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Franklin county, 120,000 li E II Tove acceptable, I thought I National Bee Journal.

DEVOTED TO THE CULTURE OF THE HONEY-BEE.

Vol. III. JULY, 1872.

No. 11.

[For the National Bee Journal. Apiculture in North Carolina.

Letter From a Novice.

. Measure. Editors: - Thinking

Messrs. Editors:-Some person has honored me with a copy of your JOURNAL, of May 1st, for which 1 send thanks; I do not claim to know much about bees, my time and energy having been given to other pursuits; yet I find much to interest me in your Journal. I will forward the copy sent me to Prof. D. D. Davis, Webster, N. C., and request him to write to you.

Western North Carolina is, in my opinion, better adapted to bee keeping and honey making, than most all other parts of our vast country. The climate, the great abundance of wild flowers, and the constant supply of pure water in that mountain country, all seem to combine to make it the place for bee keeping. That portion of the country is as yet but thinly settled, much of it having been in the hands of the Cherokee Indians until a few years ago, and a large portion of it is now in dense unbroken forests, and it is probable that but a small portion of the honey made there, has ever been found by man.

Ibs. In Davidson county, popu-

In Fersythe county, population

To give your readers some little idea of the honey gathered and shipped from the State of North Carolina, I will make a few quotations from statistics for one year, viz:

Jackson county had, in 1860, a population of 5,500, and among many other products, I find stated 16,000 pounds of honey. In Madison county, in 1860, population 6,000, honey 20,000 lbs. In Macon county, 26,000 lbs. In Asher county,

population 7,000, honey 18,000 lbs. In Davidson county, population 16,000, honey 50,000 lbs. In Forsythe county, population 12,000, honey 47,000 lbs. In Franklin county, 20,000 lbs. of shoney. In Gaston county 20,--500 lbs. of honey. In Granville county, 20,000 lbs. of honey. In Guilford county, 39,000 lbs. of honey and 5,000 Ibs. of beeswax. In Harnett county, 2,500 gallons of honey. In Johnson county, 15,000 lbs. of honey. In Lincoln county. 26.000 lbs. of honey. In Onslow county, 50,000 lbs. of honey. In Pearson county, 20,000 lbs. of honey. In Randolph county, 75,000 lbs. of honey, and 6,000 Ibs. of beeswax. In Rockingham county, 61,500 lbs. of honey, and 5,000 lbs. beeswax. All of this, and a great deal more, in North Carolina in 1860. Add, if you please, your most improved plans of treating bees. Get science fully at work throughout that State, in that one particular, and I doubt whether there be another State in this Union, (unless it be the State of Texas), that can equal North Carolina in quality. Texas is a very large State, and may or may not equal North Carolina in amount of bees. Wishing you succes, I am,

Yours, respectfully, R. H. GRESHAM. Louisville, Ky. [For the National Bee Journal. Letter From a Novice.

• Messrs. Editors: — Thinking that perhaps a letter from a novice in bee keeping would prove acceptable, I thought I would drop you a few lines.

I have had " bee on the brain" a long time, and am getting no better fast. When at the Nashville Exposition, a few days since, I met with Mr. Ladd, the affable Corresponding Secretary of the Tenessee Apiarian Society, and a member of the firm of Owen & Ladd, of Brentwood, Tenn. Receiving a cordial invitation to visit their apiary, and never having seen a large apiary, I gladly accepted the invitation, and was well paid for the trip. They use mostly, in their apiary, a hive gotten up by Mr. Owen, but as they do not manufacture them for sale, they have no idea of patenting it, or of urging the sale of it; but are prepared to furnish almost any reliable hive wanted. They represent the Queen Bee Hive, Adair, Alley, American, Leffel, Triumph, Diamond, and others, many of which they have on exhibition at the Exposition.

In answer to my question, "why they did not 'run' only one hive," Mr. Ladd said that they had no time from their business to travel around selling hives; and besides, his cor-

respondence from different parts of the country, concerning different hives, almost demanded that he should be prepared to furnish different styles of hives.

They have, at their home apiary, one hundred and ten stands of bees, and a honey apiary three miles south of them. I thought I had seen the bright Italians in their purity, but Owen & Ladd have some of the brightest I ever saw, and if they can't furnish pure bees, then I will despair of getting any. I had here my first peep at a queen that came across the ocean.

I also witnessed, for the first time, the operation of extracting honey. They have several machines—the Adair, Gray & Winder, and a little gem called the Atkinson Extractor, which issimple,inexpensive, and works like a charm. It has much to recommend it to the farmer bee keeper, being cheap and good, not only emptying the comb that is in frames, but throws the honey out of broken comb of any size.

Let me say a few words of my hosts, and I am done. Mr. Owen, though an old man, is untiring in his zeal in bee culture, and has been long and favorably known in this State as a live, "go-a-head" farmer, and a great, fine stock man, having been the first to introduce some of the finest cattle and sheep into this State. He has been a great bee man for some years, and has secured a co-laborer, Mr. W. E. Ladd, formerly of Kentucky, who is perhaps, the best practical apiarian in this State, if not in the South. Together they are building up a large and merited trade. Long may they prosper.

With many well wishes for the success of the JOURNAL,

I am, yours,

E. W.

Nashville, Tenn.

[For the National Bee Journal. Give the Alarm.

Messrs. Editors:—It is a pity after all the toil and industry of the bee, that her utmost endeavors to prepare for our tables her choicest of all luxuries, gathered from the first opening flowers of spring, from the abundance of summer time, or when the latest flowers fade from their stalks in autumn, willingly do they ply their ingenuous profession, making honey: her designs are often villinously frustrated by bad men.

men. Many of our honey shippers are requested to send their honey in the comb, saying that it is more saleable, &c. We have thought that it hardly paid consumers to buy comb, or the honey raiser to deprive his bees of it, for bees can not afford to loose time in replacing it. Time to bees is honey. It is no excuse for the honey dealer, if the miller does counterfeit his flour, the weaver make shoddy, and the cordwainer use split leather; he should not, on these accounts, consider himself licensed to counterfeit honey.

