

BEES AND POULTRY.**STARTING AN APIARY.**

Spring is undoubtedly the best time to start an apiary. The danger of loss in wintering is past, and bees have little brood and honey, so that they can be moved easily and safely. A person unacquainted with bees should beware of purchasing "a pig in a poke," as every hive containing comb and bees may not be a perfect colony. We may infer that a colony is all right if during the early spring months the hive is full of bees, as such a colony must contain a young, vigorous queen. It is a poor policy for a beginner to purchase black bees in boxes and gums, intending to transfer and Italianize. Such work as this barely pays in the skilful hands of veterans, and had better not be undertaken by novices. A better plan would be to select the hive of a desired pattern for the whole apiary, as the profit and pleasure derived from it consists, in a large degree, in having every part of each hive exactly alike. The life of many a colony of bees is saved by giving it a frame of brood or honey from a more prosperous one, and this could not be done if the frames and hives were not alike. If a person is not able to secure a strong colony in the hive preferred, then a new hive of the desired pattern might be taken to a bee-keeper, and a first swarm put into it.

Bee-keeping is a science, and not acquired in one day, by talking with a person "who knows all about bees." Therefore, to insure success, commence slowly with not more than two swarms, and let your knowledge increase with like ratio as your bees. If you can make money with these, it will be safe for you to invest in more. It is absurd to suppose that a person who knows nothing about bees except that they sting and make honey, could manage a large apiary successfully.

We once knew a man who embarked in the bee business with a brass band and colours flying. He had "struck it rich;" he was going to glut the market with honey. He started an apiary by buying a large number of bees of an apiarist who was emigrating west. Fortunately it was in the spring, and the bees went bravely to work for their new master, and stored a large amount of surplus. In the fall he bragged that he had got all his money back, and had his bees and hives to boot. It was lucky for him that he got it back the first season, for the next one found every corner in his yard piled full of deserted hives. Like the ex-organ-grinder, "The monkey had died, and so he gave up the business."—*Prairie Farmer*.

SITTING HENS.

When broody—that is, wishing to set—hens go about clucking for several days, sit longer and longer on the nest after laying, cease laying finally, and do not leave the nest. If a sitting hen is not required, remove her at once to a fresh run and new companions. Shut her out for a few days where no nests may tempt her. If, on the other hand, she is required to incubate, encourage her by false eggs in the nest, and partially protect the entrance to the nest from other prying hens. All Asiatics are much given to sitting, and

Dorkings and Silkies are good mothers. No hen even crossed with Spanish, Leghorn, Hamburg, or Polish blood will incubate satisfactorily. The broody hen should be fed once daily on sound grain, some grass or lettuce, and a treat of scraps; soft food now and again keeps her in better condition than an exclusively grain diet. On no account deprive the broody hen of her dust bath; and if your brood is valuable, take the trouble to dredge her under wings, legs, etc., with powdered sulphur.

LAW REGARDING SWARMS OF BEES.

A dispute as to the ownership of a swarm came recently before Mr. F. W. Woodthorpe, the judge of the Belper County Court, and it was contended that, being *feræ naturæ*, there could be no property in them, and that, therefore, the plaintiff, from whose land they had strayed to that of the defendant, could not demand their return or damages for their loss. It was proved, however, that the plaintiff followed the swarm on their departure from his own land, and had not lost sight of them until he saw them alight in the defendant's garden. On the strength of the following passage from Blackstone (vol. ii., p. 392)—"Bees are *feræ naturæ*, but when hived and reclaimed, a man may have a qualified property in them by the law of nature as well as by the civil law. Occupation—that is, hiving or including them—gives the property in bees; for, though a swarm lights upon my tree, I have no more property in them till I have hived them, than I have in birds which make their nests thereon; and therefore, if another hives them, he shall be their proprietor; but a swarm which flies from and out of my hive is mine as long as I can keep it in sight, and have power to pursue it, and in these circumstances no one else is entitled to take them—judgment was entered in favour of the plaintiff for the amount claimed as the value of his truant bees."—*Law Times*.

FOWL FEEDING.

Drive four stakes into the ground so as to leave them two feet above surface and six inches apart, and upon these nail two boards, so as to make a table large enough to permit the fowls a footing around a nail-keg in the centre, covered by a wide board, and weighed by a large flat stone. The keg may be filled with corn or cracked corn, and having three or four auger-holes near the bottom, it is self-feeding. What runs out is lodged upon the table; it is kept clean and dry, and secure from rats and other vermin. Given an accessible roosting-house and a running stream of water, what more can a well-ordered fowl or the largest poultry-keeper require?

SEX IN EGGS.

A correspondent of the *Journal of Horticulture* says in reference to this question:—"Last winter an old poultry-keeper told me he could distinguish sex in eggs. I laughed at him, and was none the less sceptical when he told me the following secret: Eggs with the air-bladder in the centre of the crown of the egg will produce cockerels; those with the bladder on one side will produce pullets. The old man was certain of this dogma, and

his poultry-yard so confirmed it, that I determined to make experiments upon it this year. I have done so, carefully registering the egg bladder vertical, or bladder on one side, rejecting every one which was not decidedly the one or the other, as in some it is very slightly out of the centre. The following is the result. The number of fifty-eight chickens were hatched; three are dead, and eleven are yet too young to decide upon their sex; of the remaining forty-four, every one has turned out true to the old man's theory. This, of course, may be an accidental coincidence, but I shall certainly try the experiment again."

CHARCOAL FOR FOWLS.

I find charcoal one of the best remedial agents for most intestinal diseases among both poultry and pigeons, and know that, by the use of this alone, many birds could be saved that are otherwise lost. To be able to give the sick birds a full benefit, I take a coop of convenient size, and having a floor, so as to be dry, cover the floor with small pieces of charcoal, and then, after having dosed the bird by forcing several small pieces down the throat, I shut it in this coop, and if there is any reason of a hope for a cure, I know of no better place to look for it. The charcoal is such a powerful disinfectant that there is no fear of a contagion, and gives the bird a better and purer atmosphere to breathe, and thus escapes one of their worst enemies—bad air.—*Poultry Monthly*.

THE bee's a model citizen—case, food,
Life, all is yielded to the public good;
No individual interests weigh a grain,
Where there are public interests to maintain;
As in old Rome, when all were for the State,
Rich helped the poor, and poor men loved the great.

STRAIGHT BREAST-BONES.

To avoid all possibility of trouble from curvature of the breast-bones, quite a number of Brahma and Cochins breeders now do away with the roosts altogether for their immature and growing young stock, and bed the birds down with straw, the same as is done with cattle, etc., and in some cases with ducks and geese. The young chicks soon get to understand how to use their low "roosts," and gather in on the straw every night as regularly and as orderly as do cattle or sheep. While this bedding-down is a good thing when properly managed, it must be removed and well aired each morning, and the house swept out. Just before roosting-time the straw is nicely spread in place as in for the accommodation of the birds, and the same thing is repeated daily while the birds use this method of sleeping, which they are generally compelled to do until they have become fully matured, and the breast-bones thoroughly hardened by age and maturity.

OVER-FEEDING FOWLS.

To maintain fowls in a really healthy state, appetite must be kept up, and it is good management to have the poultry in such a state that they will fly up to meet the poultryman and scramble for their food. Loss of appetite comes from unwise feeding or over-spiced feeding.