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T H E

# National Bee Journal.

DEVOTED TO THE CULTURE OF THE HONEY-BEE.

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Vol. III.

MAY 1, 1872.

No. 9.

[For the National Bee Journal.

## The Drone Question.

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*Messrs. Editors:*—I desire to add my voice to the suggestions of Mr. A. Wilson, of letting this subject drop and lie dormant, until such time as facts, prove by recent occurrences, can be produced on one side or the other, instead of long arguments on theories and opinions, to prove the correctness of Dzierzon's theory or not. After perusing the assertion of Mr. Wm. King regarding the certainty of fertilization in confinement, it seems to me that he is the right person to settle the controversy, both regarding the utility of drones bred from virgin or unfertile queens, and also the effect of fertilization on the drone progeny. If he can repeatedly (say five times) fertilize queens, by drones raised from virgin queens and con-

fined where no other drones can obtain access, or if in not a single case can he obtain the fertilization of queens confined with such drones. I think either demonstration would be a settler.

Again: The fertilization of a few black queens by Italian drones in confinement, and the using of drones raised from such queens to fertilize young black queens in confinement, would certainly settle the much argued question, for if the worker progeny reared from such black queens fertilized in confinement by drones bred from a black queen fertilized in confinement by Italian drones, bred from purely fertilized Italian queens, shows the least trace of Italian blood, I for one would feel satisfied of the correctness of the ground taken "that the fertilization of the queen affects her drone progeny." On the

contrary if such progeny show no such trace, I should feel satisfied of the opposite.

The past season I experimented all I could with the subject of confined fertilization, but am not yet satisfied as to the certainty of results to be obtained.

I shall, the coming season, keep trying and as soon as I am convinced of its practicability and certainty, shall endeavor to do myself what I have suggested above. Again I suggest that so far as arguments and theories are concerned "let us have peace."

E. J. PECK.

*Lindley, N. Y.*

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[For the National Bee Journal.

### Gloom, Cheerfulness, Fears, Duty.

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*Messrs. Editors:*—Sometime in March I wrote an article for the *American Bee Journal*, stating that I had lost eight stands of bees this winter from starvation, thinking then that the immediate prospect of warm days would enable me to place my bees on their summer stands and save the rest. But the winter "lingered in the lap of spring" until April 4th, when another examination showed five more victims of the same disease, making thirteen lost out of seventeen wintered in. So much for the dry and honeyless season of 1871, followed by the most uniformly cold winter that we have experienced for

many years. May its shadow quickly depart.

Few incidentals of this mundane sphere effect me so mournfully as the loss of fine stocks of bees from any cause, but when they gather large quantities of honey and multiply rapidly, the cares of business vanish, the sun shines brighter, the birds sing more sweetly, and the world seems full of hope and cheerfulness, therefore I favor honey and lots of bees. Bee-keeping with me is pursued mainly for recreation, to occupy my time and thoughts when I can break away from official duties from time to time. Yet I feel the liveliest interest in this most delightful study and in bee-keeping generally, and take pure pleasure in keeping posted in bee literature as well as current events as reported through the various agricultural publications.

The bee-keeping interest of this country is developing with marvelous rapidity, and a few years hence will witness results that now seem visionary and impossible. Moveable frames, the Melextractor and Italian bees are matters for which every bee-keeper should feel profoundly thankful.

It has been a source of much gratification to me, mingled perhaps with some doubts and fears, to watch the introduction and development of these great improvements—gratification in

witnessing the wonderful progress achieved by their use, especially the movable frames, and fears that through some personal ambition a monopoly may become legalized that shall embrace in its destructive folds the entire control of the latter, when used in any desirable form. Perhaps these fears are more imaginary than real, yet the possible result of a suit now pending in court, bearing directly upon this point, is to my mind full of danger. Few great enterprises are carried on without more or less of monopolizing element in them, and wherever it exists there is constant danger of its power.

Bee conventions are doing a noble work, because—they are based upon the right principle. There is nothing like the association of ideas and interchange of thoughts and experience to bring out the better way, and create a new interest in any pursuit. Therefore they should receive the cordial support of all who can attend them.

The Bee Journals of the country have a peculiar claim upon bee-keepers, and richly deserve the most active co-operative aid of all who delight in progress. Subscribers should pay their dues with scrupulous promptness, and correspondents feel that the value of these excellent periodicals largely depends upon them—the care they bestow upon their articles, and

the freedom with which they communicate new ideas.

There are other matters of which I designed to write, but fearing that friend Schofield may object to so much length, with so little *snap*, I will close by wishing all of our readers the best of success during the season of 1872.

GEO. S. SILSBY.

Winterport, Me., April 11th, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.

A Wail From Darke Co., Ohio.

*Messrs Editors:*—I am sorry to write the fact that there has been a great fatality with bees in this section. As near as I can ascertain every bee-keeper near, has suffered more or less loss. Some having but five or six colonies left from twenty or thirty put into winter quarters. Dysentery having appeared to be the prevailing cause. My own experience has been rather dearly bought. *Vide:* In the year 1857, I casually read an essay on the superior merits of the Italian Bee. I induced a brother-in-law, who had a colony of Blacks, to permit me to get them Italianized, and take an interest in them. Done so took some Bee Journals, bought some books, and was soon buried in the maze of conflicting testimony on the subject, however determined to study the subject for the mere pleasure of the thing at first, and the ul-

timate profit that might accrue. In 1868 had them divided. Increased to five in 1869 by natural swarming. They done well, filled the brooding portion of the hive, which was very large, with honey, and the colonies in the fall were very strong. I placed them in winter quarters under a shed. Packed flax straw around and about them. Came out the following spring strong. In the fall seeing N. C. Mitchell's advertisement stating he expected to be in this part of the country, I wrote to him giving the names of some bee-keepers in this vicinity, inviting him to call. He done so, or rather his agent, representing himself as Mr. M., which Mr. M. explained to me at the Cincinnati Exposition, last fall. He gave me a *vast* amount of instructions, and I, with others, bought this township right for his Buckeye Hive. Sanguine of the beneficial results to be obtained from a Movable Frame Hive, particularly Mitchell's, the only one I had ever seen, I had a number made, and in the spring transferred the whole of my stocks, (five) in them. This year I increased to ten and got a modicum of honey. Here commenced the bad management from which there has been a constant back action. The Apiarian who transferred accidentally killed two queens. The first one reared got lost on her wedding trip, and the se-