As we were passing an elaborately labeled place of business, on a popular street of this city, we were attracted by one of the placards that read honey. We stopped to examine it. The packages were elegant, but did they contain honey? From experience we knew it was not. In one case it was clarified sirup of mean extraction, and in another it was the filthiest sorghum, with one piece of comb put in to give the solution cast. We inquired if the sale of honey paid. Received a prompt answer that it did not.

Our readers can readily tell why it does not pay. Honey, pure honey, sent here in boxes, is sent here in considerable quantities, but it is all carefully bought by these manipulators, who engineer to get it at a little more than half price, make their additions, and sell it under embellished labels and on the credit of the single piece of comb seen swimming in it. One dose of SUCH HONEY, at the price they pay, is enough for a lifetime. We can readily see that the demand for honey in cities must pay poorly; and however much the tired business man or sickly wife may long for the pure honey they knew in their childhood, they are doomed to disappointment.

As a remedy, we would advise every association to agree upon a union trade-mark, not easily counterfeited, that will stop, to some degree, this mean traffic. I would advise, also, that every bee-raiser secure a honey extractor, save time for their bees, keep the comb at home, and, if possible, spoil the tricks of dishonest imitators.

Chicago, May 24th.

[For the National Bee Journal. Apiculture in Illinois.

Messrs. Editors :--It is with pleasure that I peruse the pages of your valuable JOURNAL. As it is devoted entirely to the interest of bee culture, I only wish that it would come oftener. When I read the experience of the different apiarians thoughout the country, I feel that it is nothing more than proper that I should give mine. I did not go into the bee business for profit, but more for recreation and to get away from business. I love the little fellows, and have given them considerable thought—so much so that I am said by some to have "bee on the brain."

I wintered over some thirty colonies on their summer stands; lost two of them by my own negligence. Those two I think had too much upward ventilation; they both had an abundance of honey. The cap on the top of one of the hives was filled with hay, and set upon the frames, with the entrance in front of the hive opened to its full capacity; the other was left with nothing but the empty. honey boxes on top, with the entrance the same as the other. The balance of my bees, I covered the tops of the frames with cotton batting, closing up the entrance below, so that there was but little upward ventilation. All that I covered in this way came out strong and healthy this spring, and are now breeding very rapidly-more so than most of my neighbors' bees; but for all that, they do not seem to be doing much in the way of gathering honey. There is an abundance of white clover in this section of the country, but the bees do not work upon it. We are having a great deal of cold, wet weather for this time of year; perhaps this may account for their not. gathering much honey. ino ti

There seems to be a great

deal of harping over the superiority of the "Italian honey bee" by parties who seem to be interested in the sale of them. For my own part, I can not see that there is any great difference as far as gathering honey is concerned. I have got both the Italian and black bee in my apiary, and I must say some of the blacks beat the Italians all to pieces. They have swarmed earlier, gathered more honey, sting harder, and protect themselves better. I have not had a great deal of experience with the Italians; may be when I get better acquainted with them, I may change my mind.

I do not wish to consume too much space in your JOURNAL, therefore will give room for some more able writer.

S. M. FARRAR. Elmwood, Ills., June 6, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal. Shipping Bees from California to Utah.

Messrs. Editors:—We have just received a car load of two hundred stands of bees from Mr. L. S. Harbison, of Sacramento, and we must say in honor to the worthy gentleman that they are as good an Italian bee, taking the lot together, as we have ever seen. It was quite gratifying to us to see the pride he takes in his bees. I think he understands his business well. He packed them so skillfully in the car, that of the two hundred stands he has not lost nor even damaged a swarm.

Mr. Harbison accompanied the bees himself, to see to the unloading, cleaning out, &c. The bees are all in good condition, being well stocked with bee honey and young brood, and are in every way according to contract.

We think that Mr. Harbison is a thorough business man, and would say to all those wishing bees, that they would do well to give him a call, as we are sure that he will give satisfaction in quality of bees and in promptness of filling orders.

S. H. PUTNAM. Salt Lake City, April 19, 1872.

> [For the National Bee Journal. Wintering Bees.

Messrs. Editors :- The following is Mr. John L. Wolcott's system of wintering bees, together with ratio of mortality, for the past twelve years, in the city of Bloomington, State of Illinois:

Mr. Wolcott has the Langstroth hive in use, and says he never yet has resorted to the practice of removing the honey from the brood chamber at any season of the year, but depends entirely on the surplus boxes and frames for all the honey he gets. He has practiced both out- and in-door wintering, and of the two modes, prefers leaving his bees on their summer stands, unless it may be some very weak colonies that have not bees enough to keep up the requisite amount of animal heat in the hive to keep them from freezing. These weak stands he puts into his bee house, where he leaves them until spring opens.

In preparing his bees for winter, he fills the caps of each hive with dry straw, leaving all the holes open in the honey board, and contracts the entrance of the hive to about one inch by three-eighths, and in extremely cold weather throws a shovelful of snow over the entrance of the hive, and allows it to remain there until it melts away, or if the hives should become closed by sleet, he allows it to remain there until warm weather removes it. During the past winter he has used a quilt made in the following manner: He takes strips of common lath, and makes a frame the size of the honey board, nailing them together so that they will rest on the edge of the lath. This leaves a space of about an inch and a half from the top of the frames in the hive to the top of the frame made of lath. On the bottom of this lath frame he tacks a piece of common muslin, or cotton flannel, and then fills the frame with tow. After the tow has been put into the frame, he takes a piece of common wrapping paper and tacks it on top of the frame. But I There seems to be a great

should have stated, that previous to filling the frame with tow, he puts a cross-bar in the frame, as near the center as he can, and when the whole thing is completed, he drives a tack through the muslin from. the under side of the frame. This forms a cavity in which his bees cluster in extremely cold weather directly above the tops of the frames in the hive.

With this system of wintering bees, Mr. Wolcott informs me, he has not lost the past winter but three colonies, two of which were queenless, and one was robbed. Really, his loss from disease has been nothing, as his bees were all alive when spring opened.

The reader, I presume, will want to know how extensively Mr. Wolcott is engaged in bee keeping. At the time I visited his apiary, he had one hundred and forty-seven of as fine stands of bees as I ever saw at this season of the year.

A word on upward ventilation. I find in the cap of each hive, an inch hole on both sides, directly under the top board of the cap. This is all the ventilation used.

