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## The busy bee. Vol 9, No 7 July, 1898

St. Joseph, Missouri: Rev. Emerson Taylor Abbott, July, 1898

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VOL. 9.

□ □ JULY, 1898.

NO. 7.

PUBLISHED THE FIFTEENTH OF EACH MONTH.

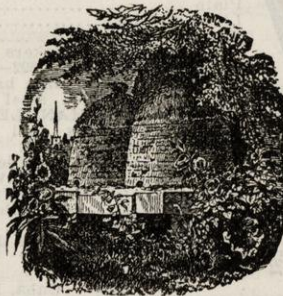
A Monthly Journal  
Keeping and the other  
to-Date and Progress-



devoted to Farm Bee  
Minor Interests of Up-  
sive Agriculture.



# THE BUSY BEE.



BY INDUSTRY WE THRIVE.

EMERSON TAYLOR ABBOTT,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR,

ST. JOSEPH, MO. •

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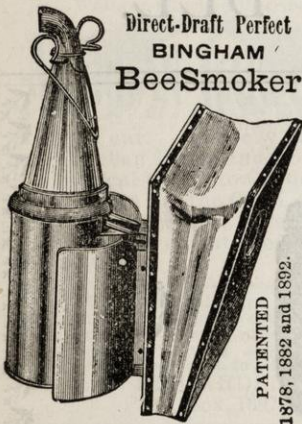
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Cuba, Kansas, Jan. 27, 1896.  
 Dear Sir?—I have used the Conqueror 15 years. I was always well pleased with its workings, but thinking I would need a new one this summer, I write for a circular. I do not think the four inch "Smoker Engine" too large. Yours,

W. H. EAGERTY.

Corning, Cal., July 14th, 1896.  
 I have used Bingham Smokers ever since they came out. Working from three to seven hundred colonies twelve months in the year. I ought to know what is required in a smoker. The Doctor 3 1/2 inch just received fills the bill. Respectfully,

O. W. OSBORN.

With a Bingham Smoker that will hold a quart of sound maple wood the bee-keepers' trials are all over for a long time. Who ever heard of a Bingham Smoker that was too large or did not give perfect satisfaction. The world's most scientific and largest comb honey producers use Bingham Smokers and Knives. The same is true of the world's largest producers of extracted honey. Before buying a smoker or knife hunt up its record and pedigree.

Please mention The Busy Bee.

T. F. BINGHAM, Farwell, Mich.



# THE BUSY BEE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Vol 9.

JULY, 1898.

No. 7

## Removing the Honey Crop From the Hives.

By C. P. DADANT.

THE present season seems to be a late one, and if my readers have had an experience similar to mine, they will have but little honey to remove yet, when they will read these lines. But though the crop may be late, it does not follow that it will fail, for as long as clover blooms there is a prospect of a crop from it, if the conditions are right, and I have sometimes seen the clover crop join the fall crop in August, so that there was an uninterrupted flow from the middle of July to the beginning of cool weather in September.

It is of some importance that we keep the two crops separate if possible, for the clover honey is much lighter in color and therefore of better sale than that from any of the late bloom. So, whenever sections are sealed and well finished that contain clover honey, they had best be removed.

When a super has been entirely filled, it is by far the best to use the bee escape in removing it. The bee escape is a small tin trap fitted in such a way as to allow the bees to pass through it without being able to return. This escape is fastened in a honey board which the apiarist places between the super and the main body of the hive, and in a few hours all or nearly all the bees have left the sections. This does away with the inconvenience of lifting each section one after another to brush the bees away. In such an operation it often happened that more or less of the combs were damaged by handling and there was always more or less inducement to robbing, if the work was

done after the crop was ended as is usually the case.

There is, however, one method by which the super may be removed and the bees induced to leave without handling the combs, but it is not always entirely successful. This consists in removing the super and placing it in a shady spot with the top and bottom open, but sheltered from the robbing bees by a cloth loosely thrown over it. The bees, when they find that they are no longer in the hive, seek to leave, and crawl away from under the cloth as best they can. An occasional disturbance on the part of the apiarist often hastens their departure, but if they happen to have the queen with them, it becomes difficult to induce them to leave without taking the crate to pieces. Sometimes all but a very few bees will leave the crate and these can with difficulty be removed. In a large apiary, they are decoyed away by piling the supers in the room where they are intended to be kept and placing a caged queen in an empty super between two dry combs, at the top of the pile.

For the removal of either comb or extracted honey it is well to use a little smoke to drive the greater part of the bees from the super previous to lifting it off, but judgment should be exercised in the use of the smoke as too much of it may leave a slight taint in the honey. We have often tasted honey that had a slight smoky tinge owing to injudicious smoking.

We generally use the bee escape, in the removal of our crop, which is mainly extracted. There is only one case in which its use is objectionable. It is when the heat is so intense that the absence of ventilation caused by



the placing of the escape honey board between the body and the super, may cause the combs to break down. It must be remembered that beeswax or bee comb is very soft at high temperatures and has then but little consistency. The bees in a hive usually manage to keep the temperature at a normal point, by driving a current of air through the hive with their wings, but when this draft is by some means stopped, the danger is great of the combs breaking down under the weight of the honey.

For that reason, we often abstain from the use of the escape in hot weather and simply remove the combs one after another for extracting, using a broom made of grass or asparagus tops to brush the bees off. Brushes of different kinds are sold for this purpose, we prefer the home made article, which costs nothing and is easily replaced. A wing of goose or turkey is used by some apiarists, these we do not like, as the bees are made angry by anything which resembles living animals. This is why the apiarist is much more safe among his bees when dressed in cotton clothes than when dressed in woollens. A cotton shirt will not anger them, but with a woolen shirt a man is but little safer than if he were naked. There is nothing astonishing about this, for the bees are accustomed to roam among vegetation of all kinds, while the presence of animals is always a source of danger and mistrust to them.

Hamilton, Ill.

### Surplus Arrangements.

In one of our bee keepers conventions several years ago, the question was asked by an old bee keeper, "how can you get the most surplus honey from a box hive without increase?" The question was asked, not for information, but that the questioner might

answer it himself after the others had given it up. It was a stunner to most of those present. Whoever heard of getting much surplus from a box hive? The old fashioned plan being to bore a few auger holes in the top over which were placed small boxes having holes to match those in the top of the hive. Bees would go up into these boxes, build comb, and store honey, when conditions were favorable but 25 pound's surplus from such hives in a season was considered a good crop. Bee keepers had not learned that such an arrangement was a very poor one to secure the best results. Bees require easy passageways and free circulation of the warm air to the surplus department in order to facilitate comb building; and while a colony could be induced to fill a ten pound box by working up through a one inch hole, the same colony in a properly constructed hive, with free passages to the sections would probably store four times that amount; so much for improved methods. But now for the answer to the question, how to get the most surplus from a box hive without increase.

