

## FARM GARDEN

## SPRING CARE OF BEES.

A Very Concise Article Which Gives Full Particulars.

Rev. E. T. Abbott, the editor of the Kansas Farmer apiculture department, writes: Bees need but little care in the winter, but as soon as spring opens they should have proper attention given them. It is expected to secure the best results the coming season. Every hive needs to be carefully examined, and all dirt and dead bees should be removed. Some bees are sure to die in the hive during the winter, and there will be a great accumulation of dirt on the bottom of every hive. If the dirt is left there it will furnish a breeding place for the moth miller. Before one is aware of it he will have hives with the combs filled with moth larvae instead of young bees.

If the bottom of the hive is movable, the process of cleaning up is a very simple one. All one has to do is to loosen the bottom and remove it, setting the hive on the lid until he is ready to put it in place again. After the bottom is removed all dead bees should be brushed off, and the bottom thoroughly cleaned by scraping off all dirt, propolis, etc., with an old knife or something of that kind. When the bottom has been replaced, then all of the combs should be removed, or a sufficient number of them to enable the operator to know the exact condition of the colony. The idea is to see that they have plenty of honey and a good queen. He can judge of the latter by the quantity of brood he finds in the hive.

The hives, however, should not be opened unless it is warm enough for the bees to fly, and then they should not be kept open any longer than is absolutely necessary to accomplish the work in hand. The young brood is very easily chilled, so that the warmer it can be kept during the spring months the better it will be for the colony. Another reason for not leaving the combs exposed any longer than is necessary is that the bees can be very easily started to robbing this time of year, when there is no honey to be gathered and they are anxious to get all they can in order to rear brood and build up the colony. If they once get started to robbing, they are almost sure to destroy some of the weak colonies before they can be stopped. All combs are to be put back into the hive in the same order in which they were before the hive was opened, for, if they are not, the brood nest may be spread out so that the bees cannot keep all of the brood warm, and the result will be that some of it will perish. As young bees are very valuable in the spring it is important that none of the brood be permitted to die from carelessness. All colonies found short of stores should be fed so that they may have plenty of food in the hive to carry them along safely to bloom. If there is not plenty of food in the hive to feed the young larvae, the queen will not lay many eggs; and as the value of a colony depends on the quantity of bees in the hive when the main honey flow begins, it is very important that they be kept rearing brood as fast as possible until that time arrives.

To return now to the cleaning-out process, I will say if the hives used have the bottoms nailed fast, a good way to proceed is as follows: Take an extra hive and remove all of the frames, and clean it out thoroughly. Then remove the first hive on which it is sitting from the stand on which it is sitting, and put the empty hive on the stand, placing the other hive by the side of it. Carefully transfer all of the frames in the hive containing the bees to the one upon the stand, being careful to replace them in the new hive in the same order in which they came out of the old. The operator will have an opportunity to examine the condition of the colony while making the transfer.

After the combs are all removed the bees remaining in the old hive can be gently jarred out in front of the new one, and then after thoroughly cleaning the hive from which you have taken the bees, it can be utilized for the next colony, and so on until all hives have been cleaned and the colonies carefully examined. By working in this way, one can overhaul a large number of colonies in a short space of time. Some may think this going to a good deal of trouble "just for a few bees," but I want to say that just a very little "trouble" makes all the difference between success and failure in bee culture.

Even if the season is a bad one, it will pay to look after them at the right time, as only those who do this get any honey during such seasons, when the honey is sure to bring a good price if placed on the market.

If any colonies have died during the winter, the combs should be all taken out and the dead bees brushed off from them, and then returned to the hive, which should be fastened up closely all around and set in a cool dark place away from the moth miller. It pays to look after these combs as they are valuable to have swarms on. They will save the swarms a great deal of time and labor and largely increase the quantity of surplus honey.

Let me say, in conclusion, that it is not a good idea to "fool" with your bees after you have given them the proper care. Some who are new at the business seem to think it is necessary to open the hives every day and examine the bees. This, in my opinion, is a great mistake.

If you must have a colony to "fool" with, select one for this purpose and let the others alone.

## A MILKING STOOL.

Boys can milk before they can hold a milk pail, and they can hold a milk pail before they can hold a milk pail. With stool illustrated herewith, the pail is self-supported. Cut a half circle in one end of the seat of the stool, nail in a piece of iron hoop to complete the

It is not hard work that wears out horses out before they have passed what should be half their period of usefulness, says the Mirror and Farmer, but poor care. You may have observed that race horses, barring accidents, are considered good when much past the time of life at which our farm horses are practically worn out. The race horse is worked hard but he has the best care intelligently and self-interest can give. The farmer seems to lose sight of self-interest too often in his treatment of his horses.

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## THE BABCOCK TESTER.

Simple Instructions for the Use of This Universal Dairy Article.

The American Agriculturist says: An entirely satisfactory working of the Babcock milk test can be expected, if in addition to the elaborate details which the originator of the method has already worked out, the following precautions are observed:

First—An acid having 1.83 specific gravity should be used with milk at 60° to 70° F. If the acid is stronger, cool the milk to a lower temperature. Some weaker acid can probably be made to work all right by warming the milk.