The average ratio of mortality during winter suffered by Mr. Wolcott, during the past twelve years, he estimates at about two per cent. of his entire stock of bees per annum.

The foregoing shows the success of an old and experienced bee keeper, who has been satisfied to accept as his share of the labor of the bees, what they have stored in surplus boxes and frames, and leaving what was stored in the brood chamber for winter stores for his bees. No complaint of sour honey and dysentery in his apiary.

Now let us see what another bee keeper has done with the same style of hive—the Langstroth. J. L. Peabody, of Normal, McLean county, Ills., tells me that he put into winter quarters sixty odd colonies of bees, and, when spring opened, found he had suffered a loss of about two-thirds of his entire stock. Sour honey and dysentery he considers the cause. His system of ventilation does not differ materially from that of Mr. Wolcott.

Now, Mr. Editor, let some of the veterans in apiculture solve this mystery, and tell us, if they can, what has been the real cause of this widespread mortality among the bees during the past winter.

E. H. BARBER. Wood Bank, Marion Co., Ind.

WE find the following report in the West Salem, O., Commonwealth.

Selected two colonies last spring, managed them on principle, and increased them to twelve good colonies, and took from them one hundred and five pounds of nice box honey. How is *that* for high.

omb, and that my bees bui

[For the National Bee Journal. Answers and Comments on National Bee Journal.

Messrs. Editors :- In answer to Mr. J. F. Mock, I would sav: First-I do not put my bees into winter quarters crowded with old bees. You wish to know how I do. I raise some young queens, and when I wish to depopulate a hive of old bees. I take a clean hive, place therein plenty of comb, (and some sealed honey), I then take one of my young queens and what few companions she may have, and place them in the hive also. I then remove some strong stock and set my new hive in its place. The old queen finding the bees thus suddenly reduced will gather a large quantity of fall honey, and with more vigor. The young queens will do the same.

Second—By feeding lightly and raising the temperature of the room.

Third—I keep surplus hives, and they are kept dry. You know that after bees have been in winter quarters awhile their hives get damp. Well take a dry hive and lift all your bees, comb and all, into the dry one and close it up, but beware of too much upper ventilation.

I would say to Mr. Estey, that I don't know anything about the Dadant comb guide press, and that I use old scraps of comb, and that my bees build straight combs for me, and that I can take it out without cutting, V. Aber to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Mr. Editor, I think friend Nesbitt's suggestions about short articles from bee keepers is wrong. I think a little more bee keeping and a little less puffing of patent hives, would be better.

Solution of salammoniac is good for the sting of bees.

HARRY GOODLANDER. Leesburg, Kosciusko Co., Ind.

[For the National Bee Journal. Transporting Bees.

Messrs. Editors — Perhaps some of your readers would like to have some information in regard to transporting bees. I know that I was greatly in need of such information, and could not easily obtain it. I will, therefore, give my experience, though it is limited.

I started from Hamilton, Ill., with twenty two stands. Six were in movable frame hives. with the frames nailed down tight on their resting places. The hives were made of rough boards, nailed up tight, with no other ventilation but a few gimlet holes in the sides and top; the others were in common boxes, and I nailed a board on the bottom, and perforated the sides with gimlet holes-about twenty five holes to a hivesome of the holes were threesixteenths of an inch, but I dis-

covered no bees coming through them. My destination was Berlin, Wisconsin, a distance of over 400 miles. I shipped them from Keokuk, Iowa, to Chicago, distance 246 miles on the C., B. & Q. Railroad, the freight being 65 cts. per 100, being taken as first class freight. I inquired at what rate they could be taken on the boat to LaCrosse for, when I was informed that it would cost me 75 cts. per stand, so I found it cheaper to take them on the cars. I would not advise any one to ship his bees without being with them on their journey, because it is trouble to get them through promptly, and have them carefully handled, and also some of them may find an opening and get out. I would look at them occasionally, when I would find some out, and it required the strictest search to find where they come from. Some of the boxes were so uneaven and rotten, that it required great care to fasten them in, and when we thought we had done it "up brown" we found we were mistaken.

In Chicago I had to change cars, (they only filling about one-third of the car, so that it would not pay to take the whole car, which would be better, certainly). I got everything ready at 2 o'clock, P. M., to start at 3.30 P. M., from the C. N. W. depot. At about 5 the train started out for the north-

ern depot, (that company having two depots in the city), there the train was overhauled. I thinking certainly that the car with the bees would now go along without any further trouble. I waited a long time but saw no move, when at last the train started off from another quarter, and "had a passenger aboard that was left behind." I then inquired in the freight office, and found that the bill of my car had not been examined; had to stop over night at Burnett-this being about 150 miles from Chicago. I took the M. & St. P. train to Berlin. To Burnett I had to pay \$3,28, from Burnett to Berlin \$4,20, distance about 40 miles. This shows what monopoly can ventor of this hive, has adveob

On examining my bees, I found them all right but two. One had found a way out of the hive, the bees being nearly all gone; the other had the comb broken some on the bottom, which caused the honey to run and drowned about half the bees. I have transferred fourteen, I do not think the remainder have received any damage. I might find a queen missing. One hive must have weighed 70 lbs., but I have discovered no injury. The entire cost, with my expenses, were \$34,00.

Yours, truly,

J. D. KRUSCHKE.

Berlin, Wis.

[For the National Bee Journal. Report from Kansas.

Messrs. Editors :—As reports have been solicited from all parts of our country, I. will state the condition of my bees during the past winter and spring.

They wintered in the Hoosier hive, and although the winter has been very severe and the spring late, my bees came out all right. But the hive I had in use did not meet my wishes, and I changed them into the Western Queen. This hive is superior to anything I have seen, combining all that is useful for the busy bee; but as Mr. Stagg, of Topeka, the inventor of this hive, has advertised in the JOURNAL and given a cut of the same, I will not eulogize it further.

When I removed my bees to the Western Queen, I found the two outside frames full of honey, and all the frames containing more or less, showing that wintering bees in the open air in this vicinity, (even when winter wheat is killed, and rye has suffered materially,) is a How much honey success. might have been saved if they had been wintered in a cellar, is more than I can determine, but as it was they came out with about twenty pounds a

Berlin, Wis.

stand. They are now at work from daylight until dark.

Drone bees began to fly last year May 6th, and swarms came out before this date. But no drones have made their appearance so far this spring.