When new honey begins to come in and the bees in the box hive are whitening their combs, which you can tell by tipping the hive back; take an ordinary hive filled with empty combs or frames filled with foundation, cut a large hole about eight inches square in the honey board or flat cover, set this hive on the stand of the box hive, set the box hive over the hole in the cover and close up all openings thus forcing the bees to walk down through the other hive. They will fill the combs with honey, which can be extracted and the combs returned; they may in this way be made to produce a large amount of honey, and will seldom swarm out under such conditions. The answer shows a good knowledge of bee-keeping, for as ordinarily handled box hives are notorious for

casting swarms. I once knew an old bee-keeper, who, when a boy, made the discovery that bees would store more honey in the surplus departments when free access was given. It was in New York state, just before the introduction of the modern hives. He became the owner of some hives of bees that had been operated in the usual way, reasoning by proposition, he concluded that if a colony of bees would store a certain amount of honey by working through one hole in the top of the hive, they would store twice as much through two holes, and so on. He, therefore, bored the tops of his hives as full of holes as he could, made cases the full size of the hive to set over them, by reason of which he secured 75 pounds of surplus comb honey per colony the first year. As amusing as his reasoning may seem, he made a long step in advance of former methods. For my part I want the surplus department so arranged as to give the freest access to all parts. Sections used with separators are none too good in this respect, and if I had only two or three colonies of bees and wished to produce honey for home use only, I would not use sections at all. I would make shallow frames the same length as the brood frames, put in narrow starters of foundation and place them in a super directly over the board. I am quite certain bees would store a greater amount of honey with such an arrangement. There is another fact I will just whisper in the ear of those who produce honey for their own use only. It is this: the quality and flavor of comb honey is improved by leaving it on the hive as long as possible. Of course it will become travel stained and will lose the snowy whiteness it had when first sealed over. Honey producers remove section honey from the hive as soon as possible, in order to preserve the beautiful appearance,

but in every case where this is done, it should be stored in a dry, warm room for several weeks to ripen. It is claimed by some that this artificially ripened honey is in every respect the equal of that which is ripened on the hive. I am not sure of it, but it is the best we can do. Who does not remember the exquisite flavor of honey that happens to be found occasionally in some old bee-tree? To my taste it excels anything that was ever taken from a hive by the methods of modern bee-keeping. But this is not the only case in which beauty is had at the expense of quality.

HARRY LATHROP,  
in *Wisconsin Agriculturist*.

The above contains some good suggestions to farmer bee-keepers. If those who have bees would spend a little more time in studying their habits, methods of work and preferences, they would find it time well spent. I should use sections by all means, but I would not think of using separators.—*Editor*.

### Advice to Beginners.

By J. E. ENYART.

I will give a little advice to beginners in regard to making an apiary. First, select a clear open space with land rolling slightly to the south or south-east, and elevated so as not to overflow, with some small trees near by for swarms to settle on. Lay off your yard by setting a colony every seven feet each way. This will give you plenty of room to run a lawn mower to keep the grass and weeds down. Place four bricks so as to come one under each corner of your hives. I would face hives to the east, if convenient, in order to receive the benefit of the sun's rays early in the morning when nectar is plentiful in the flowers in summer. The hives are more easily shaded in summer from



the scorching rays of the sun, the sun in winter days will not shine directly into the entrances of your hives in the middle of the day to entice your bees out to drop in the snow or on the cold earth never to return. I make my shade boards three feet eight inches by two feet six inches. I place a bale stick on each end of the hives and then place my shade boards on top of them, then place a small stone on shade boards. Half inch lumber is plenty heavy for shade boards. The bale sticks are such as I get with shingles, any others will do. I would use movable hives by all means, eight or ten frames. Either will give fair results in most localities if properly managed. I will give you a few pointers. First, to be able to tell the condition of a colony without disturbing a hive, is much more valuable than bee-keepers imagine. Twenty-five or thirty minutes time looking over seventy-five or one hundred colonies and one can tell how his queens are working, when there is plenty of brood in the hive. If queen is laying well a bee will come in with pollen about every five minutes. If queen is not laying well pollen will be carried every twenty to thirty minutes. If no pollen is carried in there will be no brood as a rule. A few nervous bees running about the alighting board denotes queenlessness. Honey short or flow stopped, robbers fly about the cover and cracks of the hives and the poor drones are being ejected from the hive.

McFall, Mo.

### Wholesale Robbery.

It was the greatest surprise I've had since my venture in bee-keeping.

What about it? I'll tell you: Four weeks ago I looked at my flourishing four colonies, and found them with a fair supply of comb, and apparently

happy, but having about a gallon of strained honey, I concluded to give each colony a treat of a quart apiece, hoping thereby to stimulate early breeding, and secure a big lot of workers for spring business. I tipped up the front of the hives and poured in a small river of rich thick honey greatly to their joy. This I did for three consecutive days. Each morning the lighting board was as clean as if scrubbed by the house maid. All went on like marriage bells, and I mentally patted myself on the back and said, "smart boy!"

Last Sunday was lovely, I took my usual look at my buzzing friends, and noted the vigor and joy of their flight. Some carried pollen and many more seemed simply out for a lark.

But there! what's the matter in that white hive? not a bee near it. Asleep eh? I'll just lift up the cap and see. Lo and behold not a living bee in it, nor a drop of honey in any of the cells. In the center of two frames were about a half teacupful of the deadest kind of bees, the balance of a fairly large colony were gone, and every frame as light as a feather. No, it wasn't moths nor winter kill. It was a case of wholesale robbery in open daylight, with not a "cop" in sight. The burglars made no audible noise, just got in and looted the whole store house from cellar to garrett, with not a sign of their devastation, but the few dead bees to tell the tale.

And this occurred in Chicago, a few miles from the court house, not far from a police station at that. Don't that beat you? Did me.

E. M. DEE.

The above was written by our genial friend Dr. P. of Chicago. Served him just right, had he read the *Busy Bee* carefully he would have known that he should not try to feed bees in that way.—Editor.

