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OCTOBER, 1894.

THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.



VOL. 5.

YORK, NEB.

NO. 10.

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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.



Vol. 5.

OCTOBER, 1894.

No. 10.

The Nebraska Bee-Keepers' Convention.

Despite the drouth, heat and hard times financially, the Nebraska Bee Keepers held one of the best, as well as the most instructive meetings ever held in the history of the society. Being held as it was in the honey hall at the State Fair grounds, and in connection with the honey exhibit of the fair, it would be impossible to give a correct report of the meeting, without giving something of a pen picture of the surroundings.

The Bee and Honey interests in this State has received such encouragement by the State Board of Agriculture, that they built a separate building for the exhibit. The main building being about 24 x 70 feet, with a wing on either side 24 x 24 feet. In the center of this hall stands the honey case, in which was exhibited the Nebraska honey at the World's Fair at Chicago, last year. All around the building, next to the wall, is a 3-ft. shelf, and raised platforms in the center of each wing, for the exhibit of bee goods and apiarian supplies. The building fronts the main street or thoroughfare of the grounds.

Generally as the visitor entered the door, he was met by the genial Superintendent, Mr. E. Whitcomb, ever ready

to talk bees and honey and turning the crowd to the right.

On the right of the front entrance was the exhibit of Stilson & Sons of York, Neb., of useful articles for use in the apiary and bees, covering wall and shelf space forty feet, while in front of two windows was their exhibit of honey of various kinds and qualities.

Further on, an equal amount of space was covered by Wm. James of Pleasant Hill, Neb., with apiary supplies, bees, and bee fixtures.

Opposite, S. A. Smith, of Gage Co. covered sixty feet of shelf room, with bee hives, fixtures, and honey.

Aug. E. Davidson of Omaha, covered thirty feet of shelf and wall space, with half a ton of fine honey, bee goods, etc. In the center of the hall stands the Nebraska World's Fair honey case, filled now, as then with a fine display.

Facing the door is a sign, Saline Co. done up in honey. Underneath were cakes, cookies, etc., made with honey instead of sugar. Ears of corn, birds eggs, a rabbit and wreaths of flowers done up in wax. Next, in the center of the case is the shelving filled with the finest honey, both comb and extracted. Then a dwelling house in miniature, made of honey comb, then filled with honey by the bees, and at the extreme end of the case, was a wax pyra-

mid four feet high on which was inscribed the following epitaph:

"Here lie buried the fond hopes of 1894 of seventy colonies of bees. The combination of the drouth, the devil, and the democratic party (in high priced sugar) has knocked us out of our box. May we rest in peace."

While overhead was a framework extending the whole length of the case, covered on one side by forty Nebraska honey plants of E. Bessey, pressed and mounted, and on the other side Miss Winnie Stilson exhibited seventy-five Nebraska honey plants, mounted in the same style, and on each card, the common name, the proper name, date of blooming, duration of blossoms, and whether most valuable for honey or pollen. In this connection we are proud to say that a list of these plants is the beginning of a permanent list of the honey flora of our state. A list will be published later.

Thus surrounded as the visitors were, by object lessons from the apiary, and every exhibitor an encyclopædia of bee knowledge, no one could possibly pass through the hall day or evening without being interested and instructed. The days were spent in instruction to others and being instructed, while three evening sessions were spent in business and a general round up of information. At these sessions several papers were read by parties assigned beforehand, which generally opened the way for very profitable discussions. These papers will be published in this paper, and also in pamphlet form. It had been our intention to have complete reports of all the discussions, but at the last hour our stenographer was detained by sickness at home, and in the short notice we had, could not secure another on the grounds.

That the Nebraska bee keepers are alive and keeping fully up with those of other States is shown in the fact that they could make such a splendid

showing this *off* year, when so many are down in the mouth with the blues.

Some of the small and careless bee-keepers of the state will be wiped out of the business, these two short seasons, but the majority will only watch their bees closer and study how best to husband the winter stores and wait with hopes the coming of spring flowers.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

E. WHITCOMB.

Another year, not altogether a prosperous one, in our avocation, has passed, and to him or her who boasts of a race of bees who can gather nectar from out of the dry earth, parched by a burning sun, it doubtless has been a prosperous one. It is not our province to complain, notwithstanding the reverses of the past year; God has been good to us and we have many things to be thankful for. The past season has taxed the skill of the bee keeper more than any other experience in the history of bee keeping in this state, and I trust that its lessons have been profitable in many particulars. I congratulate you upon the energy shown in gathering up out of the mites dropped here and there, from the blooming flowers, so creditable an exhibit.