I am fifteen miles from any person keeping bees, and yet I notice that my bees are not as large as they were last year, nor does the distinguishing features of the Italian show itself so marked, and the bees are darker in color; but I have sent to N. C. Mitchell for a queen, which I hope to receive in time to correct any deterioration that may have taken place in my industrious and friendly pets.

Truly yours, S. J. WILLES. Skiddy, Kansas, May 29, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal. Reply and Question.

Messrs. Editors: — In the JOURNAL for June 1st, Mr. N. C. Mitchell gives directions for getting from five hundred to one thousand pounds of honey from each colony, and says: "By the middle of April be ready to gather honey from the first flowers that open," which here in Illinois is a great deal later than the middle of April. I transferred six swarms between the 27th of May and the 7th of June, and the honey

from the six did not average five pounds each, with but little new honey. So you see we would be a good deal behind if we tried to beat Brothers Gallup and Hosmer.

Our main dependence for honey is "white clover" and "hearts-ease."

Next Mr. Mitchell pitches into the upward-ventilation chaps without reserve. Last fall I thought as you do, Mr. M., but now I am like a side-hill plow, flopped over "tother" way. I had come to believe that bees did not need upward ventilation in winter, so I left mine on their summer stands corked up tight at the top and open at the bottom. In mid-winter I found my hives were filled with ice and water, combs and all. One swarm we took into the house, until the ice melted and run out, took out one of the side frames, spread the rest apart in the middle, filled the caps with cobs, and had no more trouble with ice. I treated the rest in the same waytaking off the honey boards and filling the caps with cobs, and now I have some of the strongest stocks in the place.

So, friend M., you will have to roll up your sleeves, get out a warrant, and have me arrested and brought to trial, for not believing in your theory. I want no upward ventilation in summer, however.

I would like to say to V. Aker, that if he is ever traveling in this part of the Union, to stop over one day, and we will show him movable comb hives which had new swarms put into them, and allowed to build their own comb, whose frames can be taken out with ease in three minutes time by the watch, and without any cutting, either.

I should think it was "tunder and blitzen." Why, Mr. "Sookoff," you have children enough to scare any sensible swarm out of their senses.

I would like to ask Mr. Hester a question. Do you let your hives stand where they are, all summer, after you have divided them, or do you move one of them to a new place?

In transferring my bees, after the bees are shaken into the new hive, they go to fighting among themselves, and sometimes kill a half pint of bees before they stop. They fight the worst on the same day they are transferred. Can some bee keeper tell the reason of it?

Fraternally yours,

W. M. KELLOGG.

WEIGHT OF BEES.—It will take about 5,600 bees to weigh one pound when not filled with honey, about 3,600 when filled with honey.

[For the National Bee Journal. Reply to E. H. Barber.

On page 296, June No. of the JOURNAL, friend Barber goes for me like a duck for a June bug.

I am very sorry that he (Mr. Barber) so construed the meaning of my article in the April No. to cause him to write in the spirit he has.

He says that I make a wholesale condemnation of the movable comb bee hive. In this he is greatly mistaken. And I think if he reads my article over carefully, he will see that I make no such assertions whatever. I have always used the movable comb hive, and would about as soon put a swarm of bees into one of those clap trap arrangements commonly called a "Patent Bee Hive," as a box hive or gum. There is very many good hives-perhaps they may be numbered by scoresand no doubt friend Barber's is one of that number. I have no reason to think or believe otherwise. But when I spoke of the "Triumph" I didn't think I was engaged in that low-down. miserable, unprincipled system of advertising the famous "Triumph" hive, no indeed. I have used a hive somewhat similar to the King hive for three years, being nearly two years before I had heard of the "Triumph"consequently I could speak with some degree of certainty about it. The hive that I use

has been before the public for some time.

And as to a perfect right to "squeal," it is about time bee keepers should "squeal" out against the impositions of unprincipled patent bee hive venders. As this one thing alone has caused Apiculture to "lag" in the rear of all other branches of rural affairs, I have nothing to say against a hive, PATENTED or not, that has been invented by a practical bee keeperwould not so much as throw a straw in the way, that would prevent the inventor from successfully introducing his hive. CONSISTENCY is a jewel that should sparkle from the point of more than one pen, and there should flow from that precious GEM more of that nobler nature of man-that which should characterize the life and the writings of every man or woman, and especially bee keepers. While I have a conscience void of offense towards my fellow bee-keepers, I do think that we should give every one an unbiased hearing, and not let anything arouse that latent enmity and jealousy of our hearts. This has been the case too often. It grieves me to see the spirit manifested by some writers of our bee journals. Not being satisfied with their "bee characters," some have gone so far as to strike at the very foundation of man's "All," his character, and sink the sting of hatred

deep into their unlucky victim. Yours in sincerity and in charity,

GEO. W. BARCLAY.

Tipton, Iowa.

[For the National Bee Journal. An Answer.

Messrs. Editors :- We are highly pleased with Brother Theo. R. Luff, of Castine, Darke Co., Ohio, for his communication, only to a few terms he uses. We would reply, not all the girls and boys of Starke Co., have Webster's Unabridged Dictionary to resort to. Neither have they time to go back to the Fatherland to ascertain the definition of latin terms. If he could just give us his ideas in plain English, it would probably not cost him quite so much trouble as it does the thousands who read the JOURNAL. Try it Brother.

J. & J. F. Mock. Louisville, Starke Co., O

Artificial Swarming.

Artificial swarming is the best way to propagate bees to insure a profitable increase. Those who resort to natural swarming are often vexed, that their bees do not swarm, losing time in watching them, sometimes for weeks, and then a chance only when they do swarm whether they are content to light and be hived, or leave for parts unknown, oftimes delaying swarming until the honey harvest is over, and then fail to gather honey enough to survive the next winter. For those who wish to propagate bees, to insure a steady increase, may find some valuable information in the following suggestions:

1. Never make an artificial swarm until the colony is strong enough for two swarms.

2. We must always approach natural swarming as nearly as possible, by making when honey is plenty.

OPERATION.- Select a strong stock, move it away from its old stand some six feet or more, then place an empty hive where it stood. Open the old stock and take from it two frames containing brood, bees, honey, and the old queen; place them in the new hive with one empty frame between them and the wall of the hive. Fill up the empty space in both hives with frames, (filled with empty combs if you have it) and all is well. There are many different ways to make artificial swarms, but the above is among the best.

