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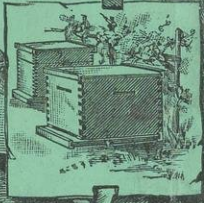
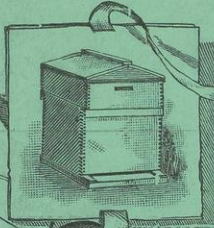
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PROGRESSIVE

BEE-KEEPER

A JOURNAL  
DEVOTED TO BEES, HONEY AND  
KINDRED INDUSTRIES



PUBLISHED BY

LEAHY MANUFACTURING CO  
HIGGINSVILLE, MISSOURI

MURRY-HEISS CLEY, O.



November 1904





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# The Progressive Bee-Keeper.

A Journal Devoted to Bees Honey and Kindred Supplies.

VOL. XII.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., NOVEMBER 1904.

NO. 11.

## Good Things In the Bee-Keeping Press.

SOMNAMBULIST.

The following article is now going the rounds of Missouri's county papers; 'The National Bee-keeper's Association which met at the Christian Endeavor Hotel in St. Louis last week devoted a half of one day to a discussion as to whether it is possible for Comb Honey to be manufactured by machinery. On account of the fact that the public press has from time to time published statements to the effect that this has been done, and thereby causing people unacquainted with the making of honey, to take same as an accomplished fact, the convention adopted the following resolution: "In view of the often repeated statement in the public press that comb honey is made, filled and capped by machinery, Resolved, That the National Bee-keeper's Association will forfeit the sum of \$1,000 to any party or parties who will furnish proof beyond successful contradiction that said statement is true, and produce as part of such evidence two pounds or more of such comb honey that has been manufactured without the use of bees in any way, with sufficient skill to deceive ordinary honey experts."

The getting of facts before the common people, is the only way to educate. How few ever read the doings of a bee-keeper's convention, but how many pick up the home paper, and devour the whole of it. With them it is presumable that bee-keeper's make and seek to sustain assertions favor-

able to their calling, but to find the same things to notice by a disinterested party, is quite different, and commands respect and sometimes leads to further investigation. Every honest man courts inspection, for through it he has nothing to lose and everything to gain. The National did a good thing in the above action.

The Journal of Agriculture has the following: "Prof. U. P. Herdick says: "The fruit grower who complains of bees is an ungrateful wretch. At best fair exchange is no robbery, but the bees take nothing. A crop of honey removes no fertility from the soil, no substance nor flavor from the fruit, nor even the fragrance from the flower. Multitudes of bees may store their hives with "choicely culled sweets," from your orchard, and you may take it and feast yourself on the apple blossom flavored honey, or you may sell it for dollars and cents, yet neither your trees nor your farm is the loser by one penny's worth. If the bees take a little toll from the fruit, what of it? Should they not be repaid for officiating at the nuptials of your fruit blossoms? But do they take toll?"

Country Life tells us: "It is a foolish notion to suppose that the ringing of bells or "tanging" of tin pans will cause a swarm of bees to settle. The real origin of this custom dates back to the reign of Alfred the Great, who in order to prevent disputes regarding the ownership of a swarm, ordered that the owner should always ring a bell when his bees swarmed; and, ever since then, the good farm-



er's wife has been rushing out with ringing bells whenever the bees swarmed, and the fact that they settled verified, in her own mind, the belief that the bell did it.—Country Life in America.

All Farm Journals are giving more space to the consideration of the busy bee and its products which goes to show "there's something doing." Then too we are commanding respect in high places, witness the following taken from "American Bee Keeper:" "The first Civil Service examination in apiculture ever ordered by the United States Government bears date of July 29, 1904, and occurred August 31, and was conducted to secure eligibles from which to make certification to fill a vacancy in the position of Apicultural Clerk (either sex), at a salary of \$720 per year, in the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Apiculture, and other similar vacancies as they may occur in that Department. The examination consisted of the following subjects, and were weighted as indicated.

Weights.

1. Spelling (twenty words of more than average difficulty)..... 3
2. Arithmetic (fundamental rules, fractions, percentage, interest, discount, analysis, and statement of simple accounts)..... 8.
3. Letter-writing (a letter of not less than 150 words on some subject of general interest. Competitors will be permitted to select one of two subjects given)..... 7
4. Penmanship (the hand writing of the competitor in the subject of copying will be considered with special reference to the elements of eligibility, rapidity, neatness, general appearance, etc.)..... 3
5. Copying (a test consisting of two exercises—the first to be an exact copy of the matter given, and the second to be the writing of a

- smooth copy of roughdraft manuscript, including the correction of errors of spelling, capitalization, syntax, etc.)..... 5
6. Copying from plain copy (writing with the typewriter an exercise consisting of 450 words, paragraphing, spelling, capitalizing and punctuating precisely as in the copy)..... 12
7. Copying from rough draft (the competitor will be required to make, with the typewriter, a fair copy of a rough-draft letter)..... 12
8. Practical questions in apiculture. 50
- Total..... 100

This is encouraging because of opportunities opening to our young folks, this being but the beginning. The future holds undreamed of possibilities. And is it not to the latter that bee-keeping owes its greatest charm?"

The editor of the Review says the key note of the national meeting at St. Louis is "business" and adds that he has for years "talked and worked and written to induce bee-keeper's to pay more attention to the business end of bee-keeping. I have contended that if there was any honey in the fields, we knew how to secure it in marketable shape; that the bee journals have for years taught manipulation and production to the almost total neglect of the business part of the occupation, to the buying of supplies, the advertising and selling of the produce, and the securing of needed legislation, and now for the National Association to devote a good share of the time to these subjects is a decidedly hopeful symptom. The editor of the Cosmopolitan was surprised at the sameness and common-place of the exhibits in the art department of the St. Louis fair. He decided that this result came from art students simply being copyists. They are taught tech-



nality and copying, but not encouraged to be original, to study life and mankind as well as painting, to think, to branch out in new paths. As is often the case, I tried to apply the lesson to our pursuit. It seemed to be about like this: The Journals and leaders have taught manipulation and detail, and said very little to encourage bee-keepers to branch out and do and think for themselves. Just now bee-keeping is being taken up on broader lines; men are broadening out and keeping hundreds of colonies and making dollars where they once made cents, yet the journals seem very slow in encouraging this plan of bee-keeping. Even the bee-keepers themselves frown upon the "keeping of more bees." To my readers let me say with all possible emphasis, don't be mere copyists and imitators. Do some thinking for yourselves. Try and comprehend the possibilities that are in store for you if you will only arouse yourself to the changed conditions."