### Swarming.

We cannot "prevent" swarming, of course, as long as the edict, "multiply and increase," remains in force; but we can control and direct it. My method of controlling swarming, so as to have a very moderate increase and lots of surplus honey, is thus: I have all the queens clipped, and when a swarm issues, remove the hive, replacing it by an empty hive while the bees are in the air. The queen is picked up and caged. Soon, the bees, coming back to look for the queen, will hive themselves in the empty hive. I then liberate the queen, and let her run in too. The brood nest of the empty hive is filled with empty frames, not combs, with foundation guides or whole sheets of foundation. The surplus section case I remove from the old hive and place it on the new one. I now examine the old hive, and if I find it contains more bees than are absolutely needed to cover the brood that is uncapped, I shake them off the combs in front of the new hive. Result—A very strong new swarm full of energy, as new swarms always are, all ready to start storing surplus right along, while they build comb for the brood nest, which the queen fills about as fast as it is built, and all the nice honey goes in the sections if room be given. Later in the season, when the dark, fall honey comes, the brood nest will be completed and filled for winter. By this management I had as much as twenty-three pounds of nectar stored in one day. The old hive needs very little attention, they generally don't store any surplus, but make a good colony for winter. Sometimes, during a long honey flow or a good fall flow, they will store surplus, but not as a rule. I practiced this method for ten or more years, with better results and more profit and less work than any other I ever

tried. If I started with a dozen strong colonies, I can work a dozen strong colonies the whole season through and a dozen strong colonies are worth more than a hundred or a thousand weak ones. About 80 per cent of the elements of success in honey production lies in strong colonies. Strong colonies make a surplus even in the old box hive, leaning against the garden fence.

L. W. LIGHTY,

*In American Gardening.*

### What I Have Learned About Bees and their Management.

By JOSEPH STEVENSON.

About the 27th of June, 1892, I found my first swarm of bees clustered about sun down, so home I went and nailed up a box hive for their reception. As soon as made I went to put them in, which was my first experience with the busy bee, I cut the swarm down, and placing the hive on a piece of board gave the limb a sharp blow and ran away. Finding no bees following, I soon took courage and went back and got the bees in without a sting. I was greatly elated at my success. I brought the bees home in a few days, then began to study their habits. I soon found a catalogue of A. I. Root's and commenced to use a hive with frames, which I made myself to take eight regular Langstroth frames. I got my first hive safely through the winter, and had a swarm which I put in my new hive all O. K., which made me quite a lot of honey. Then for increase next year, I had two swarms from my two hives with plenty of honey for winter, and some surplus. As what bees I had were the black or German, I wanted to try the Italian. I got one colony which showed three bands and strong in bees, just what I wanted until swarming time, then I got three swarms in three dasy



and in about six weeks another swarm from the first swarm which gave five of that breed of the worst stingers that I ever had, with very little surplus honey and plenty of room to store it, while the black bees stored fifty to one hundred lbs of comb honey without swarming. Even a cross between Black and Italian is as good or better to handle, and swarms less with me than the Italian. It must be in the climate or the strain of bees. I will try other Italians the coming season, also the Gray Carniolan, as I see they are said to be great swarmers in the North, the same as the black, while the Italian is not given as much to swarming in the North as the black. With my short experience the Italians have proved the greatest swarmer, but they work well when you can get them to enter the supers. It is a great help to use partly drawn comb as a starter in the center of the super as bees get to work in the super long before they will commence on foundation.

Bunch, Tenn.

### Bees and Horticulture and Gardening.

By G. KIMBRELL.

On a farm on which I was living two years ago were two plats of plum trees located about five hundred feet apart. One of them was a steady and persistent bearer, but the other had never borne enough to pay ground rent. Each plat of trees consisted of a single variety of plums. As a matter of convenience, I placed a hive of bees among the non-bearing trees. At blooming time the orchard was full of bees, and as a result, apparently, the trees which had never before borne any fruit, were loaded with plums. I left the place in the fall, taking the bees with me, and that year, I am told, the former non-bearing

plum trees, were again barren of fruit. There were no bees on the place, and to that is attributed the cause. I do not know the name of either of the varieties of plums.

Another experience I had which I believe worthy of record was in gardening. I was propagating what I believed was going to prove a valuable new variety of musk-melons. The plat of ground where I intended planting melons was directly in front of the bee hive, and not more than one hundred feet from it. I know that to plant the new variety there would result in cross fertilizing with other varieties which I intended planting near. In order to keep some of them pure, I planted only one row, consisting of twenty-five plants in the plat, and another row three-fourths of a mile distant, where it was surrounded by timber, with nothing to draw the bees. As the season advanced I visited each row and made note of the growth in each place, and no perceptible difference could be found. Each bloomed as prolifically as the other all the season. Not a bee was ever seen in the distant vines while those near the hives were full of bees all the time. But when the vines began to set melons a difference could be seen. The vines near the bees bore more than four melons to the others one.

Wichita, Kan.

## Agricultural Education

GIVE fools their gold, and knaves their power,  
 Let fortune's bubbles rise and fall,  
 Who plows a field, or trains a flower,  
 Or plants a tree is more than all;  
 For he who blesses most, is blest,  
 And God and man will own his worth  
 Who seeks to leave at his bequest  
 An added beauty to the earth.—Whittier.

### Agricultural Education.

The following is an extract from an address delivered at a Farmers' Insti-

tute by Geo. W. Williams of Humansville, Mo:

Agriculture has been looked upon by those who do not appreciate the calling as being something of a life of drudgery, and that the agriculturist is only a kind of mud-sill to society, fit only for "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

The farmers themselves have tried to disabuse the public mind on the unjustness of these conclusions, and have been partly successful, through the influence of the teachings of the Grange and Alliance and kindred organizations. But this idea will never be entirely eradicated until farming is taught in our common schools and colleges.

We can never accomplish what we want and make agriculture respectable, remunerative and desirable, farmers intelligent, contented and honored; farmers' wives envied and respected; and farmers' sons and daughters eagerly sought by the wise, learned and good, for husband and wives; until we fit them for their occupation by education.

How is it today under our present school system? We raise the boy up expecting that when he arrives at manhood to fit him out with a new farm, or that he will inherit the old homestead. We start him to school, and in course of time he enters college; there he finally graduates, as it is called—that is, he is fitted to fill any position of life except the very one he is expected to fill and that he wishes to fill. In this, his chosen profession, he has not had one lesson, not even heard a lecture on farming, unless, perchance, he was fortunate enough to attend a meeting of this kind, in fact would have almost forgotten there was such an occupation only for the jeers of his dudish college mates, as they cry out, "Old Hayseeds," when a farmer comes in sight. When his

years of college life are ended and he returns to the old farm, is it any wonder that he reluctantly undertakes to run it, with the consciousness that he is unfitted by his training for the occupation? He is unfitted, scientifically, because he has had no education on the line of farming. Unfitted, practically, because he was taken from the farm and started to school before his practical farm life began. With these discouragements staring him in the face, he almost comes to the conclusion that farming is an occupation that none but fools and idiots follow and that it is a disgrace to be a farmer. When we realize these conditions we need not be surprised to see our young men crowding to the cities, there to find employment as book-keepers in some counting house, clothing establishment or banking concern.