The establishment of an Apiarian experimental station at our State University is a step in advance of many of our sister states, of which we have reason to take a deal of pride. During the past winter we

attended four of the Farmers' Institutes allotted to us, and were able to note that the interest in the honey bee is fast growing in favor, at every point visited in the state.

The World's Fair honey case stands before you, for your use in the future at our state fair. Of what history there is connected with it, and its use at the Columbian Exposition, no Nebraska Apiarist has any reason to feel anything but just pride.

The question of foul brood has been a source of considerable annoyance to me during the past year, and we have been unable to make any progress towards stamping out this disease, owing to the imperfection of the law in that particular, and I recommend that an effort be made to so amend the law, relative to foul brood, in such shape that a state inspector may be appointed, and every part of the state affected with this disease may readily be reached by the one officer.

The question of wintering is of great importance to every bee keeper at the present time, and I trust that from a free discussion of this question, we may be able to gather such information as will be of great value to us during the coming winter. One extreme usually follows another and we may reasonably expect a prosperous year to follow the present one, and during which we shall be amply repaid for the work and worry of the

present season.

I have been indented again and again to each individual member for renewed acts of courtesy, and for which I desire to extend my sincere thanks, trusting that in the future I shall as often be placed under a like obligation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

L. D. STILSON.

During the year just passed, we have experienced the most disastrous season, known in the history of our state.

The financial depression, followed by heat and drouth, leaves many of our Nebraska bee keepers pondering as to whether they shall feed through the winter, and run the chance of a crop another year; or, whether to keep the hard earned dollars in the pocket, and let the bees starve.

During the year since our last Annual meeting, as your secretary, I have written many personal letters in reply to questions, where it seemed an impossibility to properly explain through the papers and have at all times endeavored to advance the interests of our Association, and the cause for which it was formed.

During the year I have attended eight Farmers' Institutes, talking bees and the interests of the Nebraska honey producers,—besides furnishing some papers at points which I could not reach.

At our last meeting there was a committee appointed by the meeting, to see what could be done in the way of securing an experimental apiary in connection with the State University. This the committee succeeded in having established, with Prof. Laurence Bruner in charge.

Our meeting at this time should take some action as may be best to secure legislation in regard to a State bee and honey inspector.

We should also try to secure a large attendance from Nebraska for the next meeting of the North American Bee Keepers' Association, held at St. Joseph, Oct., 10-12. A one-way rate has been promised us and we should have members enough go from Nebraska to secure for us a chair car from either Lincoln or Omaha, which we should properly decorate and go there in full force, determined to secure the next meeting at the Capitol of our State, and to this end we need the co-operation of the railroads by giving us a very cheap rate for delegates.

The winter meeting of the Society was not as much of a success as we had hoped, owing to the terrible storm which came on at that time.

At our last meeting, I was instructed, as secretary, to issue in convenient form what is known as the McEvoy treatment for fowl brood, for gratuitous distribution.

After closely watching the reports of this treatment, I took the responsibility of not fully complying with this action of the Society, as there were so many failures reported that I did not think the Society could hardly afford to give it full official endorsement without a further trial; but instead, I printed in leaflet form this plan of treatment and sent to all inquiring persons but not giving it official endorsement.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

As secretary for the past year, I have expended \$2.15 for postage and \$2.00 for badges, making \$4.15 as the expense of the secretary's office for the year.

As treasurer for the Society, I had at the close of last year \$13.50
 Rec. during year for dues 5.50

\$19.00

Expenses as secretary 4.15

Cash on hand \$14.85

◆◆◆

Range of Flight of Bees Gathering Honey.

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PAPER—MRS. J. N. HEATER.

Sometime ago a question on this point, appeared in the 'query department,' of the *American Bee Journal*, and as the answers varied about as much as the actual flights taken by the bees, I shall not be at all surprised to meet with opposition in what I may say.

If the opinions entertained by



some, as to the danger of overstocking were correct, beekeeping in this country, would always be an insignificant pursuit. When an abundance of nectar yielding flowers are in bloom, if a colony is prosperous and healthy, it will gather abundant store, even if many equally strong are in its immediate vicinity; while, if it is feeble, it will be of little or no value, even if the flowers are plentiful, and it has the whole field to itself.