Yet another editorial along the same line is: "Nearly every school boy has been told that if he studied hard and was a good boy, he might become a great man, possibly President of the United States. Bee-keepers have been told how Adam Grimm made a fortune out of bees and started a bank; W. L. Cogshall with his hundreds of colonies, and thousands of dollars in the bank, has been held up as a shining example; and now M. A. Gill, of Longmont, Colo., is producing comb honey by the car load, year after year. In reading over the proof sheets of the statistical table that is being published by Manager France, I see that Mr. Gill has this year produced 70,000 pounds of comb honey. We may not all be able to attain these grand successes, but the pathway that leads to them is plain. A good locality, a large number of

colonies scattered in several apiaries, and some short-cut method or system that enables a few persons to do the work by visiting apiaries at regular intervals. The simplicity of the plan is astounding, and it can be followed by any one who has the necessary ability, enterprise and nerve." Reader have you not concluded that if you are suffering from sluggishness, inactivity or "the dumps" you had best at once take a dose of the Review? S. E. Miller's description of Bro. Hutchinson its editor is strikingly correct, page 268 (PROGRESSIVE). Perhaps an apology is due Mr. Hutchinson, possibly he may object to being styled "brother" but he has proved one to any, and all, who have seriously perused his writings and long and bright may his light shine, for not being satisfied with putting out beacon lights to guide the wayfarer, he is now using search lights to discover if possible that which has heretofore been lost to bee-keepers. Courage, brother, if the journals have been slow in coming to your help, of what consequence, so that the future holds your reward, and can anyone doubt the latter? Mr. Miller was fortunate in his description of the others he mentioned also, but unfortunate in, that he failed to personally meet the editor of the American Bee Journal. Sorry, for I feel that such meeting would have proved mutually agreeable and beneficial. I am sorry too that the apicultural exhibition in "the greatest show on earth" was so poorly managed as to virtually cripple the exhibit. Say if a "Gumpy" writes such interesting articles as is found on page 261 of the Progressive what ought to be expected of the many who would not be willing to be styled as such? And a woman (page 264) quelled the rumpus by only a "rag wet in coal oil," was it not that the odor of the coal oil was stronger than that of



the honey?

Glad to learn that the reaction has begun and resulted in an increased attendance at the State Agricultural College. The last season however has been the most discouraging in farming for many years.

### Shallow Hive Defended.

BY J. E. HAND.

Editor American Bee-Keeper:

Mr. McNeal's ably written article on the shallow brood chamber hive on page 179 is very interesting reading, and more so, perhaps, to those who are not acquainted with the actual facts of the case. To those of us, however, who are using the very shallow frame with the most gratifying results, in successful wintering as well as honey production, the whole article savors rather strongly of theory. But it is refreshing to note Mr. McNeal's willingness to "revise his theories" in case they are proven fallacious. To cut a long story short, he has simply set up a man of straw and coolly and deliberately proceeded to punch the stuffing out of him, as not one of the serious objections which he so vividly sets forth, can apply to the properly constructed divisible brood chamber hive. Like every theorist who wishes to set forth the great superiority of the deep frame or tall section, he makes use of the oft repeated, though erroneous statement, that bees have a great preference for combs that are deeper than they are long. It should be evident to even a careless observer that two things, and only two govern the shape or form of natural combs. These are the shape of the hive and the size of the cluster. It is the rankest kind of nonsense for anyone to make the statement that tall sections will be finished quicker than

shallow ones. It is true that a small cluster in a large hive must of necessity build downward faster than sideways but if the cluster can fill the top of the hive as is the case with the shallow brood chamber, the center of the comb will only be slightly lower than the ends, when such are built half-way down the frames. After carefully reading friend M's article I am forced to the conclusion that he has never had a properly constructed divisible brood chamber hive. The shallow brood chamber hive is far ahead of the deep frame hive, either for wintering, building up in spring, rapid manipulation or comb honey production.

I have 130 such hives and I know whereof I speak. I have also frames as deep as 16 inches. Also the regular L. frame. Theory is one thing, and actual facts backed up by tons of fancy comb honey, is another. When in doubt consult your bees and let theories go for what they are worth. I will close by saying that in my fifteen years experience in wintering bees in very shallow frames I have never had a colony die of starvation with plenty of honey in the hive, as I have had scores of them do on deep frames.—American Bee-Keeper.

### Florida Not a Queen Breeder's Eldorado.

BY M. F. REEVE.

The last time I met E. L. Pratt, the Swarthmore queen breeder, in the spring he had just returned from a trip to the St. Johns river, Fla., where he had located a site for a branch queen breeding plant, so as to enable him to secure early queens. He told me had his ticket purchased and everything arranged to start in with breeding. I met him again a few days ago, and he informed me that he was extremely lucky in not having



gone to the Land of Flowers. He had advices from another Northern queen breeder who went there picturing everything in such discouraging colors that he had abandoned the idea and concluded to seek for some other Southern locality, probably Texas. His Florida friend told him that the king bird and dragon flies committed such havoc among his colonies that he had lost 70 per cent of the bees he took down there. Dragon flies literally swarmed in myriads, devouring the queens on their mating flight and the drones as well as the workers. He was about to pull up stakes and get out for some place where they didn't have such pests. Mr. Pratt says he has been much hampered this year by the difficulty of getting bees for his nuclei and has had to turn down several hundred orders for queens in consequence.—American Bee-Keeper.