To remedy this great evil we should teach Agriculture and Horticulture in the common schools and colleges. If you want your son to be a farmer, educate him for a farmer. If we wish our boy to be a banker, we educate him in banking; if we want him to be a doctor, we educate him in the science of medicine; if we have decided that he shall be a lawyer, we have him instructed on that particular line, and so on through the different vocations, except farming, that is neglected, not by any fault of the student himself, but the fault is in our school system.

Farming is the most scientific occupation of any on earth, and yet the farmer is taught less about it than any other. What he knows about it he has learned by hard knocks, expensive experiments and observation.

There has been much said and written about "keeping the boys on the farm." If you want to keep the boy on the farm, educate him for his business, give him an equal chance with other professions, fit him for a farmer, show him that farming is not disrepu-



table, but is high and noble; teach him the science of farming, teach him to love nature, and you will have but little trouble in keeping the boy on the farm.

The farmer should not be regarded as a mere auxiliary, or part of a machine that turns the soil up side down or that harvests the golden grain, but he should be regarded as a master mechanic whose skilled hands guide the machine that fells and garners the food of the civilized world; and he will be so regarded when by education farming is brought to that high standard it deserves. The world pays homage to intelligence, to intellect. The world is not partial to lawyers, ministers and doctors, but the world wants to use men who are educated in their profession. What would the world think of a man that would hang out his "shingle" as a doctor, who had never studied medicine nor seen a limb amputated? Or of a man who professed to be a minister who had never studied or read one lesson in the Bible? Yet farming is carried on by men whose education has been along a line entirely different from their profession.

I claim that brain work employed on the farm will return to the owner as much comfort, wealth, happiness, honor and general prosperity as any other branch of business. Lawyers and doctors tell us in beautiful colors of the nobleness and independence of the farmer's life. They tell us we are the most intelligent, moral, healthy and industrious class in all the land.

Agricultural editors give us long dissertations on the necessity of saving all spare moments and converting them into some useful purpose; they tell us how we can spend the rainy days in mending the old harness or old rake handles, and that we can utilize the long winter evenings by pounding oak logs into basket stuff, while our wives and daughters can nobly assist

in averting bankruptcy by weaving the basket or making one lamp-wick out of three old ones.

It seems that it has never occurred to these instructors or the writers of our school text books that farmers and their families are human beings, with human hopes, human ambition, human feelings and human desires.

The subject of teaching Agriculture in our public schools is fast coming to the front, and there is no use in attempting to evade or ignore it. And let me say the coming farmer will not toil with his hands fourteen hours out of twenty-four and compel his wife and children to the same slavery. But he will give a liberal share of his time to thought, study and recreation. He will know of what soil is composed, in what it abounds, in what it is deficient; he will know what element of earth and air are necessary to plant growth, and under what conditions they can be most readily assimilated; he will understand the laws of plant and animal life, that he may the more successfully treat them; he will have time to plant and cultivate flowers and ornamental trees, and make his home so homelike and lovely that his daughter will not be disgusted with farm life and marry the first city chap that proposes, or the son so weary and dispirited as to leave the farm at the first opportunity, and seek employment in the already overcrowded cities.

Can this be done? you ask. Can farm life really be made so pleasant and the farm home so lovely? Yes; emphatically, yes. But it must and will be done by education.

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The future farmer must be educated. If our boys can not attend the agricultural college, a systematical course of agricultural reading is possible during the winter evenings, and the time could not be better employed.—*The Farmers Voice*—

## Home Department.

Conducted by

EMMA INGOLDSBY ABBOTT.

This page is open to all lady readers of the Busy Bee. Any woman who has found anything helpful in her work is invited to give others the benefit of it through these columns.

### Where Brains are Needed.

By MARY M. WILLARD.

So many excellent articles on the management of the home find their way into the papers and magazines, that anything further on the subject would seem superfluous, but judging from the constant outcry about the multifarious duties of women, there are still some poor souls who see no light on their pathway.

Even when gifted with a sense of order and a quick eye for what can be done and what left undone, the house-keeper's burden is beyond her strength often, but there is hope for her ultimately. As for the unfortunate being who goes through life in a haphazard fashion, ruling the home on the hit-or-miss plan, she is to be pitied and to be blamed quite as much as she is to be pitied, for her lack of thrift is the result of indifference. Things are done just because there is no getting out of it, and in anyway at all, so they are done.

It is astonishing how much lighter our labor becomes if we feel an interest in it and give it intelligent thought. Put your mind into the round of daily duties, my overburdened sisters. It only needs for you to do your work as a painter once said he mixed his paints, "with brains," to lift much of the weight from your shoulders. If it only prevents the hundred aimless steps women are prone to take, it will have accomplished much.

On they go from morning till night and nothing to show for it. Meals never on time, the house in confusion and an all-pervading discomfort—don't you recognize the picture? Haven't you seen it in many homes? And the only remedy is with the woman herself. Take for instance the preparation of the meals, the most wearisome and the most exacting of all the duties our sex is heir to. How easy when cooking one meal to give a look ahead at the next. Put enough potatoes in the pot to cream or fry, or mix with scrambled eggs for supper.

Keep a piece of cold meat on hand as a stand-by, if only for a few servings, it helps out wonderfully. Hominy is another good stand-by, summer and winter, boil it on baking day, then it is ready to furnish quite a variety. Sliced, dipped in flour and fried; griddle cakes, than which nothing can be nicer, mashed fine with an egg, flowered and fried, or with addition of milk and egg it can be baked in the oven. Oh! yes, hominy, by all means, and the piece of cold meat, and there are a dozen possibilities within reach of the woman plentifully supplied with eggs and milk, if she wears her "thinking cap," and that she must do if she wants a well ordered happy home.

Poolesville, Monty Co., Md.

In too many families the mother assumes the care of everything, and her daughters are but genteel loungers in the household. The work which could be so easily and quickly done if each bore a share, is left for the hands already weakened by heavy burdens, and when at last the poor household drudge dies at her post, she is remembered with pity not unmixed with contempt because she resigned the post of ruler of her household to become its slave, and her daughters are left to ruin other homes with their idleness and ignorance.—Southern Merchant and Farmer.