Colonies overflowing with bees out of season—that is—when there is little or nothing for them to work on, are like farmers this year who find themselves well stocked with hogs—neither bees nor hogs will eat fodder and sugar and corn is expensive.

Although bees can fly, in search of food, over three miles, still, if it is not within a circle of about two miles in every direction from the apiary, they will be able to store but little surplus honey. If pasturage abounds within half a mile from their hives, so much the better; there is no great advantage, however, in having it closer to them, unless there is a great supply, as bees, when they leave the hive, seldom alight upon the neighboring flowers. The peculiar hum of a well laden bee attracts the attention of its fellow workers and thus a few which have found good forage will lead most of the workers of said colony to the same pastures, while other colonies in e-

qually good condition, standing by the side of it, and hunting in another direction will get little or nothing.

Weather conditions, exerting so much influence as they do, much attention should be given to have both bees and hives in the very best possible condition. I mean of course, that the bees should be strong in numbers, and the hive so arranged that upon their return from a weary flight, they can enter the hive without making several attempts, and resting between times.

One point often overlooked, is the fact that a given flower does not retain its nectar but a short time, and unless the precious sweet is secured while the blossom is in proper condition, the petals close, the nectar disappears and the opportunity is gone; that particular flower is worthless forever.

Having thus briefly touched upon these few points, I will leave it with this body assembled to arrive at the particular conclusions.

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♦♦

*Scientific, vs. Natural Queen Rearing.*

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PAPER—A. C. TYRREL.

To discuss the above subject intelligently, we must first agree as to the application of the term “scientific” as applied to queen rearing.

If we say that *any* and all digressions from nature’s way is



scientific, then I prefer the old foggy plan, i e., to double up the weak colonies in the spring and allow the bees to re-queen the colonies whenever they become queenless.

There are some reasons why I prefer what is called scientific queen rearing to the natural way; for convenience and in making the selection of eggs laid by our most prolific queens whose progeny have proved to be the best workers, docility and other good traits.

I know where to find the cells, when they will hatch, and can easily destroy all inferior cells before the queens emerge therefrom.

Another decided advantage is that we can rear queens in an upper story without making colonies queenless for the purpose of obtaining royal jelly to transfer to artificially prepared cell-cups, *a la* Doolittle.

I know of no more expeditious or better way to re-queen an apiary or to increase our colonies than to use queen cells thus prepared.

The same result can be accomplished by depriving a colony of its queen, but more time is consumed in searching every frame in the hive for cells, and the bees are liable if the queen is removed, to use larvæ, too old, which is said to produce inferior queens.

By the method first mentioned we are able to raise queens earlier in the season, and whenever needed for our customers or our own use;

an advantage not to be lost sight of.

If the method adopted by Mr. Alley and other reliable breeders of queens, is scientific, then I prefer that plan to the natural way for the reason above set forth.

I cannot too forcibly emphasize this fact: that many of us have expended large sums of money for so-called scientific bred queens, which the returns therefrom have in dollars and cents not justified.

I believe Mr. Doolittle is the only breeder who terms his peculiar method scientific, but in my judgment a more bungling, tedious and unscientific procedure cannot well be devised.

An article stating my objections to his plan appeared in the Nebraska Bee-Keeper not long since, and I need not rehash it here.

But Mr. D. can well afford to be erratic as he is a voluminous writer for pay, and the maker of many books for which he also receives value.

I am firmly convinced that in five years from this date no queens will be reared as he directs and recommends in his famous edition called "Scientific Queen Rearing."

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### *Honey as Food and Medicine.*

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PAPER—WM. JAMES.

Augustus once asked Romulus Pollio, who was strong and healthy at 100 years, the secret of his liveliness at so great an age. Pollio answered: "Internally through

honey; externally through oil."

Among the innumerable insects, there certainly is none, the product of whose industry is more pleasing and tempting to the palate, more nutritious and health-giving to the body, than the product of the bee delicious, pure honey.

The bee was anciently known because of its industry, economy and policy.

Honey is properly the secretion of the nectariferous glands of flowers and when collected by bees is a concentrated solution of sugar, mixed with odorous, coloring, gummy and waxy matters.

The saccharine (sweet) matter is of two kinds: chrySTALLIZABLE and similar to the sugar of grapes; and unchrySTALLIZABLE which is like the brown syrup of the sugar-cane.

The chief characteristics of honey are its nutritive and medicinal properties

Honey is one of the purest sweets used, and when its healthfulness is considered, it is the cheapest.

A judicious use of pure honey contributes to the growth of the body and encourages healthfulness to the individual.