### Adopted By the Association at St. Louis Sept. 28, 1904, From Committee Report.

To the Bee-keepers and Fruit  
Growers of Missouri:

It has come to the knowledge of the Missouri State Bee-keepers' Association that the dreaded disease of foul brood exists in different parts of the state. This disease is very contagious and threatens to spread all over the state, and to greatly harm, or totally destroy our industry of bee-keeping, if not checked in time. The Missouri State Bee-Keeper's Association, in convention assembled, considers it its duty to sound a warning call, and to ask all bee-keeper's of the state to unite for immediate action. Only by united action can we successfully meet the danger which threatens. It is our intention to try to have such laws enacted by our legislature at its next session as is needed to deal with the existing conditions. We ask the sup-

port of all of the bee-keeper's, fruit growers, and also of all other citizens who feel kindly towards our industry as not only the bee-keeper is threatened by the spreading of foul brood, but the fruit growers also, as the disappearance of the honey bee will cut short the crop of the horticulturalist.

Where there are no bees to assist in fertilization of the fruit blossoms there will be only very light crops of fruit, and therefore we ask the support of the fruit growers when our bill providing for the necessary laws is before the legislatures. The membership fee in the Missouri Bee-Keeper's Association is \$1.00 per year. This \$1.00 pays at the same time for membership in the National Bee-Keeper's Association. You will find enclosed a postal card on which please kindly inform us whether you will join our association and will assist us in getting more members in your neighborhood, or if you do not feel interested enough yourself to join us, please give us the names of bee-keepers who would probably be interested. We need the support of all progressive bee-keepers and thank you before hand for whatever you may do to further the cause.

Yours Truly,

J. W. ROUSE, Pres.

W. T. Cary, Sec.

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## Incidents of a Queen's Life.

BY GUMPUS.

### Chapter II.

"Oh!Mamma, I feel that my time has come," said little Brownie, in a hasty tone as she came into the house one day,her face as white as a sheet.

"What has happened my dear; what in the world makes you so pale?" anxiously inquired the queen.

"Well I met a "hayseed" out in yonder field and as I passed him he hit at me with his old straw hat and that was more than I could stand, so I kicked him on the nose, then he slapped at me, but I dodged him and he run his head in a shock of fodder. My temper had the best of me by that time, so lighting on the most conspicuous place, I stung him with all my might, which caused him to go clear through the shock of fodder, uttering words that are not seen in print, as he went. But if I must die I have the satisfaction of sweet revenge," she said laying her head on her mother's lap, "and while it is hard to die now in the prime of life, and that too when the summer sunshine give promise of a bountiful harvest. Yet think how much harder it would have been dear Mama, if he had hit me with that fist and I should have had to die without the last word." She had grown very weak now, and the queen knew that life was fast ebbing away. So calling the children around her and looking very wise, she remarked: "My dear children, here at my feet, as you see, lies all that remains mortal of your once happy sister, little Brownie, who this morning was as full of life as any bee in Uncle Billy's apiary; but alas she sinned, and it cost her her life. Now I want you all to take warning of her fate, and try to do better. In her last conversation with me, she said she let her temper get the best of her. O! how

many there are that make this fatal mistake. Why! the papers are full of untold sufferings, and premature deaths, caused by some one letting their temper get the best of them. Now, my dear children, unfortunately for you, in your case, this quick temper is hereditary, being one of the characteristics of the black bee. I make mention of this that you may realize the great importance of combating against it, and I want you all to make all possible effort, to hold it in check. For I can say truly that I have seen more temper to the square inch, and the evil effect of it since you have been in my charge, than ever before in all my life. I hope however that the coming generation, which is about to hatch, being my own blood, will not inherit this evil disposition." So saying she went back to her comb, and each of the others to their respective duties.

So the time passed on, nothing happening of interest for several days, when little Frisky is delighted one morning when she awakes, and finds a chubby little blonde brother hopping around on the floor. "O! Mamma," she cried in childish glee, "look what a nice little brother, and see what a pretty striped coat," she said, walking up and stroking him on the back," I wish I had a dress like that." "You little simpleton," remarked the old maid sarcastically, as she put the finishing touches on all, "I don't see anything to take on so over, there's a dozen already hatched out as nice as he, and more hatching, and for my part I wish they were in halifax for it's just that many more mouths to feed and they are as lazy as they can be, just won't do a lick of work. I don't see what men were ever made for any way, and if you had as much experience with them as I have had, you wouldn't be honeying around him like that." Come Sweetey what are



you doing there," said an ugly little one-eyed worker, with a big slit torn in her dress, as she came in with a load, "You've been working on that cell a long time, and you had better be drawing out some more, instead of putting so much fancy work on that one, for we have them nearly all full now." "I don't care," answered Sweety, "I am determined to learn to embroidery, and this cradle canopy is a good one to practice on. There isn't it pretty," she said, stepping back to take a good look at it, "I think that is real artistic. Wonder what baby'll say, when she wakes up and finds what a pretty little house she lives in, and besides, One-eye mamma says we can't take too much pains with these youngsters, for she says she wants to raise up a generation of children, that will make a model family and she can't do it unless we make them comfortable, you know."

"Well I'll tell you right now I'm not stuck on the kind of family she's raising," put in the old maid. "Beauty's alright but I'd just as soon have a little common sense with it, and if I'm not badly mistaken there's got to be a division in this household before many days, for those step-brothers and sisters are getting entirely too smart, then besides this house won't hold many more. The nursery occupies over half of it now, and the rest is nearly full of honey, and when it is filled what will we do?" "Don't worry yourself about that," said Sweety as she added another point to her cradle canopy. "I seen Uncle Billy putting up some sections to-day, and like, as not they are for us."