COMB -There are two kinds of comb required in a hive, worker and drone, the former small and the latter large cells. It takes a great deal of time and expense to construct it. There is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds in a common hive, which is made of honey. on the same principle that if we feed hogs corn, a certain portion of it will produce oil or fat, the same with the bees when gorged with honey for a certain length of time, a portion of it will secrete into wax, which extends / from them in the form of small white scales, (extends from wax pouches on the abdomen) which they use in constructing comb.

It is universally considered that it will require 20 pounds of honey to make one pound of comb; if so it will require 50 pounds of honey to furnish one hive with comb, and honey at 25 cts. per pound would be \$12 50.

From this true statement, dear readers, we may judge whether it would not be prudent to save, and buy all the nice worker comb we can get, and fill our empty hives with it instead of rendering it into wax, and selling it at 30 cents per pound, the usual price when it is worth \$5.00 per pound to save it for the bees. No wonder the honey extractor is coming into general use by those who know the value of comb.

Bee Keepers' Meeting.

A special meeting of the Bee Keepers' Association, of Central Illinois, was held at Hudson, McLean county, May 24th, 1872.

MORNING SESSION

called to order by Vice-President J. V. Brooks, of Lexington.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On mo ion, Messrs. J. L. Wolcott, Charles McGrew and A. Ogsbury were appointed a committee to prepare subjects for disscussion. While the committee were absent the following questions were answered :

1st. How to get rid of fertile workers.

2d. How to successfully introduce a queen.

J. V. Brooks replied as follows: To get rid of fertile workers, take two frames containing brood, with adhering bees, place them in the center of the hive containing the fertile workers.

To introduce a queen with success, put the queen with a few of her own workers, into a small wire cage, having the opening at one end stopped with wax; suspend the cage in the center of the hive; if the bees fail to release the queen within forty-eight hours, assist her by reducing the quantity of wax at the end of the cage.

Upon invitation, a number of those present, signed the constitution and became members of the Association.

The committee on subjects, then presented the following subjects for discussion:

1st. Hives, and summer management of bees.

2d. Are Italians preferable to black bees?

3d. Are honey extractors beneficial?

4th. The best mode of uniting bees.

Mr. Brooks then opened the discussion on hives, by recommending the movable comb hive, as the only hive that should be used, the preference being given to the hive in which the bees could be handled with the greatest ease and profit.

Mr. McGrew agreed with Mr. Brooks on the movable comb hive, even though the bees should build their combs crosswise the frames. Combs should be changed once in two or three years. He then exhibited a model of his hive, and spoke at length on its merits.

Mr. Benton, of Michigan, said the larger the colony, the more profitable will they be; they need protection as well as cattle, &c. He has a hive claimed to be proof against moth and insects, from the fact that it is used suspended by a bail or handle to the limb of a tree or other suitable place, with open bottom.

E. A. Gastman, of Decatur, did not believe that the moth does the bee any injury, as when the moth is formed the damage is done; it is the caterpillar that does the harm.

Mr. Benton said that the moth would eat through the combs and spin their webs, and thus injure the combs and bee.

J. V. Brooks said the moth works not among the old bees and honey. but among the brood and young bees. thus working destruction to the colony. Strong colonies are safe against the ravages of the moth. Bees should he handled only when necessary, and when the temperature of the air is warm. If some colonies have more stores than needed, divide with the needy ones, or feed them with sugar syrup. Take off boxes as soon as the bees cease working in them, thus preventing the soiling of the comb. Put on boxes soon as the honey season commences.

Dr. J. Johnson, of Hudson, thinks there is a difference of opinion with reference to the moth attacking the bee and the bee attacking the moth.

Mr. Wolcott said that bees will attack the moth; also recommended salt for the destruction of ants, and that bees have a supply of water.

Mr. Gastman has seen the bee attack the moth and earry it off from the hive.

Mr. Ogsbury said bees will cut out comb containing moth; also attack the moth worm.

J. W. Gladding, of Normal, was asked to explain the merits of his round honey-box, but not having a model, distributed his circulars among those present.

Adjourned to meet at two o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2d Topic.—Are Italians preferable to common bees?

Mr. Gastman thinks them better; they gather honey when the black bees will not, and are more prolific.

Mr. Ogsbury's experience is that the Italians are far superior to the black bees. Mr. Brooks said that some years the Italian will work on the second crop of red clover.

Dr. Johnson said that his theory was that the Italian bee would eventually run out.

Mr. Brooks' views were far different from that of the Doctor. He thought the old-fashioned bee would have to get the stripes upon his back or leave the country.

3d Topic. — Are honey extractors beneficial?

Mr. Wolcott would not be without them; they are beneficial.

Mr. Sawyer—The honey extractor needs no defense; it speaks for itself in the saving of comb and honey, and is of great advantage to bee-keepers.

The Atkinson & Barber extractor was exhibited by Mr. Wolcott, of Bloomington; the Peabody extractor by Mr. Sawyer, of Normal.

Mr. Brooks has used the honeyextractor with entire satisfaction, yielding him a profit of at least 100 per cent. in honey, and nearly all the combs, which is a great economy, as it takes about twenty pounds of honey to make one pound of wax.

4th Topic. — The best manner of wintering bees.

Mr. Wolcott commenced the winter with one hundred and forty five colonies; kept the most of them upon their summer stands; lost but three colonies; would recommend wintering upon the summer stands, with proper protection.

E. A. Gastman, at the beginning of winter had thirty eight colonies; has now not to exceed ten colonies, but less in proportion among those wintered on their summer stands.

J. V. Brooks reports a loss of seven out of forty colonies wintered in a bee house; disease, in part, dysentery; is at a loss to explain the cause of the great loss among bees this win ter; found sour honey in the capped cells.

Mr. Sawyer, of Normal, reports a loss of about fifty out of about seventy colonies; can not tell the cause.

A number of others made reports of about the same average loss.

5th Topic.— General remarks on bee culture.