## THE BUSY BEE.

A monthly journal devoted to Farm Bee Keeping and other Minor Interests of Progressive Agriculture.

REV. EMERSON TAYLOR ABBOTT,  
Editor and Publisher.

Price, 50 cents per year, payable in advance.

**OFFICE—118 S. Third Street.**

Entered at the postoffice at St. Joseph, Missouri, as Second-class Matter.

When the time, for which your subscription has been paid, expires, your paper will be stopped. If you want to renew your subscription, you should renew before your time expires. This paragraph marked with a blue cross indicates that you will receive but one more copy of the paper unless you renew your subscription by the payment of 50c. If the paper comes to you when you have not subscribed for it, you may know that it has been paid for by some friend, and no bill will be sent to you.

REMITTANCES—Should be made by express or postoffice money order when it is possible. If these cannot be obtained, put the money in a letter and register it. Never send money in a letter without registering it. When forced to send stamps, we prefer to have one cent stamps, and they should be folded carefully with paper between them so they will not stick together.

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### Editorial.

Mr. Dadant touches another important subject this month, for to know when and how to take off the surplus honey is a very important part of bee-keeping. In this connection we want to call your attention to the fact that you can get the BUSY BEE one year and Porter bee escape both for 50cts.

The early morning train on the "Burlington" is a great convenience to those who enjoy a daylight ride and desire to visit the Trans-Mississippi from this locality. By the way, the Burlington runs in all directions from Omaha, and all parties coming to the Exposition should see that their tickets read via the "Burlington Route,"

if they want to make sure of comfort, gentlemanly treatment and quick time. No difference from what part of the United States, you can be landed safely and quickly at Omaha over the "Burlington." Try it.

We want to thank our patrons who are readers of the *Busy Bee* for the patience they have manifested during the rush when their orders have been greatly delayed. We have been sorry that we have not been able to give them more definite answers as to when we could fill these orders, but as we have no control over the manufacturing end of the business, this was impossible. On several occasions we have written that we would fill orders on certain days and then have been forced to delay doing so because we would not receive the goods in time. We think our customers, or at least most of them, recognized the fact that we had no intention to deceive them under the circumstances, but we want to say that we have made every effort to fill our orders promptly, and had we been able to get the goods, we should have hired help enough to get them out promptly even though we did so at a loss. On one occasion a car came to us at 8 a. m. on Monday which contained 500 St. Joe hives. Before shipping hours closed, at 4:30, every hive was sold and delivered to the depots, with a large quantity of other stuff, so you can see that we were not idle by any means. I think I am safe in saying that those who do business with us will never again have the same trouble in getting goods that they had this year.

It will be seen from a letter on another page that the place of holding the next meeting of the United States Bee-keepers' Union, has been fixed at Omaha. I feel sure that no mistake

has been made with regard to the location. The thing to do now is to go to work and make this one of the largest and most interesting meetings of the kind that was ever held in the United States. Can we not have a Bee-Keepers' Day during the time that the Union meets? What do you say to this Bro. Whitcomb, can it be done? How would it do to have both of the Unions meet at Omaha, and form a combined Union, and present a solid front to the enemy? What do the friends of the old Union say to this? Can it be done? There are a number of meetings to be held in Omaha the first week in September which have secured a rate of one fare plus \$2.00. The Pure Food Congress, I am informed, will meet there the first week in September, and it seems to me if we would all combine, we would have no trouble in getting half fare. Shall we not try it?

Every bee keeper who reads this should begin now to get ready to visit Omaha during the meeting of the Union, the date of which will no doubt be announced as soon as arrangements are made about rates.

Everything is progressing finely at the Trans-Mississippi and there is no question now but what it will be a grand success in everyway. I desire again to call the attention of bee-keepers to the fact that the Exposition management at great expenses have prepared a special building for apiarian exhibits, and we owe it to them to make a special effort to show our appreciation of their generosity. Bro. Whitcomb, the Superintendent of this department is doing all in his power to make it a great success, and a source of pleasure and profit to all exhibitors. All he asks is the co-operation of all bee-keepers who are interested in seeing our industry pushed to the front.

### Wanted Articles.

We can use more articles for the paper a year. If you have anything you think will be of value to readers of the *Busy Bee* suited for any of the departments, put it on paper the best you can, and send it on. If we can use it we will be glad to send you the paper for a year, not simply in payment for the article, but in recognition of your disposition to help the *Busy Bee*, and at the same time instruct its readers in better methods of doing things. Of course, this offer is not made to professional writers, as they have a right to expect more pay, but we will assure them that even they will find some good hints in the *Busy Bee*.

Send on your articles,—tell us how your bees have done, how you have made a success with poultry, how you conduct your home affairs, how you would like to see the youth of the land educated, or anything else of practical value, and we will make room for it as soon as we can.

No one but a practical, up-to-date apiarist can appreciate fully the great good that is derived from the instructions of one who has had experience, and is "up to his business." The apiarist of experience has learned the ins and outs of the business, and when he picks up an agricultural paper and reads the bee-keepers' column he can tell it at a glance if the articles were written by an apiarist. Many times have I read short comments on some topics of bee-keeping that sounded no more like a bee-keeper than a lawyer's bill in chancery sounds like a good sermon at church. Such, I am sorry to say, is generally the case with bee-keeping literature found in "agricultural" and "home" papers.—J. O. GRIMSLEY in *Farmers Voice*.

Bro. Grimsley is correct about much



of the information(?) found in the columns of agricultural and other papers on the subject of bees. Here is a sample taken from a paper called the *Youth's Instructor*. A lengthy article winds up as follows:

"After a time the grubs shut in the big cells turn into queen bees, and they begin to sing a song. The queen bee hears it, and she knows that more queen bees will come out. That makes her angry. She runs at the cells to try to kill the new queens. The workers prevent her. But there can be only one queen in a hive at a time. So the old queen says, come! I will go away!" Many of the old bees say, 'We will go with our queen.' Then with her they seek a new home."

LORETTA REISMAN.

Now, I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Loretta, and she may be very well posted about some things, and be eminently fitted to instruct the youth of our land, but she evidently has not much practical knowledge of bees. If she has, she has a very poor way of making it known.

