possible, I will try to tell you how I arrange mine. First of all I will say I am using the dove-tailed hive, latest pattern, and I am fondly in love with it. I firmly believe that it is the simplest and cheapest hive made. I suppose a majority of the bee-keepers are acquainted with its dimensions, hence a description is unnecessary, and if anyone who has used it thoroughly has any objections, I would like to know it. I run for both comb and extracted honey, for the reason that should we have a short crop I will secure at least, enough honey for my own family—for it is a well known fact that more honey can be secured by running for extracted than comb honey. About April 1st I began feeding my bees, not because they were short of stores, but for the purpose of starting the queen to laying. I kept it up for nearly a week, feeding about one pound a day to a colony; by the end of the week the queen was laying nicely and soon had filled the five frames that I had contracted to (by division boards) I then added another frame of drawn comb; by this time a few bloom had opened, just enough to keep the queen laying. I then added frame after frame until the brood chamber was filled; by this time honey was coming in nicely. I then put on one super containing twenty-four one-pound sections filled with full

sheets of foundation, which were at once by the bees, and work commenced building or drawing out the foundation, and every bit of honey was deposited in the sections; by the time that white clover was well in bloom, the foundation was well drawn out and the lower story or brood chamber full of sealed brood. In this way the bees entered the supers at the beginning of the season and they staid there. As soon as the super was about half full I raised it up and put an empty one under it filled with full sheets of foundation; in this way I have prevented swarming, and only eight per cent of my bees have swarmed. Now I did not treat all my colonies this way, but tried ten of them as an experiment, and am so well pleased with the method that another season I shall do the same with every colony. After the principal crop is secured I remove the supers and place in their stead a full set of brood frames filled with full sheets of brood foundation or empty comb. This is for securing the balance of the honey crop, and does away with partially filled sections. The queen will sometimes lay in this upper story, but no harm is done for as soon as the bees hatch honey is stored in their stead, and it encourages working in the upper story. I don't admire honey boards and wont use them if I can help it, too much foolishness and bother. I am a firm believer in Italian bees and don't want any other kind. There is nothing so aggravating as a colony of hybrids.

The Italians are so gentle and easy to handle, so beautiful, and they stay on the combs when you want them there; no trouble to find queens, no unnecessary bee hats, gloves, &c., all you need is a good smoker. I am trying a few closed end frames, and while I have not had time to give them much of a test, I don't admire them in the dovetailed hive. I am a great friend to comb foundation, especially in the surplus chamber. Some writers say that a new swarm hived on full sheets of foundation or empty comb wont give you as good a surplus as those hived on starters or empty frames. My first swarm this year was hived on eight full frames of comb drawn out last season, and this colony has given me sixty pounds of surplus honey so far, in one-pound sections. It may have just happened, anyhow I am going to try more another season, just for fun, you know, and will test it thoroughly. I hope that all the brother bee-keepers are having a big crop.

Warsaw, Missouri.

Bro. Petts: The great secret of success in comb honey production is in getting a hive full of brood at the commencement of the honey harvest. The largest amount of comb honey (72 lb) stored in our apiary was by an early swarm hived on full-drawn combs. If honey is not coming in too fast this works well. We are glad you are having a good honey crop; other reports are not so favorable. See closed end frames under bee hive notes.—Ed.

Missouri Bee-Keeper

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Unionville, Missouri.

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E. F. QUIGLEY, Editor.

AN AXE TO GRIND.—Why, certainly we have. Please tell us some bee journal that has not in some form.

SEND YOUR COPY.—Please get all copy in by the 25th of each month. This will enable us to go to press on time.

LARGER TYPE.—We note that the *Bee World* has purchased new type with a larger face, to be used on their next issue. Who'll be next?

WHAT OTHERS SAY, and what we think of it, is a new department in the *White Mountain Apiarist*. This can be made quite interesting Bro. Ellingwood.

THE *Bee-Keeper's Review* brings us more names of bee-keepers than all of our other "advs" combined. Bro. Hutchinson has reason to be proud of his journal.

AMERICAN-ITALIANS.—We sent to W. S. Vandruff, Waynesbug, Penn., for samples of his new strain of bees. The markings are different from the ordinary Italians, and are beautiful three banded bees. We have been watching the colonies in our yard, noting the workings, the quality and quantity of work done by them. We will tell our readers later, what we have observed. We

want the workers regardless of color, and shall try some of Bro. V's stock.

NEW BLOOD.—August is a good time to re-queen your apiary, or if you are changing stock, queens can be bought cheaper now than earlier and next spring your first drones will be of the new stock, saving much trouble and mis-mating of queens.