Sure enough they were for Uncle Billy was anxious to see what the nice little boxes looked like when they were full of honey. So he took out the two outside frames, and put "dummies" in their places; then a queen excluding honey board over the frames

to keep the queen from laying in the comb in the sections. As there was no more room below they were then forced above, but when the honey season was on in full blast, he replaced the frames so they could fill them also, for he knew if he neglected to do this, they would be short in winter stores. The new snow white sections, when they were filled with nice combs of honey, and the ease with which he could handle it, without daubing it over everything, and the pretty little yellow bees as they hatched out, in striking contrast to the blacks, completely won Uncle Billy over to the "new fangled way" and he began at once to transfer his entire apiary and to Italianize it.

"Listen! isn't that Duffy. I wonder what is the matter with him?" said One-eye. "I expect mamma is scolding him again. He just will run off and fly around with that little black queen, down at No. 106 and mamma says she just won't let her children run with any such low down trash, but she'd just as well let him alone for when a boy gets as badly "gone" as he is, there's no stopping them." "Yes, but he is too young to be going with the girls," said Sweety, "and especially one of her age, why; she is old enough to be his grandmother. It's ridiculous for a lad of fifteen days to be "setting" to a queen of 45." "But she is pretty well fixed," One-eye replied, "You know she inherits the homestead and its a lovely 'house." "Yes but there are so many there," answered Sweety, "that they will make life intolerable for him and I never could bear that old woman, and just the thoughts of her being Duffy's mother-in-law is enough to make my heart ache." "Oh! she's going away next week," said One-eye. "I saw one of the sale bills tacked on the cherry tree, down by the gate, it said, 'I will offer at public sale at 106 Un-



cle Billy apiary, on the 27th inst., I second hand throne (in good repair" a crown which has been worn only on State occasions, and household and kitchen furniture too numerous to mention. Queen Lill." "Oh! yes; she is going to South Dokota sure, and has turned the place over to Blackey, but for the life of me, I can't see anything fascinating about her if Duffy does."

"There comes Uucle Billy, bringing old man Weatherbeaten out here to show him his new fixin's," said the old maid, "I wish to goodness he'd give us a little rest, there has been some one here to see us nearly every day since we were put in this new house, for my part I would rather live in an old "gum" and be let alone. Who could work with some one tearing the house down all time to see how it is made I'd like to know. I heard Uncle Billy telling Simpkins the other day that we had not done hardly as well as he had expected, considering the expense and trouble we had been, and I sang, "there are moments when one wants to be alone," to him then, but I guess he didn't take the hint for he has brought every old clod hopper out to see us that has since been on the place. I wonder what aunt Sarah would think if he would tear all the furniture out of their house to show it to every one that comes along, and tear the roof off to show them how the up-stairs rooms are arranged."

About a week after this something occurred that marked an epoch in the history of our little family, for it was then that there emerged from the cell with which Sweety had taken so much time to extend and decorate, as lovely a bee as ever hatched from a Royal cell. She was at once rated by all, the Belle of the household and looked upon by them with great admiration and awe. "This is the one," said the

old queen with tears in her eyes, 'to whom I bequeath my throne, for surely there is none in my family that would fill my place better than she, and I shall only stay a few days longer with you all, in order to see her make her debut, and then I shall "hie away" back to my childhood home in the Southland, where the flowers are ever-blooming, and where I expect to realize my fondest dreams by meeting again the familiar faces of my old time companions.'" "If mamma goes South," said Frisky to Sweety that afternoon as they worked away "I'm going too, I think it would be so nice to travel all day long and see so many things, don't you? and Oh! how beautiful that place must be where mamma came from. She says there was acre after acre of flowers and all the year round too, just think of it, no long winter days when the snow stops up the door for weeks at a time, like it does here. It all seems most too good to be true, don't it." "Yes" replied her sister, awakening from thoughtful reverie, "but did you ever think, dear sister, that it is not so much where you are, but what you are, that makes life worth living? What would I care for all those nice things, for they would not make me happy. Pray tell me what good it would do me to live in a land where flowers are ever so plenty? It would only furnish that much more nectar to gather and that would require that much more comb to be built, and so after all there would be nothing for me but work, work, work, from morning till night, day after day. Oh! why was I destined to spend my entire life in working for the comfort of others. Oh! why was I chosed to be a slave when I long, oh, so long to be a queen." Here she placed one corner of her apron to her eyes and gave vent to deep emotion.

"My dear sister," said Frisky, "it



is very foolish for you to feel as you do, for you see we can't all be queens and any way is is too late to make one of you now, of course I don't know why you weren't made a queen, for I am sure you would have made a good one. Why bother our heads over things over which we have no control, and really as like as not, if you had been born a queen, you would want to be something else, for there are lots of people in the world who are never satisfied; no matter what station they occupy. I read of a man the other day, who said he would give a million dollars for a real good stomach, and I have no doubt that if his Maker had known for what he would wish, he would have made him stomach, to the exclusion of everything else. But dear sister, although our Master knows our present thoughts he does not, unfortunately, know what our wishes in the future may be, so all he can do is to just make us and then try to teach us to not covet that which we have not."

"Mamma," said little Tothead, as she came running in, "that Miss Swift that lives down the street, has been telling me about how she was raised, and its oh, so funny' She said that she was born on a raft on the river, and she said there was a whole town on the raft, and they gathered honey as it floated down the stream, I would have thought they would got lost when their home was moving all the time wouldn't you? But she said it was no trouble at all to find the raft, that it always traveled faster than they did, for they went out away from the river to gather honey, and when they got a load all they had to do was to fly back to the river, and then go down stream, until they came to the raft. She said she had traveled nearly all summer that way, but got tired of it and came out with a swarm and settled in an old hollow

tree, and it was there Uncle Billy found them, and brought them here."

(To be continued in next number.)

## Phacelia As a Forage Plant.

BY HENRY E. HORN.