cond, Hiro's queen, was a cripple, and could not fly out. Two queens that were introduced were immediately killed. I put them into winter quarters as before, using the flax straw and leaving the entrance open. Some of them died and the others lost many bees. In the spring the hives warped, combs got moldy, and had two colonies in "Articulo Morlis." They too, soon gave up the ghost. Felt blue, I, not the bees, and thought flax straw a poor thing for B E Hives. Had thought it a good thing for box hives the year before. "Tempora Mutant." Last summer, in spite of all, by artificial swarming and buying, I increased the number to fifteen colonies and had had more hives made, and put into winter quarters, leaving them on their summer stands. At present but one of them remains alive, that is in a Langstroth hive that I took the surplus frames out of in the fall and placed in a number of pieces of old flannel cloth. This hive of bees I purchased late. Ten of the colonies were very strong, and I tell you I felt bad when I opened the hives the first favorable day, and saw so many of the little pets gone. They had plenty of honey, but no doubt the protracted cold weather, and the thin honey in consequence, generated the dysentery, and caused deaths. I have now twenty-five hives

and two colonies—one being a black colony that I purchased a few weeks ago. If it lives until the apple trees blossom, I shall transfer it to a movable comb hive, and give them the queen that I am to receive from you for renewing subscriptions to the JOURNAL last December.

Such is my bee experience, and how very much there is to learn yet.

We now have hives that contains plenty of honey and comb. Would it be safe to let it remain in the hives, clean out the dead bees, and put new swarms in when the time comes, or transfer the black bees in?

I am not going to give up until convinced that my head can never be got level on Bee Culture. Probably this lament is spun out long enough, so I will close.

THEO. R. LUFF.

*Castine, Darke Co., O.*

[For the National Bee Journal.

### The Lone Egg.

*Messrs. Editors:*—Please accept, first, my thanks for your kindness in sending me your excellent paper, the JOURNAL.

Then you said "let us hear from you." I always had a timidity about appearing in the Journals. I felt myself so green that I feared to get so far away from home lest something might bite me. But bee culture is a business in which, though a mere tyro, I feel great-

ly interested, and in reading your excellent JOURNAL I often find myself amused "muchly." The wordy war waged between apiarians as to the habits of the bee, particularly the queen, has assumed gigantic proportions, and remind me very much of some latter day theologians who assume that because *they* had had no experience in certain religious tenets, *no one else* had. In the last JOURNAL the deposit of the "Royal" egg appears to be the question. But all that I have seen on that subject, appears to be (like myself) exceedingly green.

One item of personal experience on that point is all I shall attempt. I took a single sheet of comb and placed it in a nucleus box with a few bees just sufficient to develop a queen. In the first attempt the queen got lost. Next I took from a hive a small piece of comb, containing a single egg. I inserted this in the lower edge of the comb in the box. This egg was deposited in a common worker cell and was the only egg there was in the box. From this, the little fraternity, without any "transfer" or manifestation of preconceived notions of hereditary "Royalty," raised as fine a queen as I ever have seen. I think these *facts* should put a stop to our republican squinting at Hereditary Monarchy.

I have said I was a mere tyro

in bee culture, with but two years experience. I then commenced with four stands of Italian bees. I increased them to thirty by artificial swarming. A man could not give me bees on condition that I should *let them swarm*. I use the cottage hive and will here say I have never seen one of those hives that I can not take to pieces and do anything I wish to with them and shut them all up inside of twenty minutes, if they have been well handled, half that time is amply sufficient.

The last two years, here, have been extremely bad for bees, and the past season our bees have been on a "dead lock" for eight months. A great many have died in the hives through the winter, yet those that live come out active and spry, as bees.

I would like to know, through the JOURNAL, why it is that sometimes large numbers of bees will die through the winter and yet the hive swarm though weakened.

Yours, truly,  
R. V. REED.

Urbana, Ill., April 12, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Disadvantages of the Coast for Bee Keeping,

*Messrs. Editors:*—When last I wrote for your JOURNAL, I was in the coast region of New Jersey; now I am in the interior

of N. E., nearly one hundred miles from the coast. Here we are free from the damaging effects of the chill coast winds which prevail during the spring months. I am now fully prepared to appreciate the advantages of an inland climate for bee keeping, having spent one season and part of another near the coast.

It is true we have a long period of almost uninterrupted cold weather, the ground being generally frozen and covered with snow from sixteen to twenty weeks each winter. When this weather is broken up the warm weather comes on with an occasional cool day or two, willows and other blossoms come forth, and there is an almost continual succession of blossoms until white clover fails, which occurs from the 5th to the 25th of July. There is usually a scarcity of blossoms about one week between fruit blossoms and clover; but no other cessation except from cool or rainy weather.

Clover seldom yields surplus honey over five weeks, and last season it lasted but little over two weeks on account of drouth. I have had no surplus gathered after clover failed but one season in thirteen years. Had I raised buckwheat extensively, the case might have been different.

Where I was located in Jersey, the frost was mostly gone

by the first of March. The thermometer ranged from forty to seventy, and sometimes going up to eighty or ninety degrees from the middle of March to the middle of May.

During this time there was a great deal of windy weather which proved very destructive to bees. Then again much of the time the thermometer indicated less than seventy degrees, and my experience is that bees can not fly to much advantage at a less temperature.

Mankind are more liable to take cold when the temperature is between the freezing point and fifty degrees, than when it is colder or warmer, and I think this temperature is more destructive to bees in spring time, because they venture out to gather supplies of water and pollen, and become chilled before they can return.