HONEY DEW.—We are using our honey dew in rearing queens and bees to enlarge our apiary. We know of no better use for it. Some people like the flavor of it, but we do not. There will be quantities of it put on the market by our box hive men in our own county.

ONLY TWENTY-FIVE.—Yes, that is the number of subscribers a journal tells its readers we have. For the benefit of those interested will say, that many states have come liberally to our support, and are still coming. Just say all the mean things you can about us, the meaner, the better for us.

THE man that makes an improvement should be rewarded, and we do not want to throw a single straw in his way, but the improvement in bees is not made in one season, or five years; the man that can take a worthless strain of bees and make anything of value out of them in less than two years deserves a seat on the highest tower at the World's Fair and a crown upon his head. There are bee-keepers making above claims; yet anyone knowing anything about bees knows it cannot be done. We

want the best to be found; but do not be in a hurry to take the word of the vendure of the new races, let some other fellow try the experiment. Some dealers will claim anything to sell their goods.

FOR August 1st, Gleanings in Bee Culture has a new engraved front cover. It is a beautiful representative of the little gleaners gathering in the sweets from far and near. Bro. Root is striving to please all and is certainly doing it.

GOOD WORKERS.—One of our breeding queens is in a small nuclei hive. The bees keep their hive full of honey and enough to supply several others that are not so good workers; the bees themselves are fine, large fellows.

KEEPING ON SUPERS in winter for the south, will be discussed by Jennie Atchley in our next issue. By the way friends, we would like to see more questions asked by beekeepers, it would bring out a discussion and would be a benefit to all.

SPEAK OUT.—Read Bro. Sewell's letter in another column. We wish more of the brothers would speak out if they have any fault to find with us. Don't be backward, friends, you see if we give only the bright side somebody is going to be deceived.

CROSS BEES.—Having bought a lot of bees for nuclei colonies this season. We have a good many of them yet; we will not be sorry either when they die. Of all the mean bees Carniolans mated to

Black drones take the cake. The least jar they boil out and continually follow you until you kill the last one.

PREPARE FOR WINTER.—August and September are good months to prepare your bees for next season by removing old or worthless queens, feeding &c. See that you have plenty of store and young bees for winter.

SPECIAL OFFER.—We will, through the balance of this season, continue to send a select untested Golden Italian honey queen and the MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER one year for \$1.15. The regular price of these queens is \$1.00 each.

COLOR OF QUEENS.—Some people want yellow queens. We always look at the colony she produces. Do not judge a queen when first received, wait until she is laying. We prefer a well developed, medium sized queen to a large one.

NUCLEI MANAGEMENT.—We are now using a combination of the Pratt and our own nuclei system that we like very much. The Pratt system was too small; our nuclei hives are equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ L frames. Two of these hives make a nice five frame hive, two of these borders set side by side cover the top of an eight frame hive.

THE BEE WORLD comes to hand for July in a new dress and form. Bro. V. has purchased new type and intends to set it up himself. As soon as a new press can be bought the *Bee World* will be "home made." We wish you success, Bro. Vandruff. Some of the old jour-

als are inclined to poke fun at us youngsters, but never mind.

WINTERING.—We will have a few notes on wintering in our next issue. Have you anything to offer?

SELF HIVERS.—We note that the *American Apiculturist* says to bore a hole over the wire cone that goes into top box of hiver and cover with wire cloth. We done this very thing in May this year. After that we cut about half cone off, as the bees and drones would crowd together and clog up the cone escape. Drones would get into the cone leading into the hive and die. We clipped a part of this off and that remedied that trouble. We had about twenty hivers in use.

SOUTHERN QUEENS.—Some of our Nebraska friends advised not to send south for queens. As to the reason, we do not know. Now one of the requirements of queen-rearing is heat, plenty of honey and bees. Our southern friends have a longer and warmer season than the northern breeders, and we see no reasonable excuse why they cannot produce as fine queens as any one. The quantity of queens depend more on the breeder than the location. How about queens from "sunny Italy."

THICK TOP BARS are a great improvement. We have had a few brace combs, but not enough to make a honey board necessary and the fault was, the combs not built straight on comb guides. We thought last year we could get along without comb foundation—that is full sheets in brood nest, but we were

compelled to change our views. The extra work to straighten up combs, cut out drone comb, etc., over balances the cost of foundation. Our covers come off easy now; before, with old style top bars, it took some prying to get them loose.