Apiculturist C. C. Miller's challenge to "those California chaps" to produce evidence showing that the phacelia tan, is a valuable forage plant, has been noted; and, my name having been singled out in particular with relation to said challenge it gives me delight to buckle on my nickle-plated armor and to face the Sir Knight in combat. The trouble I may here add, why said "chaps" have remained "dumb as oysters" heretofore lies probably with the gentleman himself; i. e., his choosing "The Conglomerate Goody-Goody" to convey forth his martial proclamations instead of the "War Cry." In this mountain-enclosed corner of Roosevelt's empire, we all study the "War Cry" and the "Arizona Kicker" and the "Rhig-Veda", as we sit squatting behind a cactus stalk apiece but naught else. Any time-crevices left between, are filled in with meditations on the infinitesimal calculus and blinking at the southern coal sacks. There is just a doubt whether the phacelia cultivated by Mr. Miller as a window plant is the true *tanacetifolia* variety. There are, at least three varieties of the plant known. California seedmen keep phacelia seed, but not of the tan variety. Mr. Miller's kind is fragrant, the tan, here is not. Also, the tan variety is less showy than the "Parryi" and the rest; hence florists would naturally select the latter for their trade. Yet as a forage plant, none but the tan, is of any value. So much for preliminaries.

In the April number of one of the widest circulated bee-journals of Cen-



tral Europe, a purely technical, scientific publication, there appear twenty-six different paid advertisements of phacelia seed by as many different individuals. The prices named are by the pound and hundred-weight. Now, the reason why these offers are made is because there is a demand for the seed—and a growing demand. And the reason back of the demand is the knowledge of its value gained in former years by extensive experimenting. There are probably ten thousand acres planted with phacelia tan, in Germany alone this present year. Direct reports of the forage value of the plant made by a great number of people in various parts of that country are not unanimous, and not as good this year as last, but still favorable enough to warrant farther and extensive cultivation. A special feature of the usefulness of the plant agriculturally, as well as apiculturally, is only lately being discovered, namely: sowing it in fallow land in the fall for a late honey flow, and then plowing it under for green fertilizing. Of the forage value of phacelia tan, on American soil, I beg to submit the following:

The cattle on my eighty-acre ranch leaning up Blue Mountain, five miles out, consist of a pack of twenty coyotes, seventy five jack rabbits, one dozen skunks, three wild cats and one hundred cangurro rats. Of that collection the jack-rabbits alone take the phacelia tan, as it should be taken as I believe babies take their luncheon i. e., by nibbling at it from morning till night. The coyotes take it by preference transmuted into juicy rabbit hams, and they take it with avidity after chasing their owner up and down the twilight canons for twenty miles. Of the skunks it must be said that they are somewhat more esthetical in their appetites. They like the nectar of the sky-blue phacelia blossoms best and they take it exclusively with the

honey bee on the outside of it, for which purpose they pay nightly visits to the neighboring apiaries. As for cangurroes and the three stub-tailed tommies, I am afraid I might be accused of having slipped off the straight path if I ventured to tell of their fantastic gambolings among the phacelia patches when the moon hangs low; besides, I truly think the foregoing is proof overwhelming enough and of the nature asked for, to convince Sir Knight of the "presumptuous ignoramus" with whom he promises to be well pleased. Should, however, my challenger's war spirit be unsubdued still, the following flanking movement as they say in Manchuria, I think will fetch him. Let him do as a considerable number of Americans are doing at the present time; buy a quantity of seed, sow it, and afterwards feed the plant to his herds and flocks—and watch them for results. And it would probably be as well to have a set of "Before and After Using" photographs taken, else the rapidly disappearing ribs and rounding out hip-bones might guidelessly be explained with "optical illusion, my dear sir, mere optical illusion," instead of being credited to the beneficent work of the nutritious juices of phacelia tanacetifolia.

#### THAT DRONE IN WORKER CELL.

The doubt expressed by Mr. C. S. Harris on page 133, whether a certain raised cell of mine contained a drone is, of course, justified from his viewpoint, not knowing the accompanying circumstances, just as I was justified in my positive view, knowing the circumstances. I mentioned that occurrence at the time to draw attention to a certain new theory, hoping to induce an inquiring soul here and there to prove, or disprove it by actual rigorous experiment. Mr Harris can do that. Let him lodge an entire colony over on drone comb, and after all nor-



mal instincts for drone-rearing have become dormant, let him dequeen said colony and watch the results.

#### REMARKABLE INCIDENT.

This spring a very populous colony of Carniolians was dequeened. After due lapse of time, no queen nor eggs appearing, a yellow two-year-old mother bee, which was about to be superseded, was taken out of her family, dipped three times in water and put down between the frames of the Carniolans. Six days afterwards five frames—two on the south side of the hive, and three on the north side, with an empty frame between—contained eggs and larvae. Upon closer inspection the yellow queen was found normally active on one side of the hive, and a young Carniolan on the other.

Following is Dr. Miller's response to the foregoing, which had been submitted to him before publication. Both sides of the matter are now before the reader.—Editor.

Replying to Mr. Horn's facetious phacelia talk, I am aware that there are several varieties in California—W. A. Pryal says eight—but I think there can be little doubt that what I have had is *tanacetifolia*. I got the seed from Otto Ludhorf, labeled "*tanacetifolia*," and it is the same that I cultivated years ago as a window plant. Mr. Horn says the *tanacetifolia* is not fragrant there. Neither is it here if grown in the open ground, but when grown as a window plant. I have been very anxious to learn the forage value of phacelia in this country, and am still anxious to believe in it if there is foundation for that belief. As to this, Mr. Horn is still "dumb as an oyster," jack-rabbits being the only thing he mentions as eating phacelia, but not a word as to domestic animals. Otto Ludhorf is very temperate in his estimate, hardly considering it worth cultivating beside alfalfa.

That phacelia seed is largely advertised in European bee journals hardly proves that the plant is worth cultivating, even in Europe. Witness the boom of the Chapman honey plant in this country not so very long ago. Nothing is heard of it now, yet it is still advertised across the water. Mr. Horn says reports from Germany are not unanimous, and not so good this year as last. He might also have added that protests are not wanting against deceiving the farmers into planting phacelia as a forage plant—as for example Pastor Eck in a late number of *Praktischer Wegweiser*, who says it will only rebound to the injury of bee-keepers. This year I had a bed of phacelia about ten feet square. Bees did not work on it as thickly as they ordinarily do on buckwheat. Horses would eat it if they couldn't get anything else. Yet they might learn to like it; and possibly the plant did not have a fair show as the bed was sown entirely too thick.