Another discouragement I met with on the coast, was the sea breezes, which came up about ten o'clock when the bees were all lively at work. These things caused my hives there to become depopulated and keep so until most of the spring blossoms were gone. Frequently there were not enough bees to properly take care of the young brood. In the latter part of the season the weather was beautiful and the bees did well on buckwheat, filling the hives and storing some surplus.

I have returned to my native

State to continue the business, where we get a fair, though seldom extra quantity of excellent honey, with a good market and everything necessary for the successful prosecution of the business. Before my removal to New Jersey, I was considerably engaged in the business of rearing queens, which I have for the present dropped.

Of course there are some bleak and barren places where bee keeping can not be successfully carried on in New England, but there are also many places in our numerous valleys, where, protected from bleak winds, the surrounding hills covered with a variety of forage, the little busy bee will gather a rich harvest for the provident owner.

J. L. HUBBARD.

Walpole, N. H., March 6, 1872.

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[For the National Bee Journal.

### Handling Bees.

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*Messrs. Editors:*—In answer to Job Stratan, of Williamsburg, Ohio, "What do persons do to their bees that they can gather them up in their hands, and throw them in the air, scrape them off of the combs and hives, and not get stung."

"A person who is timid and have fears of being stung, can not handle bees," as the bees seem to understand their fears,



and take the advantage of it. The man who is gentle and "yet determined, can easily handle the honey bee, with impunity. He should also understand the nature and habits of bees," and then he would know how to handle them.

The reason why men handle bees at our fairs, "and not get stung," is because the bees are subjects to the controller of them. This may seem very strange but nevertheless true, for it is written "Man, the highest type of creation, nearest to God all things were given him to profit therewith," bees not excepted. Those having the confidence in themselves may handle them and not get stung. And people standing around have their fears in seeing the little pets handled even like flies.

J. H. HADSELL.

Breesport, N. Y.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Wintering Out Doors.

*Messrs. Editors:*—I put my bees last fall side by side on the ground, then took corn fodder and set up around them. This I done in the latter part of November, and never opened them until the 27th day of March, and they came out in as good condition apparently, as when I put them there, all bright and lively, and though the winter has been

long and cold, they have not forgot how to sting. They flew out as thick as if they were going to swarm. The air or yard was black with them. They seemed glad to get out again, and I hope while they have been covered under that fodder, they have made up their minds to give me at least 25 lbs. of honey to the hive, if the season is good, which will be a light yield according to what many of my brother bee keepers say through the JOURNAL. Now I hope some friend will be kind enough to tell me what is the matter that my bees does not make any spare honey. Some say I must take the queens out of all of them, and put in new ones, and that will set them right. I don't know, as I am unexperienced in the matter, but perhaps some friend can tell me what is wrong, and if so, I will be ever thankful for any advice I can get. My bees are in good condition at present. I am feeding them flour, and they seem glad to get it. They are as bright as bees can be, and it seems to me as though they will make honey this season—if they don't, I fear I will have bees to sell next fall. But as I always accomplish what I undertake at some time, sooner or later, I still think I may work some way to get honey. I am going to lay by my glass boxes on two hives, and leave them on one, and put

boxes made of wood on two, and try how that will work this season. I can handle my bees very well at any time by using a little smoke to deaden their stings. I got a circular of a bee hive from Collins & Senseman, Tremont, Clarke Co., O. I like the description of their hive very well, and if my bees do not give me more honey this year, I will try one of their hives another year, and if that don't do, I will sell my bees and buy my honey—but will try my hives this year.

I guess you would like to have me send money for another year—well I am not prepared just now, but will write you after awhile, then I will send it, then my bees may work better.

Yours, with respect,

GEORGE C. KARE.

Hamilton, Ill.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

#### Letter From Tennessee.

*Messrs. Editors:*—Enclosed you will find two dollars, for which please send me the BEE JOURNAL for the ensuing year, from April 1st, 1872.

While I enclose you this remittance for the JOURNAL, permit me to say to the readers of your valuable paper, that while we have a country where the *bee* prospers and makes the best of honey, and where a careful study of the principles and practice of the JOURNAL will bring

the most ample rewards, it is a country where *Northern people* can and do also prosper, and who have, by an application of their theory and practice of farming, developed the too long hidden but truly rich resources of our country.

As I read of the severe cold you have endured this past winter, and at the same time feel the warmth of our genial climate, listening to birds sing among the evergreens in our yard, and know the productivity of our soil, the richness of our resources in mineral wealth, etc., wonder that *more* of your people do not come South.

I presume that many are prevented from doing so by a fear that society is yet in an unsettled condition, and that life and property would not be safe. Permit me to say in regard to this, that I am an old citizen, born and educated in this State, have been here during the war, believing, as many of our citizens did, that I was justifiable in resisting the government, but as those things are past, I wish them to remain so, and cordially invite all good citizens from any portion of the country to come and settle among us, assuring them of safety, of social and cordial cooperation. I say this not for myself but can say it for the good citizens of our country. Already there are a number of Northern families in our midst.

Messrs. De Haven and Crawford came here first, December, 1870, from the vicinity of Xenia, Ohio. Since then Messrs. Jno. Simpson and Jas. Ramsey, from Morning Sun, Ohio. Others from the same vicinity have bought. Rev. J. W. Wait, from Coshocton, Ohio, Stuart, from Indiona county, Pa., Messrs. McCullough, Greenbe, Smith, and Temple, from Illinois. All these we esteem as moral, intelligent and enterprising men, and can only regret that our country is not filled with such. They are "United Presbyterians;" have built a neat and comfortable place of worship where public services are held every Sabbath, to which our citizens of all denominations listen with pleasure and profit. We have a midling good school law providing for public schools in accordance with which we have had from three to five months a year, and we anticipate still better this fall and in future.

Our State is known to be among the healthiest in the Union, and this portion is as much so as any part of the State. Our soil varies from rich and productive to thin and poor, is level, well watered and timbered, easily cultivated, and can be bought at from two to twenty dollars per acre. Good land has and can be bought

for *eight dollars* per acre. The buildings, generally, are poor.

Very truly yours,

DR. THOS. B. EASTLAND.