Bread broken up in a bowl, covered first with honey and then with milk is suggested as a most healthful diet. And it will be observed that milk will neutralize any ill effects that the sweetness of the honey may produce.

Children would rather eat bread and honey, than bread and butter,

and it is more nourishing and less productive of stomach disorders.

The ancients used honey constantly as food and history informs us of their great bodily strength and mental activity.

Solomon in Proverbs volunteers this advice, "My son, eat thou honey; because it is good."

At the time of building the Temple at Jerusalem the necessaries of life are spoken of and honey, with flour and milk, are mentioned.

In Samuel we read, that Jonathan was engaged in battle, he became tired and faint and he partook of honey and he was greatly refreshed.

But, in modern days, sugar and sweet liquids have taken the place of honey and we see youthful invalids, suffering from all sorts of digestive disorders, the cause of which may often be traced to an immoderate use of artificial sweets.

However, it is pleasing to note that during the recent years more honey has been produced and more consumed as food than ever before.

As medicine honey is recognized as valuable. Many doctors are bee-keepers and the purity of their medicines can usually be relied upon.

In cases of cough, honey has been used to great benefit and today patented cough-drops are being made of this sweet.

In short, honey is Nature's remedy for many ills and many persons owe to the use of honey, either their restoration to health or for



the mitigation of their afflictions.

For those weakened by high living, honey is of all helps, the best nourishment, since it not only removes the poison from the system, but through its virtues, strengthens and rebuilds the whole system.

*Does it pay to plant Crops with a view to Honey Production?*

*If so, What to Plant.*

PAPER—MRS. A. L. HALLENBACK.

This is a subject well worthy the attention and study of all intelligent bee-keepers. It has been discussed over and over again by the honey producers of the older states, the majority I believe agreeing that for honey alone it does not generally pay to plant special crops.

In most cases we may be safe in following in the footsteps of those older and wiser than we, but each individual must decide according to locality and ability what is best to do, and only by stepping out from the old beaten track and making for ourselves a new and shorter one, can we hope to advance and make improvement.

In the older states where timber abounds there is no need of planting trees that will furnish bees with honey and pollen in the early spring, but on our treeless prairies is not the case different?

When the groves that are to form the wind breaks around the homes on Nebraska farms and vil-

liages are planted and set out will it not pay to use them, and on the timber claim as well, such trees as furnish honey and pollen? The Lindens, Maples and Box Elders all belong to this class and are valuable while Maples and Box Elders are quick growing trees as well. Then too we all want fruit, and orchard trees must and will be planted. Can not our people be so educated that Arbor day may mean more than merely a day to plant a tree? Let the tree planted be those that have value beside that for which they are usually planted, let them be honey producing trees.

We can not always have the prairie with its nectar laden blossoms as a foraging place for bees, the busy, struggling, hungry world needs bread and meat as well as honey, and our fertile soil must supply these wants. Are there paying crops that will furnish food for the worlds toiler's and our hive-laborers at the same time? In the corn fields scattered over our state where not a honey producing weed is allowed to grow, there is no place for the bees, but the gardeners crops, just as cleanly cultivated, bring better returns in dollars and cents and secrete for the bees the honey they need in order to secure the service of the little workers in fertilizing their blossoms.

Soon the boundless prairie pastures, where horses, cattle and bees roam at will, will exist only in the memory of the people of Nebraska.



Pasturage for stock must be provided by the planting of some kinds of Alfalfa and the Clovers must take the place of the wild prairie grass, and they will feed the tenants of the hive also. Sweet Clover although but little known does well when once started and appears to thrive in spite of heat or cold, wet or dry.

One of our neighbors has a little patch started about fifteen years ago which has completely ousted the previous tenant of the soil, sandbur grass, and furnished a pasture for bees ever since. When ever started in pastures it has stood green the present dry season and helped to eak out the scanty living the

*Continued next month.*

↔ The \* Neb -aska \* Bee -Keeper ↔

Published Monthly.

By

STILSON & SONS.

Subscription Price, 50 Cents per Year.

YORK, NEBRASKA.

Entered at the post-office at York as second class matter.

*Official Organ of the Nebraska State Bee-Keepers Association.*

The Winter Meeting of the Nebraska Bee-Keepers Association will be held at Auburn Nebraska December 4 and 5. It was decided to hold the meeting earlier in the winter than heretofore on account of severity of winter storms later in the winter.

Program will be published soon.