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## Communications

EDITOR BUSY BEE,

Please say in the next issue of your journal, that after thoroughly considering the matter of the next place for holding the convention of the United States Bee Keepers' Union, the Executive Committee have decided in favor of Omaha, Neb. as the place, and probably early in October as the time, but the exact date will doubtless be fixed by those having in charge the securing of reduced rail road rates, and we are going to put the securing of these and hotel rates, and place for the convention to meet, etc, etc on Bro. E. Whitcomb's shoulders, for they are broad and he is on the ground. A short time since he sent me some particulars re-

garding rates from which I take the following: "Every day during the Exposition, tickets will be on sale from all western passenger association territory to Omaha at one and one-third fare for the round trip, except the rates from the following points, which will be as follows: Chicago, \$20; Peoria, \$17; St. Louis, \$17; Denver, \$25. Tickets will be limited to return thirty days from date of sale, not to exceed November 15. From June 1st to October 15th the passenger rates to Omaha from all the principal cities and towns in the United States beyond the western passenger association territory will be eighty per cent of double the first class fare. Tickets good to return until November 15th, but I'm expecting(?) lower rates, for Bro. Whitcomb told the convention at Buffalo last summer, that if the Union would hold its next meeting at Omaha during time of holding the Trans-Mississippi Exposition we should have as low rates as to any place on earth, and we know Bro. Whitcomb will do his "level best" for those who attend the convention, and show us "the sights" on the Exposition grounds. A prominent western bee keeper wrote me a few days since that "the rates, however, cut but a very small figure." Well, maybe if we poor bee keepers were all rich like him, it wouldn't, but this is only another evidence that "localities differ."

Further notice of rates, time and place of meeting etc., will be given when known.

A. B. MASON.

Sec'y. U. S. B. K. U.

Sta. B Toledo, O., June 25th, 1898.

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Malcolm, Neb., May 23d, 1898.

EDITOR BUSY BEE:

Find enclosed 50cts for which please send me the *Busy Bee* for one year, also the premium of *Cyclopedia* of useful knowledge, and thereby confer a great favor. A friend handed me

a sample copy of your little, but great Bee Journal of the February number and before I have half read it through I determined it worth my 50cts for a year.

I am glad you advocate the meeting of the National Bee Keepers Union at Omaha this year, and can fully endorse all you say and more too in regard to the Trans Mississippi Exposition.

Though I attended the union meeting held at Lincoln, in fall of '96, and felt that it was a poor attendance for a national gathering of bee-keepers; as our State alone should have a much greater number convened on such an occasion and for such a purpose; but I feel that bee-keeping is as yet in its infancy in this country; and as many more men, and women, too, become acquainted with the advantages and interest in its work that many more will become enlisted in its cause.

I have kept a few colonies of bees in Nebraska for over 15 years and always have had honey on my table, and my children have never yet known, since they were old enough to eat honey, what it was to be without it, and my oldest is over 16 years of age.

Not wishing to trespass upon your time, yet, I see much in every Bee Journal I read, about feeding bees etc., and it generally means something sweet, honey, candy and such: now I wish to say that not enough importance is given to the feeding of bees. Rye flour, or rather meal, in the early spring to induce the early brood raising, so as to have plenty of workers in our colonies, in or during the honey harvest of summer. At present I have only five colonies at home, and I began feeding them rye flour and graham meal about the 20th of March. I fed it to them by placing it in wooden butter dishes, such as the grocers furnish us butter in. I placed one in front of each hive, and thus I fed them daily, taking in my dishes each night or

when it stormed. I continued to feed them until the morning of April 17th when I noticed they paid no attention to it, but I observed then that the bees were returning home from the trees, box elder, where blossoms and buds had supplied and furnished them with an abundance of pollen, while but 24 hours previously they had delved into the flour or meal as ravenously as at any time during the last three weeks.

How much do you suppose they consumed of the meal? Well I fed them 38 pounds, or had two pounds left out of 40 pounds; and allowing 3 pounds for wastage, a large estimate, they had eaten 7 pounds per colony. It is from this practical experience under my own care and observation that I say we do not see enough urging to feed, for pollen to stimulate brood rearing in early spring.

Yours truly,

DR. DUNCAN.

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Otter Tail, Co., Minn.

EDITOR BUSY BEE:

I received the sample copies of *Busy Bee*. I like them so well that I want to take the Paper. The way you explain everything is just what I want. I have been sick a great deal for about a year. Money is very scarce, but I will try and do as you say, where there is a will there is a way. I have kept bees for five years. I got my first bees, three colonies in box hives, for a cow. The man I bought them of, brought them in December, 12 miles over rough roads, on a sled. I told him that I thought they would do no good, but he said he had done that way before, and the bees came out alright in the spring. Well I had them in the cellar a few days then I got a bee book and from what I could learn out of it, I thought the bees ought to have a cleansing flight, it was awful cold outside, so I put one colony in a room and let them have their own way, most of



them flew on the window and there they crawled up until most of them lay dead on the floor, I swept most of them in the hive again, then I took the other hives out a few days later. I took a big box, laid it on its side and put the hive in, and put screen wire in front, that worked better. When I put the bees out the next spring, my wife had the washing on the line, and right near was where I had to put my bees. That washing had to be done all over again, the bees made it look more yellow than white.

I thought there were not many bees left, but I wanted to keep all that were alive yet, so I read in my bee-book, and it said to keep them warm, and I thought there was no better way than to put manure around the hives, but it rained often and the manure was wet most of the time, so the combs were all moldy before I knew it. One of the three colonies died, the other two pulled through, but I got no surplus honey that summer. I kept the two colonies in Dovetailed hives.

I winter my bees in the cellar under my dwelling house. It is dry clay 4 feet high and then stone 3 feet on top for house foundation. There is one window. I put forest leaves in the window about 16 inches thick. A little air can get through, and a 2 inch gas pipe from the cellar in to the chimney. The pipe enters the chimney beside the stove pipe in the living room above. I have lost no colonies in wintering in that cellar yet.

I had trouble about frogs eating up a good many of my bees at night, but now I have raised the hives 16 inches from the ground, so they can't seat themselves in front of the entrance and wait till bees come out and then eat them. It looked as though the frogs knew just how to make them come out. There were so many, and so near the entrance, that it got too warm for the bees inside and, when they came out they were gone. My bee yard is near a lake.

B. L. SPIEKERMAN.

Wichita, Kan.

EDITOR BUSY BEE:

I wrote to some St. Joseph house for a price list of bee supplies, from an ad in an old paper. A few days later I received a copy of your little paper.

The sample copy which I received was the first I knew of your publication, and I was very much pleased with it

Very Truly,

G. KIMBRELL

### The United States Bee-Keepers' Union.

Organized to advance the pursuit of Apiculture; to promote the interests of bee-keepers; to protect its members; to prevent the adulteration of honey; and to prosecute the dishonest honey-commission men. Membership fee \$1 per annum.

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## STURTEVANT'S POULTRY REMEDIES

THANOLICE.