It is necessary to put bees in the spring on the same stand they occupied the previous year. No danger in moving bees one-half mile or more, this season of the year. Artificial better than natural swarms in some cases. Strong colonies needed for surplus honey. Cleanse old, unclean combs by exposing them to the fumes of burning sulphur.

The following resolution was then adopted :

Resolved, That this Association return their thanks to all the papers which have published the notice of this meeting. Also to the citizens of Hudson for their kindness and hospitality, and giving the use of their school house for the use of this Association.

On motion the convention adjourned to meet at Lexington, McLean county, on the 18th of July, at 9 a. m. Ladies are particularly invited to attend. J. ANSLEY, Sec'y.

J. W. GLADDING, Cor. Sec'y.

What Drones Do.

In the Rural New-Yorker of Nov. 18th, I notice the inquiry by P. V. C, of Lebanon, Pa., as to "how long after honey is deposited in the comb by the bees is it best to extract it with the mel-extractor?" He says: "I ask this question because new honey that I extracted a few days after it was deposited, and canned, became sour.

tery; is at a loss to explain the cause

When first extracted, it was thin and almost flavorless," etc. Now the answer to the direct question asked by P. V. C. is—Leave it until the bees have capped over the honey cells. But back of this is the often asked question; How is the thin, watery honey, as gathered by the bee, reduced to good solid honey? which, so far as my reading extends, still remains unanswered. I propose, therefore, very briefly to say just how this is done.

It is, strange as it may seem, done by that ladies' man, thet reputed gentleman loafer, the drone bee. I had kept bees a long time before I found this out, and had been quite at a loss to see in this industrious family how such laziness was tolerated in a portion of its members. But I now see that this portion of the colony is as important in the general economy of the bee as any other portion of the household-and will venture to lay down this general proposition :- That in the absence of the drone bee, a good, solid article of honey cannot be made. Although it may seem to detract something from this gentleman bee's credit, when I tell you he does it simply to gratify his appetite; still for truth's sake, it must be said that he cannot live and prosper on a good. finished article of honey, but that his nature is such as to require that thin portion of the honey always at the surface when the cells are filling. He seems never to touch the patton or bee bread.

Having thus stated my position, you will, of course, ask my evidence. I shall, in the first place, introduce the economy of the honey bee. In this locality, from the first to the middle of June may be reckoned the commencement of the season for laying

in honey by the colony, for anything more than immediate use; and right in here the drone brood is matured and brought out. From about the middle of August to the middle of September, the honey-gathering season being over, the drones are brought out and executed by the worker bees, the business of the drone for the season being accomplished. It is also frequently the case when you have a cold, wet June, and no honey is being collected, that the drones that are hatched at that time are all killed, there being no use for them.-Ex.

[For the National Bee Journal. Bee-keeping in Arkansas.

Messrs. Editors:-Last fall, I think about the first of October, I wrote to you and related my summer experience in bee-keeping. I had com menced in May, with seven colonies, and divided them until I made up eleven colonies. At the time of writing, however, I found them reduced back to the original number.

I will now give you my winter experience, as I was a little discouraged in the fall. I had a talk with a friend whose residence was some seven miles out in the country, who said he knew all about keeping bees. He advised me to send my seven colonies out to him to winter. I did so with pleasure, as I wanted to get the benefit of his experience.

About the first of March I concluded to look after the bees. I found two hives entirely empty, and two more in bad condition. I therefore concluded to have them brought back home again. Upon examination on their return, I found one colony all dead in the hive. There was a great many bees, some in the comb, some on the outside of the comb, and some

at the bottom of the hive. This left me with only four colonies, two of them in good order, and two in bad order. I now put the last two together, reducing them to three colonies, and commenced feeding them wity a sirup made of honey and sugar, with which I put a little salt and cream of tartar. They now appear to be in good condition. Two colonies are working hard.

Some days ago I bought two colonies from the country. They are in the old common box hive. I now have five colonies, and shall try to *educate* myself by *handling* that number for the present. We are using the Buckeye Hive, patented by N. C. Mitchell, Esq., and sold here by a Mr. Barnes, of Topeka, Kansas.

Col. W. S. Oliver, of the firm of Oliver & Hussey, in the bee business here, who have the State agency for the Buckeye Hive, informs me that they lost 15 colonies out of 34. He thinks they were starved to death, as there was no honey in the boxes when he ascertained their condition, and he immediately commenced to feed with honey what they had left. I have not heard of any loss in the country where the old box hive or gum is There is in use here now the used. Buckeye Hive, the Champion, and the Hoosier, (the Hoosier is used by a Mr. Blackburn, near this city, and appears to be a good hive.) I have a sample of the Western Queen, patented by Mr. Staggs, of Topeka, Kansas, and like it very much, but have not seen it in use yet.

I propose to give the bee business a little attention, and will write whenever I think I have anything of interest to the JOURNAL.

Respectfully yours,

WM. H. FULTON. Little Rock, Ark., April 22, 1872.

OUR SCRAP BASKET.

An Explanation.

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The several changes to which the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL has been subjected during the last year, and the annoyance which must have necessarily resulted therefrom to our many readers, have, we can assure them, come to a successful solution.

We do not want to here sum up what has happened during the past twelve months, as these events are still fresh in the memories of our readers, but intend to give our patrons an idea of the present condition and future of the JOURNAL.

In beginning our remarks, we can not omit to mention. that it was not the intention of the present proprietors of the JOURNAL to ever become such, but merely wished, by their aid, to sustain a publication which they knew would add materially in explaining apiculture to the novice; in throwing light upon questions that have not yet been satisfactorily solved; in exchanging ideas as to the best and most profitable mode of bee culture; in teach. ing everybody who will take an interest in cultivating the honey bee, how to get at it, and do it advantageously, etc.; and thereby lend a helping hand in bringing the apiary to a deserved standpoint in this country.

in teni the drone brood is matered

These and no other reasons induced our senior proprietor. Mr. WM. A. SCHOFIELD, to come to the rescue, when assistance was most needed, and it was no speculative motive that induced him to associate himself with the publication of the JOURNAL. Shortly after Mr. Schofield became connected with this paper, he arrived at the conclusion that still further changes were necessary to make a successful continuation of the Jour-NAL possible, and acting accordingly, the present company for publishing it was formed.