Too much State and County Fairs, with three bee conventions has taken much of our time for the past few weeks, then the office running over with job work and behind time with

that, makes this issue very late. We hope that we have learned enough at bee keepers conventions, to make our paper better for the year to come, and that those who have been waiting for this number will be amply repaid for thus waiting.

The Nebraska bee keepers at St. Joseph after finding that Toronto had been promised the next meeting of the North American Bee Keepers Association, withdrew the name of Lincoln, preferring to forego the pleasure of a meeting at Lincoln another year, to having any vote taken which might look like repudiation of past promises. Thus Toronto gets the next meeting. and the Editor of the Canadian Bee-Journal, R. F. Holtman is the newly elected President and Nebraska has the promise of the meeting in 1896, and the editor of this paper is the newly elected Vice President, with W. Z. Hutchuson of the Review as Secretary and J. T. Calvert of gleanings as Treasurer. Peace and harmony ruled supreme and a very enjoyable meeting. fuller reports later.

#### DIED.

On Thursday, Oct., 18, the wife of Chas. White, of Aurora, Neb., of heart disease. Mrs. White had been sick for some time, but her end was very sudden and unlooked for. Mrs. White was born Aug., 17, 1854: was married to Chas. White Aug., 23, 1871—in the early days of York county, and for many years made their home on the Blue river near Farmers Valley, where she leaves a host of friends to mourn her loss, and who also extend to the loving family their sympathy. She leaves a husband, one son and two daughters who will miss the loving wife and fond mother. We extend to our brother bee keeper and family our sympathy in this their time of great sorrow.



## THE HOME.

### The Value of an Idea.

The man who writes a successful song affords the best illustration of the value of an idea. No man seems to earn money easiest, and yet this is only seeming. It takes genius, knowledge of human nature, unfaltering courage, untiring industry and—luck, to make a successful song writer. The strange thing about it is that no one can tell what will succeed and what will fail. The world is full of songs of sentiment, yet the decade has produced but one "After the Ball." The shelves of music dealers groan with their weight of humorous ballads, but there is only one "Down Went McGinty." And yet when a writer has his popular fancy the simple idea originating in his brain is often worth \$100,000 to the fortunate genius.

No one can tell in advance a failure from a success and this has frequently lost a fortune to the author of a song for the reason that he sells it to some publisher for a few dollars or neglects to copyright his work and thus makes a present to the world of his valuable idea. It was luck that made Harris, the author of "After the Ball," rich. He couldn't get a publisher to accept his song and was therefore forced to publish it himself. The author of "Down Went McGinty" sold the song for five dollars.

The people know what they want and when a writer gives it to them they pay for it royally. This is illustrated by the instant popularity of the pathetic little song "Wait, Mister Postman." It began to sell in a marvelous manner and everybody all over the country seemed to know simultaneously all about the song, and everybody wants it.

A fortune will be realized from the author's idea. This ballad belongs to that class of productions which have been called "craze songs." "Wait, Mister Postman" tells the story of a little girl who wrote a letter and addressed it to "Mamma in Heaven," and insisted that the postman should mail it. The first stanza runs as follows:

The postman was late  
And was running along,  
To gather the letters in time,  
When he heard a sweet voice,  
Like a meadow lark's song,  
Or a mello' toned silver bell's chime  
"Wait, Mister Postman!

Don't hurry so fast;  
Wait, Mr. Postman—

I've caught you at last;  
This letter must go in the mail before seven—

This letter I've written to mamma in heaven."

One can readily see that this little song appeals to every mother's heart.

### A Clever Stratgey.

Gen. putnam, a brave officer in the war between the French and English in Canada, is the hero of an interesting little story. Gen. Amherst marched across the country to Canada. Coming to one of the lakes, over which he intended to pass with his troops, he found a French vessel, armed with twelve guns, on the lake. This greatly distressed the General, as his small boats were no match for this vessel, in the situation in which it was placed. While he was thinking what was best to be done, Putnam addressed him:

"General," said he, "that ship must be taken."

"Yes," said Amherst, "I would give the world were she taken."

"I'll take her," said Putnam.

Amherst smiled and asked how.



"Give me some wedges, a beetle (a large wooden mallet) and a few men and I'll take her," answered Putnam.