*Linchon, Tenn., March 29, 1872.*

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Why Bees Swarm.

*Messrs. Editors:* — My idea why bees swarm, is for the want of empty cells for the queen to deposit her eggs. I find by examining the combs where the old queen has just left, with the first or prime swarm, that she has deposited eggs in every available cell, even in all the little miniature worker cells along the edges and bottoms of the comb. Sometimes there are three or four in a cell. Under such circumstances the queens may deposit eggs in those cone shaped cells which is often seen along the edges of the comb. But, that these eggs, if so deposited, are any different from other worker eggs (as the reader might infer from what friend Gallup says,) I doubt. My experience in natural swarming is, that bees commence enlarging those small miniature worker cells containing larvæ, not eggs, along the edges and bottoms of the comb. They appear to choose such, to cells of full size. I have never known a case where an egg has been deposited in one of those so-called false queen cells that has hatched, and a queen raised according to the old fogy

compression theory, all such eggs would hatch drones. But to my idea, when all the cells become filled with honey, brood and eggs, no empty cells for the queens to deposit their eggs, the queen as well as the workers become excited or uneasy, the queen passing rapidly from comb to comb. Under such circumstances the swarm issues. Sometimes we find full sized queen cells. But this I consider rather the exception, not the rule. In a few instances I have known the young queen to hatch before the old queen left the hive. A. BENEDICT.

*Bennington, Ohio.*

[For the National Bee Journal.

### A Suggestion.

*Messrs. Editors:*—Thanks for Mr. Nesbit's and others advice on short articles, heading the same, and putting full name, post-office address, etc.; and as your contributions are on the increase, and are likely to keep increasing, I would merely suggest that you be the judge and select from the many contributions those that will interest the greatest mass of bee keepers, and in many articles the sentences can be cut short, and others of not import can be left out. Now I know some writers are particular, and their whole letter must be published or they are huffy about it, and some others that write but once

in a year, or once in two years, and think if their letter is not published they are slighted and will not write again. Now, brother bee keepers write, give us your experience, and give us facts in the case; no guess work, or believe so and so, and give the editor the privilege of publishing all, or a part, or none of your article, just as he thinks will benefit the greatest number of bee keepers. I am a regular subscriber for the two leading bee journal of this country, and can not afford to be without them.

My bees have all wintered in their summer stands in fine condition. Some of my neighbors have lost more or less, I think principally from lack of attention and care. My bees are now at work and breeding up brisk. May our bee journals long live and prosper.

E. LISTON,

*Virgil City, Mo., April 8th, 1872.*

[For the National Bee Journal.

### That Bee Disease.

*Messrs. Editors:*—From every quarter come reports of heavy losses of bees. From all that I can learn I should judge that nearly half the bees in the country have died during the past winter. The mortality in this locality has been large. I have examined a great many dead stocks, and invariably find

dysentery to have been the cause.

Last summer was quite dry; late in the fall we had several fine showers, causing the flowers to secrete honey quite freely. Winter came on early and suddenly, finding the cells full of thin, watery honey, which had no opportunity of evaporating, and becoming fit to seal; consequently the bees were compelled to eat it in this condition. Dysentery followed as a natural consequence: the bees discharged their foecis over the frames, and combs—the hive became filthy, omitting an offensive odor. Long confinement in such a place is certain death.

A few days in mid-winter sufficiently warm to allow the bees to fly out and discharge their foeces, would have saved them; but as we can not control the weather, the next best thing has been suggested by a correspondent of one of the Bee Journals.

The plan is to make a large cap of wire-cloth just to fit the top of the hive, which bring into a warm room, open the holes in the honey-board, and put on the wire cap. The bees will fly about in their cap and discharge their foeces. Spread a cloth over the wire cap to make all dark, and they will return to their combs.

An old saying is—"an ounce of preventive is better than a

pound of cure." It is better to prevent disease than to cure it. When we understand the cause we can readily see how to remove it, and this winter's experience should be a good lesson to us not to neglect it.

Here is the preventive.

As soon as the frost cuts off the supply of honey, remove from the combs, with the extractor, all that is unsealed. Should this leave the bees short of winter stores, boil a portion to the proper consistency, and feed back to them until brought to the required weight. Twenty-five pounds is about right for outdoor wintering; less will do if wintered in. If short of honey, a sirup may be made of a good quality of coffee sugar. To ten pounds of sugar add one quart of water; boil and skim. While warm add a teaspoonful of cream-of-tartar to about one-fifth of sirup, to prevent crystallization. If housed, set out and let them fly on the first warm days in February, and I'll guarantee you won't see much dysentery.

S. B. LEDGERWOOD.

*Forrest, Livingston Co., Ill.*

[For the National Bee Journal.]

### Chloroform in the Apiary.

*Messrs. Editors:*—On page 234, of the JOURNAL, April 15th, J. W. Cramer wishes to know how to use chloroform on bees. I have used it in my profession for the last ten years and have

tried many experiments with it on bees and find it not injurious to them, unless given in an over dose. Stop when you have got the bees in the condition you wish them to be in. If by mistake you give an over dose, plenty of fresh air will restore them in a short time; take a small bit of sponge wet in chloroform, place at the entrance inside the hive, close up, and in about one minute your bees are all right. When they revive, give them more chloroform. If other bees are troublesome give them some. I never use chloroform when I can make the bees gorge themselves with honey. Tobacco smoke given in an overdose is worse than chloroform. Bees in this section have wintered poorly; causes, sour honey, long cold winter and neglect. Remedy, good care and brown sugar Yours truly,

L. TOWNSEND, D. D. S.

Wabasha, Minn.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Here Comes Rusty

*Messrs. Editors:*—Under this head I come to scribble a little for the JOURNAL for the first time. Rusty is a nickname given me when a boy, and it suits me very well yet when applied to bee keeping, but I shall not be surprised if some of your old correspondents knocks some of the rust off of me if I give my experience in

bee keeping, and for fear, I will say but little this time. We bee keepers must agree to disagree.