A Dust for the Destruction of Lice.  
Trial size, 10 cts.; larger sizes, 25 and 50 cts.

CREO-CARBO.

A liquid Vermin Destroyer and the Best Disinfectant known. 50 cts. a can.

EMERSON T. ABBOTT,  
St. Joseph, Mo.

Whiteside, Mo.

EDITOR BUSY BEE:

I think that when we find from experience, or otherwise, anything that will help our bee-keeping friends, it is our duty to make it known.

I read in some bee paper about four years ago of a plan to prevent bees from robbing, and I have tested it thoroughly for two years, therefore, I can recommend it.

The plan is to have a paint bucket with a little paint in it, and a brush ready for use, and at the first sign of robbing, dip the brush in the paint and draw it lightly across the hive just above the entrance and in nine cases out of ten, this is all that is needed, but sometimes if they have a good start at robbing, it may be necessary to draw the brush across the alighting board.

On account of the severe drouth, last season was the worst for robbing with us for years. Some of my neighbors lost heavily, I have never lost a colony by robbing. This plan may be old to you, I would like to know your opinion of it anyway.

Very Respt.

S. W. SMILEY.

## Business

Have you a good sewing machine? If not, write us and let us tell you all about ours. It will be money saved, and you will have just as good a machine for service as money can buy.

Remember that we sell incubators, brooders, and all sorts of poultry supplies, and you can buy them as cheap of us as any place in the United States, and just as good.

You need a good bee book. Langstroth on the Honey Bee, latest edition, revised by Dadant, and the *Busy*

*Bee* one year for \$1.25, post paid. This is the price of the book alone, so you practically get the paper for nothing.

The *Busy Bee* will be sent THREE MONTHS FREE to anyone who has never taken any bee paper who will send us his name and address on a postal card, and the names and addresses of three people who live on a farm and keep bees.

## Williams' Self-Hiver, Queen and Drone Trap.

We present herewith illustrations of the above trap, which will give our readers an idea of what it is and what it proposes to do. The explanation of the cuts will make plain the construction of the trap.

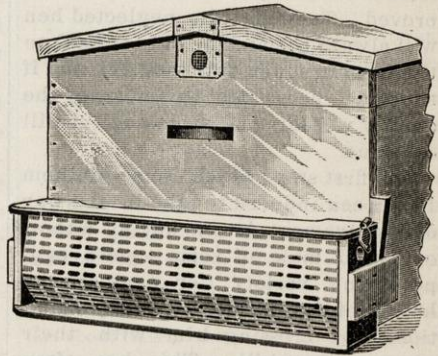


FIGURE 1.

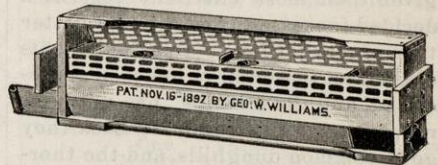


FIGURE 2.

Figure 1 in the cut shows front view when in place; also manner of attaching to the hive.

Figure 2 is a back view of the trap bottom side up, and showing cone slide partly slipped over the openings in cones, which when entirely slipped up shuts off communication from one story to the other; this cut also shows back slide partly drawn out, which when the trap is in position to receive or hive the swarm, opens communication between trap and hive.



## Poultry.

### Pure Bred Poultry on the Farm.

**F**OWLS have been neglected so long on farms that it is a difficult matter to change this indifference for interest. We can hardly blame them for not taking any great amount of interest in what is known as the farmer's hens. They are certainly not picturesque, and with the exception of the varied and oftentimes beautiful plumage of the males, are not attractive to look at. Their useful qualities should not, as a rule, endear them to the farmer, for they are decidedly at a low ebb in this particular. Yet it is a very hard task to convince our farmer friends that their flocks can be improved. To them, the neglected hen will always remain the only animal on the farm to suffer this neglect, and if they are persuaded to improve the quality we fear the same neglect will continue.

The first step which some of them have been induced to take in the way of improvement, is by buying a thoroughbred male of some known egg-producing variety (for eggs are the height of the farmer's poultry ambition,) and crossing him with their common dunghills. This has often given them most excellent results, a decided increase in eggs and a better type of market fowl. But the benefits of the first season have not been appreciated, and the crossing has not been renewed, and the result is back they go to common dunghills, and the thoroughbred male is lost in the mixture of the succeeding seasons. The common excuse is lack of time to "bother with the hens." Of course those offering such an excuse and showing so much indifference are almost hopeless and perhaps it were better to pass them by; yet, as the constant dropping wears away the stone, we are convinced

## Pure Food.

Every friend of pure food and drugs should send one dollar to pay for his subscription to PURE FOOD, a 64 page Monthly Magazine, published in the interest of Pure Food and Drugs, by ALEX J. WEDDERBURN, Corresponding Secretary of the National Pure Food and Drug Congress, WASHINGTON, D. C. Sample Copy Free.

### SEND A DIME

For three (3) months, Trial Trip to the *NATIONAL FARM AND FIRESIDE* (established in 1874) a 16 page Monthly Agricultural and Anti-Monopoly paper. Address NATIONAL FARM AND FIRESIDE, Washington, D. C.

## ITALIAN QUEENS.

Untested 70 cents each; three for \$2.00. After July 1st 50 cents each. I have the purest and best bees that it is possible to obtain at any price, and sell them the cheapest. A full line of bee supplies, prompt shipment of supplies or queens. Satisfaction guaranteed

Large Circular free

**THEODORE BENDER**

Canton, Ohio.

## Attention Please!

We wish to send you a free sample copy of "THE SOUTHLAND QUEEN," the only Bee Paper published in the South. It tells all about Queen rearing, handling bees, etc.

**THE JENNY ATCHLEY CO.,**  
Beeville, Bee Co., Texas.

**A Record**  
to be of value must be backed by continued worthy deeds. The **Prairie State Incubators and Brooders** have increased their first premiums to 200 in competition with the best. Send for 1898 catalogue, giving full description. Handsome colored plates.

**We warrant every machine.**  
Prairie State Incubator Co.  
Homer City, Pa.

that many a farmer's stock of today is a great improvement on those of ten years ago. The vast strides made in general poultry culture have been the means of distributing a better quality of fowl throughout the country, and the farmer has perhaps unintentionally collected a better laying flock.