The JOURNAL, by its last change of firm, has surmounted all pecuniary troubles, and its proprietors represent as much capital as any paper of its kind in the United States, and also count men among its members and contributors, that stand second to none as practical apiculturists, but the lack of a person that had experience as a publisher, made itself sore'y felt, and had to be overcome, and has been satisfactorily solved.

We are now able to publish regularly, and give such attention to all demands and information asked of us, as any firstclass journal in the country is able to do.

For the many favorable and encouraging letters which we continually receive from our friends, we are under lasting obligations, and will do our utmost to make the JOURNAL still more worthy of the high appreciation therein expressed.

One of our correspodents tells us, that "he would rather live without his tea, his favorite beverage, for one year, than to go without the JOURNAL;" another, that "he would rather loose his dinner, than to miss one article in our paper," &c.

In this connection, we can not omit to express to our brethren of the Indianapolis press, our gratitude for the flattering notices bestowed upon us, as also to the following papers from abroad that have come to our notice: Lady's Own Magazine, Ohio Farmer, Our Own Fireside, Hearth and Home, Rural World and Western Rural, Our Home Journal, Commonwealth, and others.

In conclusion, we would ask our friends and readers to lend us a helping hand in the future, as they have so magnanimously in the past, to make the Jour-NAL instructive, interesting, and entertaining, and also to extend its usefulness by helping to enlarge its already extensive circulation.

With the assurance that our friends will leave nothing undone to help us in the accomplishment of our plans, we are sure that the JOURNAL, under its present excellent management, will become the leading journals of its kind in America.

BEING frequently in receipt of letters asking for information about engagements made with the former proprietors of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL. we take this method of informing all concerned, that when we took charge of the paper, we did not agree to fulfill any contracts except to those who had sent the \$3,12 for the JOURNAL for the present year, and an Italian queen, and that contract was closed, as we published. on Feb. 15, 1872.

TO EVERY NEW SUBSCRIBER who will send us Three Dollars and Fifty Cents, we will send the JOURNAL the remainder of the volume for 1872, and one pure Italian queen bee. As this is the time to procure queens, persons desiring to take advantage of the above liberal offer, should send in the amount at once, and we will, on receipt. place them on our subscription list and send the Italian queen. of which we have now any number desired, on hand.

The Premium Queens.

Contrary to our expectations expressed in our last issue, the favorable weather enabled us to send the "premium Italian queens" to such of our subscribers as were entitled to them in June instead of July. To enable the recipients to release the little pets out of their "boxed up" condition as soon as possible, we notified the interested parties a day in advance of the shipment by letter. As we are rather anxious to know whether the precious freight arrived in time, safely and in good condition, we expressed the wish that the receiving parties should notify us of the arrival at once, which request, we hope, will be complied with in every instance.

A WORD TO ALL THOSE ENTITLED TO "PREMIUM QUEEN BEES."-We are compelled to ask those of our subscribers who are entitled to "premium queen bees," and have not yet received them, to send in their names and post office address. Our object for doing this is simply the following: During Mr. A. F. Moon's administration a great many entries were made on our books only giving the name of persons, and omitting the balance of the address. So please send in your full address, and we will ship your queen immediately.

BEES are doing very well in this locality. Now is the time to divide stocks, if you have not already done so. They are increasing very fast with us, and gathering honey rapidly. Send in your reports from all parts of the country. We have had eleven good stocks of bees from two very weak ones. We think that is doing very well.

National Bee Keepers' Convention.

The following letter from Mr. D. L. Adair, will explain the position this gentleman has taken on the committee for printing the proceedings of the Cleveland Convention:

Messrs. Editors: — There is much dissatisfaction among the members of the North American Bee Keepers Society, on account of the delay in publishing the report of proceedings at Cleveland.

I am not an officer of the Society, but was employed by them to report the proceedings, and was appointed one of the publishing committee. I made out the report promptly, and spent some time in trying to get from the former Secretary, Mr. Baldridge, and from other sources a report of the Indianapolis Convention, in which I failed. It was then agreed by the committee to go to press without it, and the report was sent to Mr. N. C. Mitchell,

Treasurer of the Society, and one of the committee of publication, to have it printed at Indianapolis.

Mr. Mitchell has failed to give me any information about it since, although I have written him several times. I know nothing farther about it. Mr. Mitchell may be able to explain the delay.

Please insert this for the information of those interested.

Yours, truly,

D. L. Adair.

Hawesville, Hancock Co., Ky.

-We presume that on Mr. Mitchell's return to this city he will be able to give a satisfactory explanation. Mr. M. has not been at home since the copy of the proceedings has been received. ED.

THERE has been placed upon our table a copy of George P. Rowell & Co.'s Newspaper Directory and Advertiser, a very handsome and well gotten up book of nearly 700 papes. We can say, from a hasty review of the same, that it should be in the hands of every one that desires to be well posted in the publishing department.

FOR SALE.—Schofied & Co. offer for sale pure Italian Queens for half price. See our premium rates. Full stocks of Italian bees in the Queen hive with right to use and manufacture the same for your own use, for twenty dollars per colony. Our friends would confer a special favor upon us if they would inform us how the honey season is progressing, and with what result, in the different parts of the United States. If you have not time to write lengthy articles, make a condensed report, but let the readers of the JOURNAL know with what success you are operating.

REMOVAL.—The Special Agency for the Lists of Co-operative Newspapers has been removed to No. 13 Park Row, (Printing Office of the New York Newspaper Union), where files of newspapers may be examined, and contracts made for advertising in either or all of the lists. E. W. FOSTER, Special Agent, No. 13 Park Row, New York.

THE El Paso Ranchman, a monthly Journal devoted to the general interests of southern Colorado; W. F. Long & Co., publishers, at Fountain, Colorado, vol. 1, No. 5, which lays before us as an exchange, is a nice little sheet, well adapted to the country. It gives a general description of the country. All who are interested in that locality would do well to subscribe. Only \$1.50 per annum.

SEE our Premium List, inside cover.

Questions and Answers.

Answer to J. F. M: If you will expose your mouldy comb to a good drenching during a rain storm, it will remove all the mould and leave the comb nearly as good as new. If there is water left in the cells throw it out with the extractor. But say you, I have no extractor; then by all means get one, if you have to sell a cow to get the money to pay for it. E. H. B.