Now Mr. Horn I hereby challenge you in the most warlike manner—sufficiently war-like to suit even so belligerent a spirit as yours—to tell us of a 10-acre field of phacelia cultivated as a forage crop in all California. Never mind the "probably ten thousand acres" in Germany (I wonder where you get authority for such a statement anyhow?) never mind the jack-rabbits and skunks and things, but tell us of just one farmer in California, the original home of phacelia, who cultivates phacelia to the extent of five acres for his domestic stock. If you can cite a dozen of them with an aggregate of a thousand acres, it will please me well.—C. C. MILLER in *American Bee-Keeper*.



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### Baby Nuclei.

S. E. MILLER.

Bluffton, Mo., Nov. 7, 1904.

Baby nuclei is the subject which has been given prominence in the last few issues of Gleanings in Bee Culture and in the issue of Oct. 15, page 974 Mr. M. H. Laws of Beeville, Tex., gives quite a comprehensive article which seems to make the whole matter so plain that any one who reads it should be able to make a success of mating queens with these miniature or so called baby nuclei. Editor E. R. Root has become somewhat enthusiastic on the subject and if I do not misunderstand him he advises honey producers who manage a large number of colonies to rear their own queens and have them mated by means of baby nuclei. That these nuclei are a perfect success in the hands of certain experienced

queen rearers under certain favorable conditions there can no longer be any doubt. Mr. E. L. Pratt has used this system for a number of years and for a long time has been advocating and recommending it. While Gleanings and I might say the majority of leading bee-keepers have as strenuously condemned the method or at least contended that it would not prove a success in the hands of the average bee-keeper. In the latter opinion I believe they were correct. During the past season Mr. Laws; the A. J. Root Co. and a number of others have demonstrated that Mr. Pratt's ideas were correct and that it can be made a success by others as well as by Mr. Pratt himself. After a pitiful failure in trying the method as given by Mr. Pratt some two or three years ago I again tried it in a small way the latter part of the past summer and the results were such that I think I am in a fair way of making a success of it. I say however that the method was somewhat modified in my last trial. I believe the time is near at hand when the great majority of queen rearers will adopt this method for mating the greater number of their queens, but to advise the average bee-keeper to rear his own queens and have them mated by this method; I consider carrying it too far. The bee-keeper who has had little or no experience in queen rearing is likely to overlook some of the apparently minor, but at the same time very important points that must be taken into consideration. Then too, I think it is extremely doubtful whether it will be a success in all parts of the country. Our climate conditions are so different in different parts of the country that what proves a success in one part may be a sad failure in another. I think it is also very doubtful whether these small nuclei will answer in mating very early and very late queens. That is queens



reared early in the season or often the nights are cool in the latter part of summer. From my own experience in handling nuclei in this latitude and this changeable Missouri climate I should hardly expect them to be of any use in mating queens earlier than June 15th or later than Sept. 1st while with a strong 2 or 3 frame nuclei it is possible to have queens mated sometimes a month earlier or later than the dates given. I would therefore suggest to the honey producer who has not had considerable experience in queen rearing that he try five or six baby nuclei before going into it on a large scale. If he can make a success of the five or six he may then be able to manage a much larger number and it will then be time for him to increase the number.

### Suitable Subjects For Bee Journals.

Under the above heading there appears an article on page 342 of the October Bee-keeper's Review written by the editor. In this article Mr. Hutchinson has handled the subject well and while it is too long to quote here I would say to every reader who takes the Review turn to the page and read it. In the opinion of your humble servant it is not wise for a bee-journal to try to spread out over too large a field. If it devotes a part of its space to gardening, fruit and poultry, this may not be out of place for I believe nearly all bee-keeper's are somewhat interested in these subjects. If the editor sees a chance to stand up and speak for morality and righteousness he should not be afraid to do so, but when we once begin to expand and branch out on various subjects it is not long until some one thinks he should have the use of the journal to argue politics or religion and nothing is more likely to create this impression than for the Editor himself to dis-

cuss these subjects. The person who wishes to keep posted on the current news will if he can afford it, subscribe for one or more of our great daily newspapers, and will choose one representing the political party to which he belongs. A christian or any one devoted to religious work will likely subscribe for a religious paper and ten to one he will choose one which advocates his particular denomination. When an editor of a paper that is not a political or a religious paper undertakes to handle either of these two subjects, he will probably displease more of his readers than he will please. While it may be out of place for me to mention it. This article recalls to my mind a certain writer who some time ago was a regular contributor to the Progressive Bee Keeper. This writer had a grievance, either real or imaginary, with a certain contemporary and as long as he was a regular writer for the Progressive there was scarcely an issue afterward but what contained a number of stabs, gauges, and side thrusts at the said contemporary. I was somewhat surprised at the time that the manager allowed this. What others thought of this I do not know but to me it was disgusting, particularly so as to the party attacked refrained from taking the slightest notice of his continual tirade. I was often tempted to give him my opinion of the matter, but knowing that it would only turn his wrath upon me and likely start an argument between us that would be of little or no interest to the readers of the Progressive I refrained from doing so.

### Sawdust For Smoker Fuel,

I have lately discovered a way of using sawdust for smoker fuel that I do not recollect ever having seen mentioned. Nearly all of the smokers now in use in this county are made on



practically the same principle, viz with an upright fire cup having a grate below and a removable or hinged cover. The one I am using is a Jumbo Corniel. This is the way I load it when burning sawdust. Grab a handful of green grass and stuff it down on the grate to keep the sawdust from sifting through, fill the fire cup to within an inch of the top with sawdust, then drop about a teaspoon full of kerosine on top of the sawdust and light it with a match. Leave it burn this way and do not close the top for several minutes or until it has a good start. Then place another handful of grass on top of the sawdust to act as a spark anester, and close the smoker and it is ready for business. The grass in the bottom keeps the sawdust from sifting down through the grate and that on top keeps the sparks from flying out. The grass on top will not burn for quite awhile and when it does and the smoker begins to throw sparks, put on a fresh supply of grass. As it burns from the top downward instead of the reverse it will burn a long time before being exhausted. I have not tested it to see just how long it will burn from one filling but I know it will last two or three hours and when not in use scarcely any fuel is consumed, still it will hold fire and be ready for use by simply working the bellows a few times. Try this plan and see if you do not like it.