Can we not get a step farther and induce them to adopt thoroughbreds entirely? Let us show where they are superior. In the first place, it stands to reason that any strain of fowls carefully bred, and with, we will say, the object of egg-production as most important, can be brought to a higher degree of excellence in this particular than the common every-day dunghill. Now can the farmer understand this reason? With him "seeing is believing;" therefore let him buy a small flock of ten thoroughbred Plymouth Rocks, the culls of some first-class breeder, which can be had at this season at a reasonable figure. Let him run them side-by-side with his dunghills and judge for himself. Of course we expect they will be as much neglected as his common flock, but still a neglected thoroughbred will do better than a neglected dunghill.

In the second place, he will have a better carcass to offer in market, and he will raise a better and healthier lot of chickens. And last, but by no means least, he can offer settings at a price above the market quotations for fresh eggs, and at the season when the latter are at the cheapest price.

Are not these reasons sufficient? Is there not more chance for profit in such a fowl than in the scrubs and runts he is accustomed to? And bear in mind, my farmer friend, that, except for the original cost of your thoroughbreds, their care and feed will be no more than on your dunghills.—*Country Gentleman.*

**HATCH CHICKENS BY STEAM—**  
With the **MODEL**



**Excelsior Incubator.**  
Simple, Perfect, Self-Regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher. Lowest priced, first-class Hatcher made. **GEO. H. STAHL,**  
114 to 122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.

Circulars free. Send 6c. for Illus. Catalogue.

## Western Fruit Grower.

A Western Paper for Western Growers.  
A 16 page monthly Horticultural Paper devoted to the Fruit interests of the Middle West.

**50 Cents per Year.**

Sample copy free.

WESTERN FRUIT GROWER,

St. Joseph, Mo.

\*\*The WESTERN FRUIT GROWER and THE BUSY BEE both one year for 60 cents.

### SPECIAL OFFERS.

You can get the BUSY BEE one year and any of the articles named below for the price given:

- A fine Cotton Bee Veil,..... 50 cents
- Porter Bee Escape,..... 50 cents.
- 1,000 Best Sections,.....\$3.00.
- 1 Crate "St. Joe" Hives (5).....5.00
- 1 Globe Bee Veil,.....1.15-
- 1 copy Langstroth on the Honey Bee,.....1.25.
- 1 Fine Tested Italian Queen,.....1.00.
- 1 Drone Trap,.....65 cents.

The reader will notice that the prices named are about those of the articles alone so that you practically get the paper free. These offers will not hold good very long, and may be withdrawn at any time— So act at once, if you want to get the benefit of any of them.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertisements of a proper character will be inserted at the following rates:

	One Month.	Three Months.	Six Months.	One Year.
1 Inch ....	\$ .70	\$ 1.75	\$ 3.25	\$ 6.50
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1 Page ....	7.50	20.00	39.00	75.00

Reading notices, 10 cents per line each issue. Special Position one-fourth more than above rates.

The publisher cannot undertake to be responsible for the acts of any of the advertisers, but he will not knowingly admit any fraudulent advertisement, and will immediately drop the ad. of any person or firm failing to deal fairly with the public.



## BEST OF A DOZEN STRAINS.

East Sidney, N. Y., April 29, 1898.

I found your strain of bees by far the best. I bought from a dozen different breeders. THEY WERE GREAT WORKERS.

Sommerville, N. Y., April 24, 1898.

The adels have wintered nicely. The strongest colony in 150 is an adel. I want some queens later on.

CHAS. STEWART.

Shawnee Town, Pa., April 18, 1898.

The adel colony has made 100 lbs of honey, the best in a yard of 40 colonies.

L. A. SNYDER.

One queen, \$1.00; three queens, \$2.75; six queens, \$5.50. All guaranteed. My book on Queen Rearing given to all who purchase queens. Address.

HENRY ALLEY,  
Wenham, Mass.



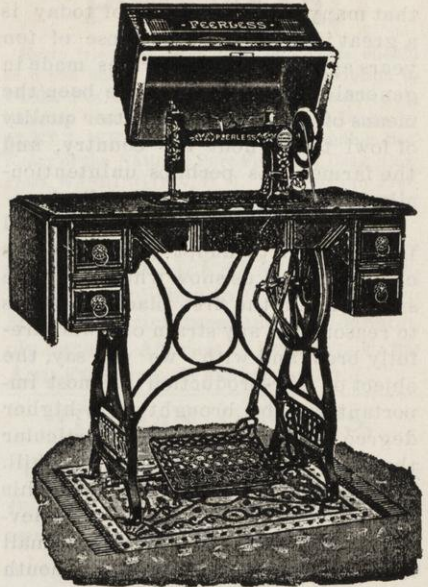
## MONEY IN HONEY!

**The Weekly  
American Bee Journal**  
Tells all about it.  
Sample Copy Mailed Free  
**G. W. YORK & CO.**  
118 Michigan St., CHICAGO, ILL.

## Ignorance.

The ancients said: "Aganst ignorance the Gods themselves are powerless." What a brood of curses it matures! Look around you on this glorious land endowed with every resource for man's enjoyment, stored with incalculable wealth. Alive with forces waiting to be his obedient servants, to relieve him from the bondage of excessive toil and open to his mind the opportunities and delights of noblest life.

Why will he not put fourth his hand and take what nature has provided freely for him. Why does he turn from the banquet of the Gods to the garbage of sensualism! Ignorance is the demon that blights every flower of hope and smothers every aspiration for progress. Stamp it out.  
—Campbell's Soil Culture.



THE PEERLESS MACHINE.

The handsomest and finest proportioned sewing machine now manufactured. A strictly high grade machine, with all modern improvements; light running and noiseless. All the desirable features found in other modern machines will be found in the Peerless.

Price, for a five-drawer, finely finished machine, shipped direct from the factory in Chicago, only \$18.00, including The Busy Bee for one year. This is lower than the machine can be had in any other way, and it will not be furnished except in connection with The Busy Bee for one year.

It is not generally known, but there is some cruelty in the keeping of gold fish. Half of such captives die from sheer want of rest. As fish have no means of shielding their eyes by a lid, they cannot endure continous light, and suffer in a glass vessel, where they are entirely exposed, as evident from the way in which they dash about, and go around and around, until fairly worn out. This can be avoided by placing in the aquarium a grotto of rocks, or causing plants to grow sufficiently dense to allow the fish to hide their heads, at least, in the grateful shadow.—Rural World.

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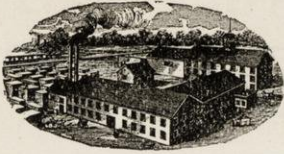
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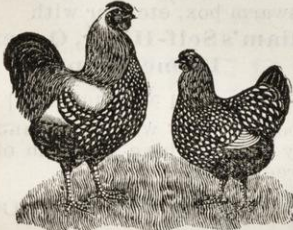
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