Second—When measuring the acid into the test bottles, hold the bottle at an angle that will cause the acid to follow the inside walls to the bottom of the bottle and then drop through the milk in the center of the bottle. If properly poured into the test bottle there will be a distinct layer of milk and acid with little or no black color between them.

Third—Thoroughly mix the milk and acid as soon as measured into the test bottle by mixing at once than by allowing the two liquids to stand unmixed in the bottle until enough tests have been measured out to fill the centrifuge.

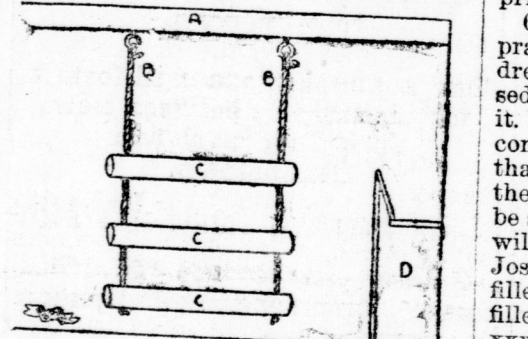
Fourth—After five minutes whirling of the test bottles in the centrifuge, add hot water until the test bottle is filled up to the neck only; run the centrifuge another minute. Adding the necessary hot water in two portions is often a great help in getting a clear separation of fat. When the test bottles are taken from the centrifuge they are put into water at 140° to 160° F., and the per cent. of fat read at that temperature.

Fifth—Too low results will be obtained if the centrifuge does not have sufficient speed. The machines have to be watched, as constant use wears some of them so that the speed designed by the manufacturer is not obtained.

Sixth—When testing skim milks or buttermilks which have a very small per cent. of fat—two-tenths of one per cent. or less—the reading of the per cent. of fat should be made immediately on taking the test bottle from the centrifuge. If this is not done, and the test bottle cools before taking the reading, the contraction of the liquid in the bottle will often leave the fat spread over the inside surface of the measuring tube so that it is not seen, but has the appearance of being only a dirty tube. If read when taken from the machine, the small fat globules can be seen and estimated.

## A Stall Partition.

Sometimes a farmer is short of stable room, or if he has plenty of room there are no stall partitions. With the device described below a box stall, shed or part of a barn floor can be utilized for stalls without danger of the horses kicking each other. Get three round poles eight or nine feet long and four or five inches in diameter. About eighteen inches from each end bore a hole large enough to allow a half-inch rope to pass through. String the poles on two ropes, tying a knot at the end of each side of each pole at the desired height so the poles will be parallel and about 14 feet apart. Suspend this



A STALL PARTITION.

between the horses from above by tying the rope to the joist. Staples can be lower pole about 20 inches from the floor. Two-inch boards or 6x8-inch joists will answer for the side rails. In the illustration, says the Orange Judd Farmer, presented herewith, a is the joist from which the partition is suspended; b, b the ropes; c, c, the poles, and d the manger.

## Rules in Dairying.

There are so many rules laid down for dairymen to follow, and so much conflict among them, that people who think they are behind the times if they do not work by some of the printed directions often think that the more they read the less they know. Such people should bear in mind that these directions are not given for those who already know how to do a thing and have a good way of their own. There are always new beginners and some who have been following the old way and are just looking about for something better. Such people can be helped very much by laying before them the various methods by which others have succeeded so that they can select the one best adapted to their means and circumstances.

What a person has learned to be good by experience or by watching a successful neighbor is as good a rule as if it had been read in a book or listened to in a lecture. No rule or method will do a thing for life or for a long series of years, for new ideas are coming up every year, and the more people read and talk and listen the easier they can keep up with the procession. The more we learn the more we see that we have not learned. One man makes butter that suits his customers and brings a good price by setting milk in shallow pans and using all ages in together; and he thinks there is no reason why he should change. But his success with what he saves is of no more importance than to save it all; and if by testing his buttermilk and his skim-milk he finds that he is losing 2 or 3 per cent. of his butter fat he will be looking about for a way to save it. Another may have used tests so that he knows there is no unnecessary waste in milk or cream, yet there may be some other small item that he has overlooked or not thought of. For these reasons it is well to read and listen but not feel that you must follow every change that is suggested unless it is shown to be an improvement.

## What Wears Horses.

It is not hard work that wears out horses out before they have passed what should be half their period of usefulness, says the Mirror and Farmer, but poor care. You may have observed that race horses, barring accidents, are considered good when much past the time of life at which our farm horses are practically worn out. The race horse is worked hard but he has the best care intelligently and self-interest can give. The farmer seems to lose sight of self-interest too often in his treatment of his horses.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON II, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, APRIL 8.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xxviii, 1-11. Memory Verses, 3, 4—Golden Text, Gen. xiv, 24—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

1. "And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger in the land of Canaan." The margin says, "In the land of his father's sojournings." God spoke of Abraham as a stranger in the land, and Abraham spoke of himself as a stranger and a sojourner (Gen. xlii, 8; xliii, 4). So also David in I Chron. xix, 15. Compare I Pet. ii, 11. If we are Christians, we are citizens of heaven (Phil. iii, 20, 21), but shall reign on the earth when the kingdom comes (Rev. v, 9, 10). The principal events in the intervening chapters since last lesson are the reconciliation with Esau, another appearance of God to Jacob and the death and burial of Isaac, Rachel and Deborah.