I do not believe that bees require the same care and management here in the South as they do in the North. I do not think it necessary to build houses here to winter bees as it is in some places. Bees do better because there is more or better honey resources. So it is with the bees, hives and management of all the best for success. And now, in order for a new beginner to be successful, I think they ought to take the JOURNAL at least one year and practice what they read. They should use a moveable comb hive and the Italian bees and then they are both pleasure and profit. I do not claim that I give mine the right care, but I think my failure is my own neglect generally. Last year I tried to have a queen Italianized in confinement.

Now let me give you a small history in order to get an answer. After having my cage prepared, and I'll not describe it, knowing just where there was a young queen of four or five days old, I went for her with a little queen cage in hand, and just as I got to the hive I saw the young queen coming out as I suppose, for the same purpose for which I was going to cage the lady, I put my little cage over her and she crawled

in it without handling. I turned her in my fertilizing cage, then I went for the drones, which I caught in various ways, and a plenty of them, so I let them remain together that day and night. I can't tell how many dead drones there was. I put my queen back in the hive the next day and in the evening there was more dead drones, which is said to be a good sign. I returned my queen back in the hive and in a few days I examined the hive and found plenty of eggs. Sometime after I examined again and still found plenty of eggs, and none ever hatched. Afterwards I gave them a frame comb, bees and all, just as I took them, from another hive, but this done no good. The queen continued to lay eggs until the comb was full, not of eggs, but an egg, and sometimes more in a cell. The result was, the old bees soon died off. They become so few in number the bee moth took possession and ended the queen. Query: Was my queen fertilized too much—as I found many dead drones—or what was the matter? A. G. KEISLING.

*Bull Run, Tenn.*

[For the National Bee Journal.

#### Queries.

*Messrs. Editors:*—Will the readers of the JOURNAL please give some of their knowledge of the questions I ask.

First—In clipping the wing of a queen, is there any certain mark or place to show where the wing may be cut, and the queen suffer no pain?

Even in the thin fibre of the wing is there not life as in the wing of the batt, or the ear of man or animal. If not, why are they so soon gone, while those with perfect wings under the same circumstances, remain for a long period?

Does not a queen in depositing the egg in the cell, need the wings as springs to introduce her abdomen?

It seems to me that what God gave to the insect, is as necessary as that which he gave to the animal or man, if it is ever so small or delicate.

My experience with camphor as a preventative to robbing, is not as it has been represented in the journals. I hold that if a swarm will give up to robbers, to break that swarm up at once, is the only safe rule to practice. When they get that weak and reduced, to give camphor gum, gives them the death blow; whereas, if they were changed and strengthened, they might yet take courage and do well. But in three cases, where camphor has been used by me, they have all died. Is it so with others? Will some of our medical bee brothers give the camphor's effect on the little pets?

While at Cleveland, and being in the hall when W. H. Fur-

man gave his offer, from what I had read of queens being fertilized in confinement, I thought he was beat in that offer. But with the last JOURNAL he has not met with his man, or woman, but he offers a great deal better; I hope some one will try for the stake, for if queens can be fertilized in that way—if it don't hurt them we can tear their wings all off.

I was really in hopes that some one would take Hosiner's 108 colonies of bees, to just see what could be done in bee keeping. The trump to such deals is what brings the truth of honest dealing.

Bees have wintered bad in these parts, on account of short rations and a cold winter, no snow or rain. The buds have not started, and the spring is late, but we are looking forward to such times as will fully compensate our past losses and failure, to a better harvest of a lasting success.

Bees have nothing to do only to take what is given to them and hunt for plunder, and help each other in the cares of life.

As one thief will cause the watch of many, so with my bees.

J. H. HADSELL.

Bresport, April 7, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Bees In Florida.

*Mesrs. Editors:*—What I said in the *Prairie Farmer*, about 'bees in Florida,' seems to

have escaped notice. I will repeat the substance of it, premising that I have no experience in apiculture.

Wild bees are common in the forests. The people in my neighborhood very often cut bee-trees, and are frequently abundantly rewarded; but, sometimes, get little or nothing. A man living five miles from me is said to devote all his time, at the proper season, to hunting bee-trees and gathering honey. He is so skillful that some of the negroes look on him as a wizard.

I know of no one who devotes himself exclusively to producing honey. Many of the farmers have a few stands, with which they succeed, according to skill in mangement. One neighbor always has plenty of honey for his visitors; and another, who has about ten hives, told me not long ago, that he had got very little honey, so little he was going to sell out his hives. From the appearance of the hives, I thought they had received no attention.

There is no reason, so far as I can judge, why men understanding the bee business, should not do well in this part of Florida. The flowers abound for nearly ten months in the year, and there is no intensely cold weather. The amount necessary to feed bees in winter, must be very small; and if the bees are as industrious as they



are elsewhere, they must have a large surplus of honey for the owner's share.

This is a new country. Most of the people are poor, and they were brought up to plant cotton and sugar cane. They know nothing about bee-tending and don't take the "BEE JOURNAL," so as to learn. They have plenty of fine sirup and molasses, and don't feel the need of attending to the production of honey. But if a good apiarist should establish himself here and attend to his business, he would, I should think, do better than in Indiana. It is worth a trial, at any rate. Like dairying, it is a matter of experiment. Nobody ever had a dairy in Florida before two or three years ago. Now, there are men making fortunes at the business—selling milk at Jacksonville, at twenty cents a quart.

As to the price of stands, there is no regular one. I have had different persons offer them to me at prices varying from one dollar to two dollars and a half. Very often they are given away between neighbors, there being an idea prevailing that it is bad luck to sell bees.

Regretting that my want of special knowledge of the subject prevents my writing you a more interesting letter, I remain, Yours, respectfully.

WM. BIRNEY.

Waldo, Florida.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Our Ship.