SUBSCRIBE NOW.—We shall make some change in the BEE-KEEPER. The circulation is getting to be so general that we think it best. Those that subscribe at once will receive the benefit of it without extra cost. Our journal has been well received. We have letters complimenting us from editors and others who stand at the head in bee-journalism. The MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER, from the start, was not intended as a state organ, only.

THE fellow that said that we take the cake for meanness, lying and misrepresentation, is the party that once sent us a tested Carniolan queen and her progeny were over half yellow banded, (Yellow Carniolans were not thought of then.) We wrote him about it, as we expected to get regular marked Carniolans. He wrote us that we would have to rear queens from her and select out the dark ones. "Very nice, wasn't it." We know several cases like the above.

SPECIAL MATEING.—We expect to furnish extra nice queens the balance of this season. We have a large lot of select drones, and as other drones near us are gone, we hope to furnish our customers with queens producing very fine bees. Our breeding stock is good workers. This stock is not five banded, but

the bands are broad and of a beautiful orange yellow. This stock gathers more honey to the colony than any other in our yard, and at a time when honey is scarce.

THEY WONT DO IT.—We should be glad to have the *American Bee-Keeper* turn to page 112. *American Apiculturist*, for 1890, and tell us what they find there in regard to Yellow Carniolans. We were in hopes they would do so in their August issue. We have a letter written by one of the originators. In speaking of Yellow Carniolans he says: "We cannot claim them to be strictly pure." Just as we told you. Now gentlemen, denials are in order. Say you never said it. You see we have your signature to it.

THE QUEEN RESTRICTOR.

E. R. GARRETT.

In making a report of my contraction and restriction plan, I must say that I have been experimenting along this line all summer, devising plans or methods, some of which were successful while others were not. As this year has been a total failure for honey, it is impossible for me to know exactly what a restrictor will do. I have used no regular restrictor, in fact it can hardly be called a restrictor. I have tried some colonies by means of division boards, enclosing four brood frames with queen excluding honey-board above and wire cloth in front of brood nest. (I think the wire cloth is unnecessary,) Leaving three combs on either side to catch the pollen,

which, otherwise, would go into the sections. I fixed a number of hives this way June 16 and put on sections at the same time; the bees went to work in the sections immediately. I took out this restrictor August 3, having taken some honey, in fact, all the honey I have taken was from these hives. At this time I found little or no honey in the three outside combs; they were filled mostly with pollen, the honey had been stored in the sections, while the queen kept the combs inside of the brood nest filled with brood. My plan is more contraction than restriction. Contraction is necessary, from the fact that without it many colonies crowd honey into the brood nest so compactly that the queen cannot find sufficient cells in which to lay, so as to rear bees for winter, while other bees are so prolific that a hive full of combs does not contain honey enough for winter. Contraction therefore is a regulator and especially necessary during honey-flow, if one wishes to secure a large amount of surplus honey. The three combs out side of the division boards of the contraction plan will be filled with honey, this will make winter stores for the bees. The four inside combs will contain but little honey. After the brood is all hatched they can be laid away for another year. The only advantage I can boast of this year is the gradual increase of bees from these four combs; I think no damage will be done by leaving the colonies thus contracted, say 30 days, as good queen will keep up the colony on these four combs. Perhaps I can

give a more intelligent report when we have a honey-flow.

Appleton City, Missouri.

[Bro. G: After returning from our state meeting we were figuring up the size of Bro. Ashworth's contracted brood nest. We find we have been using about the same size, only in another form. That is, our brood nest was divided horizontally, with eight shallow brood combs, equal to five L frames. Our work has prevented us from testing the restrictor in the form Mr. Ashworth uses it, but the contraction, as we now use it, is less work and expense. We would like to hear from others.—ED.]

WE'LL DO IT.

I quite agree with you that there are humbugs that need overhauling, and lots of them, and while you are at it, please hit the MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER of July issue a terrible big lick. On page 80, first column, G. M. Doolittle, in Gleanings, viz., of using perforated metal to shut out the undesirable drones and kill them at night. Well, I consider that the most abominable, meanest advice that ever was published, and G. M. Doolittle ought to have sense enough to know it. Drones are privilege characters. Usually they can peaceably enter any hive unmolested, sometimes they meet a little opposition, but seldom. Now for one man to shut out a batch of undesirable drones means for a dozen men to have their queens mated with those same undesirable drones, or else bees don't act for me like they do for big, smart peo-

ple. I have bought queens from several states, trying to get bees that do as the bee papers tell of doing, but all in vain.