Gen. Amherst was puzzled as to how this was to be accomplished, but he granted Putnam's request and gave him the wedges, beetle and his choice of men. When night came he rowed over quietly to the vessel's stern with his wedges and hammer and five men. The wedges were driven behind the rudder, in the cavity between the rudder and ship, without attracting the enemy's attention, and then Putnam came quietly back to shore. In the morning the sails were seen fluttering about, and after awhile the vessel was blown ashore and the enemy captured. Having lost control of the rudder by Gen. Putnam's act, the course of the vessel could not be regulated.

—Hartford Courant.

True friends are like diamonds,  
Precious but rare;  
False ones like autumn leaves,  
Found everywhere.

### Color At the Far North.

"The intensity and brilliance of color impress the beholder as something supernatural. Our sojourn was from the middle of July through August, and a few days of September—a period when the polar latitudes are teeming with animal, insect, and plant life. The chief peculiarity of color at the north, so far as my short experience tells me, is that there are no semitones, the general effect being either very black or just the opposite, intensely brilliant and rich in color. In fact, a summer's midnight at the north has all the brilliance of our brightest noon, with the added intensity of our most vivid sunsets; while noon, when the sun is obscured by threatening masses of storm-clouds, is black. Indeed, it is the true land of

'impressionism.' Of the wealth of color in flower, lichen and moss; of its curious riches as manifested in insect, shell and animal life, and of its wonderful limning skill as shown on the great inland ice, ice-cap and glacier, I have neither purpose nor pen to write. This new world of color awaits the one who can truly describe it. In all these color effects at the North there lies a wizard-like power of enchantment—a distinctive uncanniness that, basilisk-like, both attracts and repels. Great Nature's pitilessness broods over it with a force and penetration possibly not equaled, and surely not surpassed, in any other quarter of our globe. It is a land of beautiful and awesome dreams." —Frederic Wilbert Stokes in the *Century Magazine*.

### Just An Incident.

A New Yorker who looks sharply after his interests, had a small yacht towed to a Brooklyn basin for some repairs. He went over that evening and found that nothing had been done. It was dark, after 9 o'clock, but he promptly went to the house of one of the owners of the shipyard. The man himself came to the door. In his arms he carried a baby. The caller wanted to know why the matter had not been properly attended to—why somebody had not been put to work at once to strip the yacht and to do several other things. He was pretty severe about it too. The shipyard man apologized for his remissness. "My baby," he said, "is ill, and I was careless, I am afraid, about carrying out your directions, but I'll go right down to the yard now and attend to the matter myself. You see, I came up here," he added, explaining still further, "to see my baby and left the work in the hands of some one else. I'm sorry you are displeased."

"All right," said the yachtsman, less



sharply. "Please go down as soon as you can."

The next day when the New Yorker went to the shipyard he found everything satisfactory.

"I see you came down last night and attended to it yourself," he said, and then he asked more pleasantly, "How is your baby?"

"She died shortly after I left the house for the yard last night," answered the other in a low voice.

Just an incident in everyday life.—*Wide World.*

## Earth Eating

The habit of using sand and clay as part of man's regular food appears to be more widespread than is generally supposed. It was long understood to be confined to a tribe of Indians on the Orinoco, the Ottomacs, among whom, during the two or three months in which their game supply is cut off by floods, each person is said to consume about five ounces daily of a fine, unctuous clay. The Indians of the Bolivian plateaus use a similar earth, mixed with sand; and the practice is also found in several islands of the West Indies. A number of the African tribes are earth-eaters, as were some of their representatives in America in slavery days.

The natives of New Caledonia may almost be called rock-eaters, stalactitic crusts appearing to be a favorite dainty. In Persia earth is largely eaten as an aid to digestion instead of as a food. In Scandinavia and Germany are many earth-eaters, and in certain mountain quarries the workmen spread a "stone butter," consisting of a kind of clay, on their bread.

The habit seems to be most prevalent in tropical regions, and more so in women than in men.

It is known that certain animals—

such as the wolf, reindeer and stag—have the appetite for earth food.

—*Green's Fruit Recorder.*

## Arizona's Petrified Forests

Dr. A. C. Hovey, says: "The famous tract of agatized wood in Arizona, covers at least 2,000 acres, and resembles an immense logging camp with huge trunks thrown about. Many of the trunks—some of them ten feet in diameter—have been severed as smoothly as by a saw into sections varying from cartwheel-like disks to logs thirty feet or more long. The trunk known as the Agate Bridge spans a canon, and is 150 feet long. Many logs have been broken into fragments, and the ground is littered with a brilliant mosaic of carnelian, agate, jasper, topaz, onyx and amethyst. The petrified wood is now being broken up and taken away for many purposes."

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