Question—Do bees gather both polen and honey from the same flower?

Answer—Yes, in a few cases ; the tulip poplar for one.

Question—How late in the season will it be safe to transfer bees, comb and all?

Answer—All the year, if you will comply with these requirements: The hive must be kept warm enough for the bees to work in all parts of it. They must be provided with plenty of honey or good sirup.

Question — Who ever saw a horizontal queen cell?

Answer—J. Copeland says he has.

TOADS are the best friends the farmer has, as they destroy thousands upon thousands of obnoxious insects. Why then kill them for eating a few bees? In our opinion, there is enough room in this fair world of ours for toads "and sich" to dwell, Bee-keepers; take our advice and allow the toads to live.

BEE men would get along much better if they would at. tend to their own bees and let other people's alone. Let it be known that a bee man is in any neighborhood, and forthwith Tom, Dick, Harry and Matilda Jane will be teasing him to overhaul their bees. If he should go through their bees for them, they generally keep out of the way for fear of get. ting stung, and consequently learn nothing; and if anything should go wrong he would be blamed.

Surplus Honey Box.

After ten years of practical experience with the Sectional Honey Box, I feel fully warranted in recommending it to the bee keeping public ashaving no superior.

Bees will store the beer keeping public ashaving no superior. Bees will store thirty per cent. more honey, which will sell thirty per cent. higher in market than in the common six pound box. It is better adapted for the use of the honeyslinger than the movable comb frame. It is made to dovetail together, without the use of nails or screws. A child can put them together rapidly.

Illustrated circular sent on application. Sample fifteen pound box sent by express for thirty-five ceats, three for one dollar.

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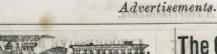
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PROGRESSIVE BEE CULTURE. A little book that reveals much that is new, and places the bee in a ration light. It developes a perfect system, reducing the multiform and crude theories of the laws of apine instinct to consistency. The following paragram headings will give some idea of the character of the work: 1. Bee keeping 20 years ago. 2. And now. 3. 500 or 700 pound colonies. 4. 1,000 pounds in pros-pect. 5. Why not all? 6. How to do it. 7. Bees devoid of reason. 8. Educating bees. 9. Design. 10. ing paragram headings will give do it. 7. Bees devoid of reason. 5. Educating bees. 9. Design. 10. Immutable laws. 11. The Queen not a Queen. 12. Eggs. 13. Drones an abmormity. 14. Cause of the production of drones and queens. 15. Laying workers. 16. A plebi-scete. 17. Why workers lay eggs. 18. Parthenogenesis and organic reproduction. 19. All eggs are buds. 20. Vegetable reproduction. 21. A normal colony. 22. A fact. 23. Another fact. 24. Perfection not yet. 25. Workers in classes. 26. A perfect colony. 27. A natural swarm. 28. A living hive. 29. How they start. 30. How they progress. 31. Honey storing. 32. The brood nest. 33. Honey-dome. 34. Brood-nest limited. 35. Comb-building unlim-ited. 36. All worker comb. 37. Bee bread. 38. The queen on her cir-cuit. 39. Eggs and larvæ. 40. Waxworkers. 41. Comb builders. 42. Honey gatherers, and old age. 43. Bee life. 44. Want of room. 45. The hornet's nest, an analogue. 46. More room. 47. Breaking the crust. 48. Cracks and holes. 49. The full hive. 50. In the honey boxes and "hanging out." 51, An independent cluster. 52. The unity broken up. 53. More room. 54. When to give room. 55. A hive ten inches deep. 56. A hive three feet deep. 57. Queens on the bottom of the comb. 58. Brood crowded out by honey. 59. The remedy. 61. Loss by swarming. 62. Why attempts to control swarming fail. 63. The Melextractor over-rated. 64. Drones again. 65. Spaces between and around frames objectionable. 66. Empiricism in bee culture. 67. A falacy. 68. Experiments and results. Now in press. Price, by mail, 20 cents. The third volume of "Annals

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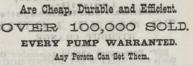
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THE THOMAS PATENT BEE HIVE

Patented February 2, 1867.

This Hive, wherever it has been tried and fully tested by the most practical Aparians in the United States and Canadas, has given as great satisfaction as any hive ever introduced in America.

This Hive was exhibited at the Michigan State Fair for the years 1867 and 1868, and coming into competition with several of the leading hives now in use, was awarded the first prize over all others. The committee was unanimous in giving this hive the preference, as being the best for all bee men. The hive is made cheap and durable. It was awarded the first prize at the Provincial Fair in Canada; it has also received the first prize at every county fair in Michigan where exhibited.

The Hive is a non-swarmer. If a person wishes, artificial swarming is rendered very easy. The hive has a movable bottom-board, on an inclined plane to the front, making it easy for the bees to carry out all rubbish. The entrance can be enlarged or contracted at will; it being a sure thing to prevent robbing in spring and fall. The frames are held firmly to their place, and can be taken out with ease.

The Hive is of proper size; about twelve to sixteen inches in the clear. This depth, for wintering, is about as near the standard as it can be. For surplus honey it is not excelled by any. It has four honey boxes, containing about seven pounds each; they are so arranged that the apiarian can let in a part or all of the bees.

The boxes have a cap over them, a slanting roof, which will carry off all storms. It is a hive and house of itself, and is an ornament to any yard.

I have yet the following States for sale: New York, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and four southern counties in Michigan. All of which I offer for sale at reasonable terms.

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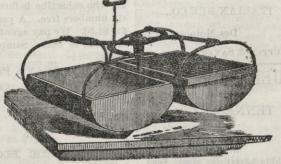


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One stock of Italians, with

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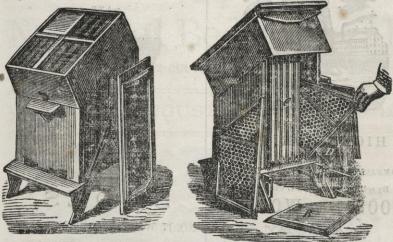
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QUEEN BEE HIVE.

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The Queen Bee Hive still retains its former advantages of ease of access to the brood frames, without having to remove the cover, honey boxes, or surplus frames or honey-board; the brood frames being removed from the back of hives without in the least injuring the combs, or disturbing the working of the bees.

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