Pleasanton, Ohio. H. T. SEWELL.

[Bro. S: Probably Mr. D. supposed there was no other bees near. We intended to note the above but overlooked it. We use a drone trap only. Drones will mix up with other colonies if they are not shut out. One of our colonies, this week, drove out all its drones. These drones went into our nucelus colonies. If anyone else has a fault to find with our paper let them speak out, then we can remedy it.—EDITOR.]

BEE FEVER, ROBBING, & C

BY J. F. TEEL.

I have had a severe spell of bee fever for the past eighteen months, no better yet, and now a good many of my neighbors have got it, and are around buying all the bees they can, nothing else seems to satisfy them. I would like to know if it is contagious, if so, does the disease exist in the honey or not? I would like to tell the bee-keepers the way I stop bees from robbing. I spread a quilt or blanket over the hive that the bees are robbing and in a few minutes they all leave. It has never failed with me yet. Well there is a good deal said about races of bees. Now I wonder if the hybrid bees will ever become a race of bees? if so, what will we call them? Hybrids bred to hybrids bred to hybrids make leather-colored bees, and they are not so cross

and ill to sting as when first crossed, and they are equal to any for honey gatherers.

Bro. T: A great many people get the above fever; some get over it after a year or so, others do not. In some cases it is contagious, that is one man will get a few bees and his neighbors say, well, I have just as good a right to keep bees as he has. So they buy some bees, also. We know of a case near home. It would depend on the man that had the hybrids what race they would be. You could call them some big name, advertise them as something extra good, say they are pure and stick to it, &c. You see it would take some cheek—but don't do any thing of the kind, it isn't right.—
EDITOR.

REPORTS.

This has proved to be a good honey season in south-west Missouri. Plenty of rain has caused an abundance of flowers and my bees have had a feast for more than two months, not a shower but a steady flow almost every day. White clover, sumac, buck leush, catnip &c. furnish the most of the honey. Besides the honey the bees have gathered, they have mixed in quite a lot of honey-dew (bug juice.) This begins about the middle of June and lasts until after frost. My best swarm of bees has given me so far 95 pounds of honey besides filling their brood chamber but as usual some colonies hardly pay for the room they occupy in the yard. If a fellow could only induce them to do as well as the

choice colonies, bee-keeping would surely pay. Bee escapes have come to stay, and in the hands of a wideawake bee man, there is scarcely any limit to the many ways they can be used to help induce the little pets to work to our advantage. The Porter spring escape has had a trial of several weeks in our apiary this season and given good satisfaction. It takes about twenty-four hours to get the bees all out but they do not return when once out of the super.

S. S. LAWING.

Henderson, Mo., Aug. 10, 1891.

* * *

My white honey crop was all mixed with honey-dew and I will not sell any of it, as I have a good trade and want to keep it. I will have an extra good fall crop if every thing continues as promising as at present. Our bees will be in the best condition possible for the fall crop. I have received several sample copies of bee journals and do not think your paper can be excelled in bee literature.

Worcester, Mo. BYRON HAMS.

* * *

Bro. Quigley: Seeing no report in the BEE-KEEPER from this part of the state, I will drop a few lines thinking it might interest some of the bee-keepers who take the MISSOURI BEE-KEEPER. My bees built up rapidly; fruit bloom was in good shape for the white clover which commenced blooming about June 20th. It did not afford nectar enough to keep up brood raising, although there was great quantities of it. There was quite a lot of honey-dew in these parts which

kept the bees on the boom, also some little of it stored in the surplus. My first swarm issued on May 27; about half of my colonies swarmed. About June 20 lynden, or bass-wood, commenced to bloom which gave a small surplus, about one-sixth of a full crop. White clover seems to be yielding some nectar now, enough for a living for the bees. I expect to seed about ten acres of buckwheat next week so we will be in a land of buckwheat cakes and honey next winter. The Porter bee spring escape is a success with me.

J. S. ATKINS.

[Bro. A: Prospects are good for fall honey; being very little white honey it will make a better demand for the dark grades, if somebody don't fill the market with "honey-dew." Let each bee-keeper do all he can to prevent this stuff being sold as honey. Make a reputation for your goods.—ED.]

* *

BOTH WORKS WELL.