*Messrs. Editors*, and many friendly co-workers that assist in lading the little packet with its many valuable articles and sails semi-monthly from the fountain head of beeology, to-wit: Indianapolis to the many parts in America, and even across the great branch. When we hear of the ship's arrival, the stock-holders hasten to unlock, unload and peruse its contents, which are of great variety and of an interesting nature, though it appears that there is more grinding on the drone grindstone than is essential to success or profitable doctrine, when there is so many young beeists in the land thirsting for more substantial nourishment. I am hard to persuade that fertilization has nothing to do with the drone progeny. My idea of this matter is, without drones from fertile queens to mate with our virgin queen would soon be without bees or any thing to make them of.

Permit me, your honor, to ask you a question. I would like to ask the question, if any one at any time has ever known by experience, a queen to be fertilized by a drone raised from the egg of a worker, or an unfertilized queen bee. One of them unfertilized, though capable of being fertilized, the not

fertilized mother, indeed, can be, and I know if the progeny of the one is pure, the other is pure, and if one proves to be a blank bee, the other will fail to further on its progney, and will be found to be a public nuisance about the apiary, both for the present and future. I think when you go to work to fertilize your young queens with the aforesaid bee, you will return with tickle written on your brow. They may be the purest drones of the two, for I consider them perfectly useless while the others are considered of more value, consequently they have lost some of their drone qualities, making them more useful and beneficial.

R. C. PARKER.

Abington, Illinois.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Non-Flying Fertilization.

*Messrs. Editors:*—I see by the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL, of March 15th, that Mr. L. C. Waite, of St. Louis, says that if "Mr. Terry," or any other man has any greenbacks to bet that the thing can not be did, he will double their pile that he can succeed in nineteen out of every twenty queens fertilized out of confinement, and prove it beyond all doubt. Now I wish to say to Mr. Waite, through the columns of your paper, that he is just the man I have been looking for. I will not ask him

to double my pile, but will put up as much money as he does. I will wager \$2,500.00 with Mr. Waite, and put up \$500.00 as forfeit money, any time he will send the same amount to any bank in Cedar Rapids. To be forfeited in case either fail to put up the remainder, or fail in any way to comply with the terms of the contract. The feat to be accomplished in my apiary, within ninety days after the contract is made. For his instruction, I will say that I have between two and three hundred colonies of Italians, and will have over two hundred Nucleus hives in operation, so he will have plenty of material to work upon. I understand Mr. Waite is a "man of means," and perhaps the amount is not large enough to be an inducement for him. If so, he will please state what amount would be an inducement.

W. H. FURMAN.

Cedar Rapids, Mich.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Curiosities With Bees.

*Messrs. Editors:*—I have had swarms of bees coming out of my hives, and I want you, or some of the bee keeping fraternity to tell me, through the JOURNAL, whether such things are common among bees.

I will now tell you how they done. I had one colony, a very weak one. They were strong

in the fall, but by bad ventilation, there was more than half of the bees in that hive died. On last Sunday, March 24th, the whole swarm came out, queen and all, flew around awhile, and then went back all right. There was no bread in that hive. The hive was clean and all right, and plenty of honey, and to-day I had a great swarm come out the same way. All the bees and queen flew around five or ten minutes, and then settled on the body of a tree. I examined the hive and found honey and bread. The combs were clean, and I took the queen and tried to put her back, but she got away from me and flew back to the tree. I caught her again and caged her in the hive, thinking the bees would come back themselves. But in a few minutes they commenced to go into a hive near them, with another swarm. I changed places with the hives, but about one-half of the bees got in before I got the hives changed. I did not think they would fight, but they did, and I believe the colony that came out is nearly ruined. This evening I heard that there was a swarm come to one of my neighbors and they hived them in a box hive.

Now can any one tell the reason of such things as this? As far as I can see they were as healthy as any I have.

About one-third of the bees

here, that were left out of doors, have died, and I have not heard of one dying that was put in the cellar in the fall.

Well I must close, as this is getting too long for one time. Success to the JOURNAL.

A. J. HOOVER.

*Thorntown, Ind.*

[For the National Bee Journal.]

**Let Us Have Peace.**

*Messrs. Editors*—I see that I failed to make myself understood in my little article on page 101. It was the hibreds, and not the pure Italians, that I meant to say was no more peaceable than the natives. I did not intend to say that queens had not nor could not be fertilized in confinement. I meant that it was too difficult, troublesome, and expensive, to ever be a success with the common man. But after all, I think my article done good, for it has caused friend Waite to give an eternal quietus to several vexed questions, to-wit:

Fertilization in confinement a success.

Forced queens as good, or better than natural ones; and

That drones whose mothers have mated with native drones, is undoubtedly pure.

I do not suppose, however, that friend Waite claims infallibility. Permit me to remark, that I have seen service in bee hunting in the wilds of Arkansas and Missouri, for the last

forty years, and some of the strongest and richest colonies I ever saw, was in the body of trees more than two feet from the ground, with abundant room above and below the entrance, forward to the apiary.

Let us have peace.

MARTIN TERRY.

Cassville, Barry Co., Mo.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

### Experiments On Paper.

*Messrs. Editors:*—In No. 3, of the present volume of the JOURNAL, I notice an article from Will R. King. He enters the ring for a fight of his own accord, and is personal without just cause or provocation, and he assures us that he “knows by *dear bought* experience” that he is right.

Such experiments as he professes to have made would certainly convince any one that the fertilization of the queen does not effect her drone progeny, and such experiments *ought* to be made. I know nothing of the drone question by “*dear bought* experience,” and shall not take sides, but I can not allow assertions that I have every reason to believe untrue, to pass unnoticed, and will therefore state what I know of Mr. King’s proceedings and wind up by asking a few questions, which I hope he will answer, so as to set one right if I misrepresent him. I live only

about seven miles from where Mr. King kept his apiary last summer. Owing to a scarcity of honey, or some other cause, his bees killed off all his drones and he and his partner came to me to get a supply to fertilize their young queens. (This was in July, I think.) I asked him what his opinion was on the theory of the drone progeny not being affected by the fertilization of the queen. He said he had *no experience* on the subject, but it did not look reasonable. In less than a week after this, he started on a trip South to attend the fairs, and did not return until the season for raising queens was ended by the cold. During his absence, I visited their apiary three times. His partner told me, the last time I visited him, that he had received a letter from Mr. King, in which he said he had seen and heard enough to satisfy him that the drone progeny from a pure Italian queen, that had mated with a black drone, would be pure Italian. Last week I met Mr. King’s former partner again and asked him when Mr. King made his experiments, as given in the JOURNAL. He said he “never knew of his making them at all, they certainly were not at our apiary.”