### The Care of Comb Honey.

All of the comb honey should be removed from the hives as soon as the last honey flow has ceased. It should then be assorted according to the various grades and if not disposed of in a short time it should be stood in the warmest and dryest room at the bee-keeper's disposal. The average bee-keeper is not prepared to keep a fire

continually in his honey house and in this climate a room that has not fire in it each day after about Oct. 15th is not a fit place to keep comb honey. Probably the best place for those who have not too large a crop of honey or too small a kitchen is to pile it up maybe in crates or supers in one corner of the kitchen or perhaps better still in a corner of the living room with a curtain or screen around it. After you have worked a whole season to secure a nice crop of comb honey it is certainly poor economy to leave it in a cold damp place to be spoiled both in flavor and appearance. Many writers and some of the editors are advising the producers to dispose of their crops before cold weather sets in. This may be very good for those who ship to the commission man but even such have no assurance that the commission man will not store it in even a worse place than he has for it himself. Then again those who sell to the retail trade or direct to customers can not expect their customers to take the entire lot off their hands in one lump. The bee-keeper who undertakes to supply this class of trade should have honey on hand when ever his customers demand it and in order to do this he should be prepared to take care of his honey until called for.

### Grading Comb Honey.

In grading honey I make four classes including the unfinished sections which contain only a little honey and which are set out for the bees to clean up. In these four grades I do not make any particular distinction as to color for so far as I can see my trade does not demand a strictly white comb honey so long as the sections are nicely filled out, but in crating I aim to have it as near uniform in color as is practical and charge the same price for the amber as for the white. My



Nos 1 and 2 are graded about according to the specification given in the bee journals. What I call No. 3 is such sections as are from one half to two thirds filled and this is sold around home, used for home consumption or cut out and sold or used as chunk honey. What I call No. 4 are such sections as are less than one half filled out, and these are placed back in the supers and set out for the bees to clean up and afterwards stored away for next seasons use. In setting out these supers to have them cleaned up instead of resorting to what is called the slow robbing plan, I practice what might be called fast robbing. That is I simply set the supers out where as many bees can get to them as can pile into them. It is probably best however to do this towards evening and at a season when the evenings are cool so that the bees are driven home by the chill of the evening before they get too rantankerous.

### Unfinished Sections For Starters.

Regardless of what some good authorities claim about being able to have bees start as readily on comb foundations as in unfinished sections that have been nicely cleaned up and carefully stored away, my own experience teaches me that the unfinished sections are away ahead in inducing the bees to enter the sections early and commence storing honey therein, and while I am unfortunate in not having had each section completely filled out the past season I feel somewhat fortunate in having on hand a good supply of these unfinished sections ready for use when the honey flow comes next season. Young man take good care of the unfinished sections. Have them nicely cleaned up by the bees and store them away carefully for next season's use. They are good stock in trade; and when ever anybody tells you otherwise don't you believe it.

### CONSULT THE RECORDS.

#### Studios Research Is Both Interesting and Profitable.

BY ARTHUR C. MILLER.

As the long winter evenings approach, many a bee-keeper casts about for something to take the place of bees or begins to lay plans for the next season. At the risk of repeating an old suggestion, I want to point out the value of going over the text-books and back numbers of the magazines. Some will say that it is too dry, that they want to go ahead. I know of no more helpful thing than a knowledge of what progress has been made in the profession in the past. Such knowledge will enable us to at least begin where our ancestors left off; will save many a needless experiment and will not only help us ahead more rapidly, but it will assure our making real progress. Three hundred years ago Butler knew as much as we do about the possible value of drones as brood warmers, realized the advantage of curtailing their numbers, and devised a trap for catching them. He held much the same opinion as we do in regard to location of hives, windbreaks, shades, etc.

But one need not go so far back to learn the history of the art. Text books of to-day, as well as those of our fathers, give a pretty complete history so far as it relates to modern practices. A perusal of these, supplemented by a reading of the discussions of various systems, will prove both interesting and helpful. It may interest some to know that phacelia as a honey plant, was discussed fifty years ago; that divisible brood chamber hives were known and advocated as early as 1803; that the stingless bees of Mexico were imported into



this country in 1830; that ventilation, stimulative feeding, artificial swarming, etc., are almost as old as the craft itself. Apropos of Deacon Hardscrabble's assault on the "borrowing propensities" of some of our present day writers, it may soothe him or his ghost to know that the practice is no new thing. In 1829 Dr. James Thacher of Plymouth, Mass., published an interesting book on bee culture, and in 1840 one Wm. Hall of New Haven, got out a little pamphlet of about 50 pages, most of which was a straight steal from Dr. Thacher's work. Many of the early authors quoted freely from previous works, but in most instances they took pains to state the source of their information.

But the student in search of knowledge should not let these things hinder him, and the frequent recurrence of theories which we know to be erroneous should not blind his eyes to other matter which is not wrong. The painstaking enthusiast may find particular pleasure in taking up one subject at a time, and following it from its inception to the present day, and possibly at the same time make an index of the subject so that he can the more readily refer to its different parts at any future time. Such study will prove of value alike to novice and veteran, professional and amateur.—*American Bee-Keeper.*

### Report For 1904—Careless Handling Results in Low Prices.

BY GEO. B. HOWE.