The queen that I got of you came to hand all safe. I am well pleased with her. I got her safely introduced and now have a nice lot of queen cells started from her, by Mr. Doolittle's plan. The Porter bee escape also came safe. I then got one of Mr. Dibbern's and have been using both of them to see which was best, but so far have not been able to decide or see any difference in their working. Bees have done very poorly this year. The drouth last summer killed the white clover so that there was none from that source, and during the

time that the linn was in bloom it was so cold and stormy that they got in but one or two days work on it, but we have had plenty of honey-dew or aphide secretion, but it is no good. We are now having more white clover bloom from this year's growth of white clover and hotter weather than we have had this year and the bees are now working in it lively. There is a fine prospect here for a fall flow of nectar, which may help us out, and the prospect is good for a good honey harvest next season, better than we have had for five years. That should stimulate all bee-keepers to put everything in order and have their colonies all supplied with young queens that they may have prosperous colonies to gather the nectar next year.

Knoxville, Ia. DR. H. J. SCOLES.

BEE HIVE NOTES.

We get many inquiries in regard to bee hives, which is best, &c. We give our preference and a few reasons why. What you are going to follow would have something to do with the choice of a hive. But for honey production, we prefer the "New Heddon." Our second choice would be an eight frame L hive. We can handle double the number of colonies in the Heddon hive, because we can handle the hives; an eight-frame dovetailed hive could be handled but is very heavy. With the divisible brood chamber and closed end frames you have a combination that can be worked to an advantage, much more than the common deep hive. In looking over our colonies we raise up one

end of top section of hives, and if the colony is preparing to swarm, you will find queen cells started, then you can note how old they are, and with fair weather, you will know about when to expect a swarm. If you reverse your frames and get them full of comb, they usually build their cells between the frames when you can cut them out with a pocket knife, or by inverting the hive all will be destroyed. We find inverting quite an advantage in introducing new queens. When we are working for honey it is a rare thing that we ever move a frame. Bees winter splendid in these hives and build up early in spring, filling the top sections almost full of brood before going below. The disadvantages are: being made in two parts, they cost more, they must be made accurate, the frames should be full of straight worker comb, the strain of bees should be one that is not inclined to crowd the brood nest, the apiarist should do his work right and at the right time. The hive is patented and you have to buy a right to use it, but to me there is no drawback to adopting any improvement. We are willing to reward an inventor for his trouble. We have no interest in above hive. It is not the hive so much as the management that brings the cash returns. Some hives are more convenient than others, and admit of some short cuts that will lesson the labor and enable the bee-keepers to handle more bees with same amount of labor. Closed end frames should be used with clamp screws,

as a follower and wedge are not suitable, they also work much better in shallow hives than a deep one. The queen fills top brood case nearly full of brood before going into lower sections. After the top case is full the bees crowd their brood downward, as in the old box hive.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR BEES- WAX.

In buying beeswax we find a good portion of it has so much dust, paper and tallow or lard in it to make it almost worthless in some cases. As many make the mistake of greasing the vessel before putting in the melted wax in order to have it come out. Don't do this, put your wax in a tin pan and after it cools you will have no trouble in getting it out. Others, after getting a nice cake of wax, lay it upon a shelf and let the dust settle on it and considerable of it sticks to the wax. Put your wax away in a tight box or something that will keep off all the dust. We have a Doolittle sun wax extractor set up in our apiary. All small bits of comb, hatched queen cells &c. are thrown in this. You would be surprised how much wax will accumulate during the season.

RED CLOVER BEES.

A writer in the Am. B. J. says: the red clover gag is about played out. Well, there are a few other gags that will play out also. We have seen Italians commence working on red clover just as the white clover went out or dried up. They continued to work on it for about

two weeks, storing ten to twenty pounds per colony. While there was many more Blacks than Italians, very few blacks could be seen on the clover. The clover heads were as large as any we ever saw. we have known one colony of Italians to store six pound surplus besides filling their hive; and twenty-five Black colonies in same yard did not store a pound, and some of them starved before spring. The above was from red clover. About the first question asked by a visitor to our apiary is, do your bees work on red clover? My answer is, at times.

BEE ESCAPES.

Bro. Dibbern sends us another bee escape, this one is about the size of the Porter, but has more ventilation and a larger passage way. It is made of small wire on the trap door principle. We will test it at once and report in our next issue. We have not had a single report of a failure with bee escapes this season, every one is pleased. We have let neighbors try them all around us and they bought them, saying they were a great invention.

J. M. Hambaugh, the man that secured \$500 annually from the legislature for bee-keepers of Illinois, produced 15,000 pounds of honey from 18 miles of territory. He figures out that, if the whole state produced at the same rate from its 56,000 square miles, it would produce 46,665,000 pounds, or nearly double the census report of 1890 for the whole United states.—A. B. J.

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