Now, friend King, please tell us when, and where, you fertilized your queens with hybrid drones in confinement? Or

was it in the winter after you had taken your bees to Simpson county, Kentucky?

Mr. King accuses Dr. Boher of having "his horns sandpapered" for a fight, and wants him "to come up to the trough" as he intends to give him "all the fodder he can stand to." I hope he will leave out some of the "fodder and chaff" and "acknowledge the corn." He intimates, if he does not say it, that Dr. Boher has only hybrid bees, but "he knows his own are pure."

I think Mr. King has some pure Italians. I got one fine young queen at his apiary, but so late in the season that I saw very few of the workers. I also have sufficient confidence in Dr. Bohrer to buy a dozen or so of queens from him, and I believe when I receive them, in the spring, I will find them as he represents them, and fully equal to Mr. King's.

Mr. King says, also, he never had a queen fertilized by a drone from a virgin queen. Neither have I, but I do not doubt others have. I never saw a virgin or drone-laying queen, but that is no proof that there is no such thing. It would seem when Mr. King wrote the article under consideration, he must have been in the situation he accuses the man of, who did not know which hand of his watch to believe, viz: "had partaken of more re-

freshment than his system required." If the truth of a theory is to be proven by experiments, let us have them made in such a manner as to bear investigation. DELOS WOOD.

North Madison, Ind.

[For the National Bee Journal.

### Hard Winter on Bees

*Messrs. Editors:*—This has been a hard winter on bees in this vicinity. A majority of bee keepers have lost half of their stocks. One neighbor lost five out of six colonies, and he tells me they were all well supplied with honey. I have wintered ten colonies without the loss of one. I left them on their summer stands with one exception. I watched them very close all winter to see that they were properly ventilated, top and bottom, and frequently tip up the hives and sweep out all the dead bees and other debris, and would keep the snow clear from the entrance of the hives. I am of the opinion that bees will not freeze if they have plenty of honey and keep well ventilated top and bottom, and kept in a dry place. I think that dysentery, so much complained of, is the result of dampness and want of ventilation.

My bees are mostly in box hives, but I have moveable frame hives ready to transfer them as soon as the proper time arrives, and I wish to be informed through the JOURNAL

when is the proper time to transfer bees successfully, and also what is the best plan for comb guides to compel the bees to build straight combs in the frames. I noticed in the April number of the JOURNAL, on page 297, E. J. Worst, of New Pittsburg, Ohio, says he has hit upon a plan for constructing wax comb-guides on the frame equal, as he thinks, to any patented instrument now in use. Full information given on the receipt of three stamps, as his time costs that. Now, Messrs. Editors, this seems to me to be selfishness on a small scale. My idea of a bee journal is a medium for a mutual interchange of opinion, experience and observation. Does not Mr. Worst receive an equivalent for his discovery by the gratuitous contributions of the many correspondents of the JOURNAL? If not, then why does he not get his invention patented and pay you for advertising it in the JOURNAL? If I shall ever be so fortunate as to make any discovery in bee culture, the readers of the JOURNAL shall be welcome to it without the paltry sum of three stamps.

WM. CALDWELL.

*Elmore, Ohio.*

#### **Nashville Industrial Exposition.**

The Board of Managers authorized by, and working under the auspices of the Mechanics and Manufacturers' Association

of Tennessee, the Nashville Board of Trade, and the Tennessee Horticultural Society, most cordially invite manufacturers, mechanics, artists, inventors and producers throughout the United States to attend their second grand Exposition of manufactures, arts, minerals and products, and contribute specimens of their productions. Will open for the reception of articles for exhibition from the 15th to the 30th of April, and will be thrown open to the public from the first day of May to the 1st day of June.

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MITCHELL'S FIRST LESSONS IN BEE CULTURE is on hand at the following prices: Single copy, 50 cents; \$3 per dozen, \$20 per hundred. All orders will be promptly attended to. We would recommend this work to all beginners in bee culture.

ALL persons intending to transfer their bees, comb and all, from box hives into moveable comb hives, should do so at once. The job can be done at any time, but now is the best time.

## EDITORS' TABLE.

### Greeting.

In sending forth our next semi-monthly number we cheerfully greet you, and with the pleasant warm spring weather we are now having, we hope the gentle but busy hum of our little pets, that have survived a very hard and long winter, will stimulate us to see to all their present and future wants. We take up the pen, after such writers that have gone before us, with much diffidence, but with the hope and assurance that as our cause is one of great and general interest to the whole human family, we are encouraged, having taken hold of the "Bee Plow," not to turn back, but with the motto, "Those teachings are the best that benefit the greatest number and for the longest time." We shall look forward with increasing interest for continued articles from all of our old contributors, and hope new ones will send in their experiences, doubts, failures and successes and questions. Our ocean is made up from many rivers, and those from many smaller ones, and those from the springs.

Now we want all our read-

ers to consider themselves as springs and send forth their ebullitions and let us have them published, so that they can go forth arousing thoughts in other minds, and so on for never ending time. There is much about the little busy bee that we have not found out, and there are many things that some have discovered that others have not, and *vice versa*. So by each one sending up his or her own knowledge and comparing notes, all will be improved and we all can go forward in bee culture.