Friend Hill—I put in the cellar in 1903, 168 colonies—left five out to experiment with—five double deckers with not less than 50 pounds each of honey. These all died but one, before March 1, and the other one never amounted to anything, so I am convinced that with a half-bushel of bees and plenty of honey, bees will not

winter out-doors in this locality. I had 172 out to put in the cellar, and as I did not put them in as early as I ought to, four of them were dead with plenty of bees and honey. I say "froze to death," call it what they like. How shall we decide on ventilation? Now, most any cellar will winter a few colonies all O. K., but put in, say, from 150 to 200, and my experience for nearly 20 years is that you must give them proper ventilation, not too much or too little. The bee-keepers will have to decide this for themselves, for cellars vary, so there is no fixed rule. I took out of the cellar last spring 122 colonies—some very weak—and on June 10 had 66 colonies. I never saw anything like it. I carried them into the cellar in early spring and out again. It did no good. They died just the same. I have built them up, by natural swarming and by dividing to 130 fine colonies and six fair ones. Total 136, with about 3,000 pounds of fine comb honey. Not so bad after all for 1904. Have about 100 young queens in these colonies. I believe in young queens, but would not discard a queen one year old, though I do every one that is two years old, excepting my breeders. I think we bee-keepers are to blame for the low price of honey, and I will tell you just why; I thought I would buy some honey, so I took a ride on my wheel to see what I could do. I found one bee-keeper with over a ton of as fine honey as I ever saw and he had not scraped the edges of the boxes. He had cleaned the tops, and when I remonstrated he said he had it partly cased and would not take it out any way. And yet he wanted a fancy price for it.

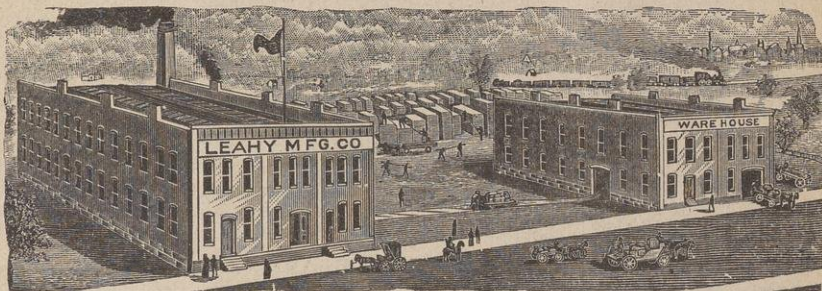
It seems strange that with such a short crop that the prices are so low. But how does the average bee-keeper sell his honey? He sells to a buyer and not one word does he say as to where that honey should or must be kept to retain its flavor and body. It is surprising how many put it in the ice box with butter, and when told better in a kindly way will thank you for telling them. Don't be afraid to tell them where to keep it, and to keep it in sight, not down cellar.

I think the National association could help the bee-keepers by putting articles in the leading magazines if they had to pay a good price for doing it.—*The American Bee-Keeper.*



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secure a good location, if not already in possession of one, adopt such methods as will enable him to branch out and manage several apiaries, he will find that in a good year he can

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## **GET GOOD STOCK,**

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## **RAPID INCREASE.**

how to build up ten or a dozen colonies, in a single season, into an apiary of 100 or more colonies.

Having the location and the bees, the bee-keeper must learn how to manage them so as to be able to establish an out-apiary here, and another there, and care for them with weekly visits—yes, by monthly, or even longer, visits, when extracted honey is produced. It is in teaching bee-keepers how to thus

## **CONTROL SWARMING,**

that the Review has been, and is still, doing its best work. If a man only knows how, he can care for several apiaries now as easily as he once cared for only one.

Having secured a crop of honey, the next step is that of selling it. This is the most neglected, yet

## **THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM**

of successful, money-making bee-keeping and one that the Review is working the hardest to solve. So many men work hard all summer, produce a good crop, and then almost give it away. The Review is trying to put a stop to this "giving it away." It is showing, by the actual experience of enterprising bee-keepers, how the leisure months may be employed in selling honey at prices that some of us would call exorbitant. The men who have done this **TELL HOW THEY DID IT.**

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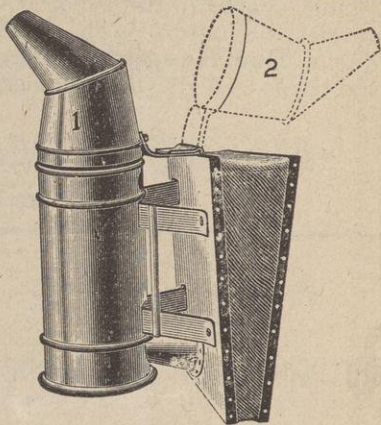
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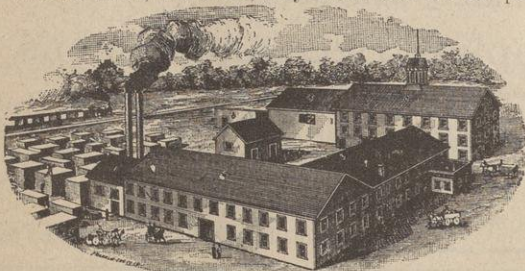
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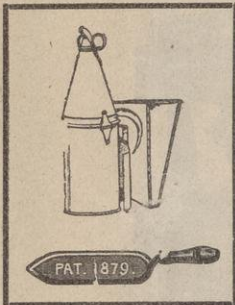
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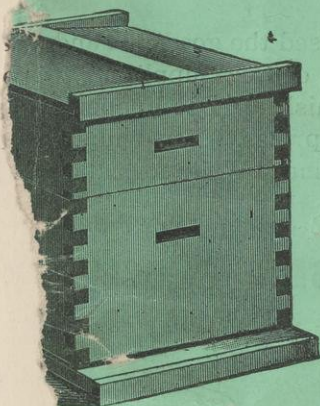
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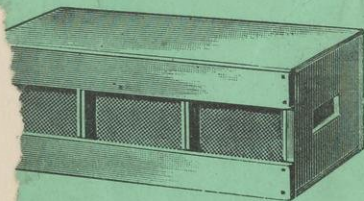


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