### Dividing Stocks.

Many of our friends are desirous of knowing our process of artificial swarming, which is as follows:

First, we use a moveable comb hive, then take an empty hive, we will call it No. 1, go to No. 2, blow a little smoke in the entrance of said hive, open the hive, draw a frame from or near the center of the hive, bees and all, place it in No. 1, replace in No. 2 the empty frame taken from No. 1; now pass to No. 3, smoke a little, draw a frame, as before, place it in No. 1, replace with empty

frame, going from hive to hive until you get sufficient for the new stock, being careful that you do not take the queen from any hive. In case of very strong stocks, you can draw two frames to prevent swarming. Now remove your new-made stock to a distance from the hives you have drawn from, sprinkle sweetened water or diluted honey, shut them up for from two to six hours. The best time is about four o'clock. Then open the entrance before going to bed. This is a plan which has long been practiced by experienced aparians, and does not seem to retard the gathering of honey. Another, and I think a safer plan for inexperienced persons, is to divide your strong stocks equal, or nearly so, carefully looking for the queen, put her into the new hive, placing bees and brood in the center, fill up with empty frames, remove the hive, with the queen, to a new location, leaving the queenless hive on the old stand. This is a branch of business that any woman can understand and do, being healthful, pleasant and profitable.

#### Questions and Answers.

"What is the objection to a honey chamber on a level with the main hive or brood chamber?  
S. R., Utah."

Our experience is, that in using a hive extended in length

for the purpose of obtaining honey as well as brood, we fail to get pure saleable honey in the comb. The bees will deposit bee bread in the cells, and the queen being free to go where she pleases often uses all the frames, but where the honey extractor is used we find no objection.

"Is it safe to use the hives, honey and comb where bees have died this winter? T. L."

We would prefer to extract the honey, purify by boiling, then feed it to the bees. Scrape and brush your frames well, wash the hive with salt and water, then you are sure they are all right.

THE following questions have been asked, and we would be glad if some of our bee keepers would answer them through the next issue of the JOURNAL:

"Why do bees swarm, although very weak colonies?"

R. V. R."

"What is a fertile worker?"

N. W."

"In clipping the wings of a queen, is there any special mark or place to show where the wing may be cut without causing pain, or does it shorten the life of a queen?"

J. H. H."

QUEENS.—We will tell our readers of the JOURNAL in our next something about their queens.



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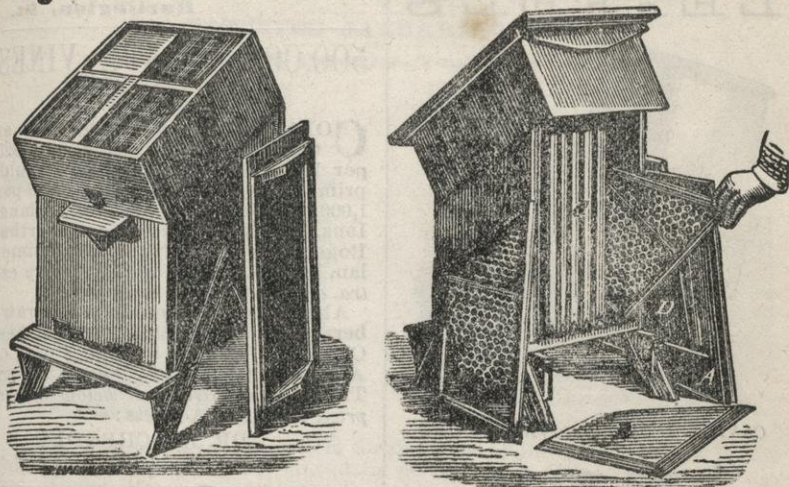
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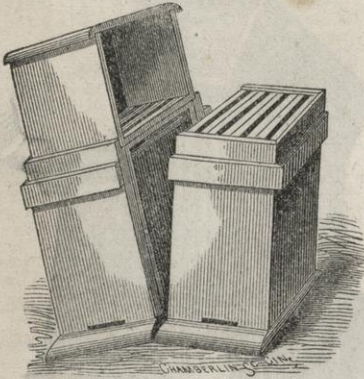
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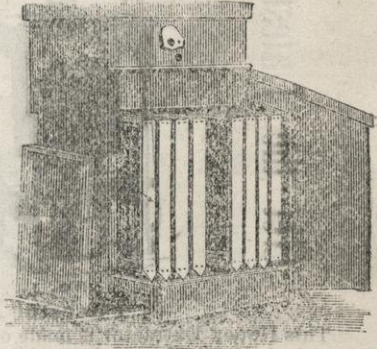
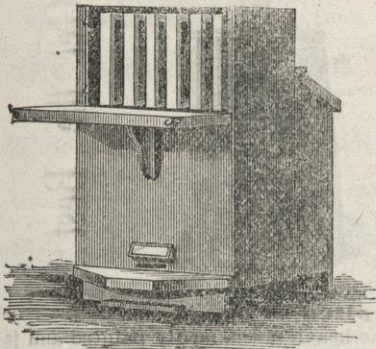
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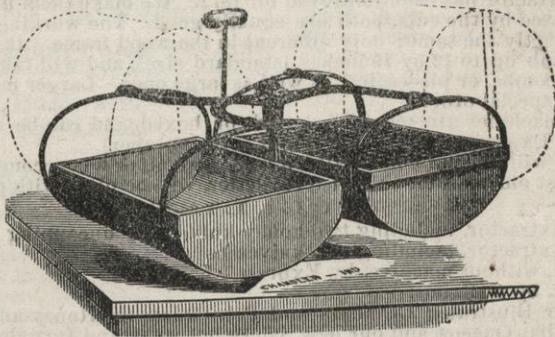


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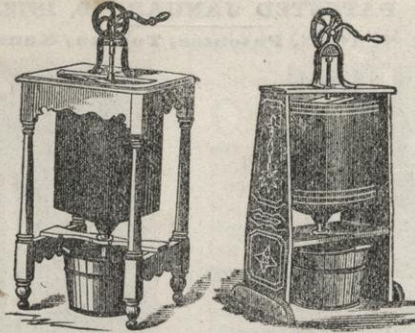


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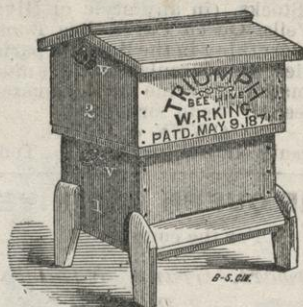
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