2. "These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being 17 years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren, and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report." This is the tenth time that we have met in this book the phrase, "These are the generations," and it is the last time. Joseph and Benjamin were the youngest sons of Jacob, and both were the children of his beloved Rachel, who died when Benjamin was born (chapter xxxv, 18, 19).

3. "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a coat of many colors." Of all the sons of Jacob the two most honored by Jehovah were Joseph and Judah, for from Judah came the Messiah, and the birthright was Joseph's (I Chron. v, 2). See in verses 24, 25, of our lesson chapter how great was Jacob's love to this son.

4. "And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him and could not speak peaceably unto him." Joseph was in many respects a wonderful type of God's well-beloved Son, Jesus, our Saviour. Observe him hated and separated from his brethren (Gen. xlii, 23, 26; Deut. xxxiii, 16), and think of Jesus hated without a cause (Ps. xxxv, 19; Luke x, 34). These brethren make us think of the elder brother in Luke xv, but the practical part is for us, if we ever hated without a cause, to think of Jesus and rejoice in the privilege of fellowship with him (I Pet. ii, 19, 21).

5. "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren, and they hated him yet the more." Joseph does not seem as yet to have known his brothers' hatred, and in the simplicity of his heart he told them his dream. We have already read of God coming to him in a dream (xx, 3; xxxi, 11, 24), and in Job xxxiii, 14, 15, we read that God speaks to men in dreams and visions, if by any means He may turn them from their pride, and the ruin to which it leads. 6. "And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed." It must have deeply impressed Joseph and made him anxious to tell it. When we have the sure word of God concerning all coming events, how is it that we are so little impressed by it, and therefore so slow to speak of it? It must be simply unbelief on our part, or else willful ignorance, for as surely as Joseph's dream were in due time fulfilled so shall every word of God be fulfilled. See Isa. xiv, 24; xvi, 9, 10; Ps. xxxiii, 10, 11.

7. "For behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and stood upright, and behold, your sheaves stood round about and made obeisance to my sheaf." The significance of the dream seems simple enough and the brethren evidently understood it, but it seemed very unlikely to be fulfilled. The sons of Jacob were doubtless familiar with the fact that God had spoken to their father and to Laban in a dream, and Joseph probably believed that God had now spoken to him.

8. "And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams and for his words." Their hatred did not affect the dream nor its fulfillment, but only themselves; neither has the hatred of the Jews to their brother Joseph affected the fulfillment of the sure word of God that He shall sit on David's throne and reign over the house of Jacob forever (Isa. ix, 7; Luke i, 32, 33), but it has seriously affected themselves and will until they bow before Him in true penitence (Zech. ix, 10; xlii, 1).

9. "And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more, and, behold, the sun, and the moon, and the 11 stars made obeisance to me." Here is the same revelation with an enlargement including father and mother. The dream being doubtful would prove that it was established by God, and that He would bring it to pass. When we read in Rev. xii the record of the woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars, I associate that vision with this dream and think that the man child of that chapter will prove to be a first fruits from Israel in the time of the great tribulation, which with all nations and both identified with Christ will form the complete man child to rule all nations.

10. "And he told it to his father and to his brethren, and his father rebuked him and said unto him: What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? His father saw the interpretation, and it went somewhat against the grain, but he lived to see it all fulfilled, and when he and his sons became thoroughly humbled before this same Joseph then it was well with them and they prospered. So shall it be with the Jews and Jesus. It is hard to humble, but all who walk in pride shall be made to come down (Dan. iv, 37; v, 20 margin). See also Isa. ii, 11, 17; Jas. iv, 10; I Pet. v, 6.

11. And his brethren envied him, but his father observed the saying, "Stephen said that, moved with envy, they sold him into Egypt (Acts vii, 9). Paul says, 'I love envy not' (I Cor. xiii, 4). In I Pet. ii, 1, we are told to lay envy aside. It was for his father to observe the saying, but had he believed it he might have found comfort when led to suppose that Joseph was dead. (See Dan. vii, 28; Luke ii, 51; Rom. ix, 20, 21.)

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

WIDOW.—A dies, and by his will his wife is to have a home on the property and 30 cords of wood a year if wanted. She has married and left the place, and receives all but the wood. Has she a right to the wood now? Ans.—Upon the facts stated, she would appear to be as well entitled to the wood as to her living. No proper opinion can be given, however, without consideration of the exact wording of the will. Better consult a lawyer.

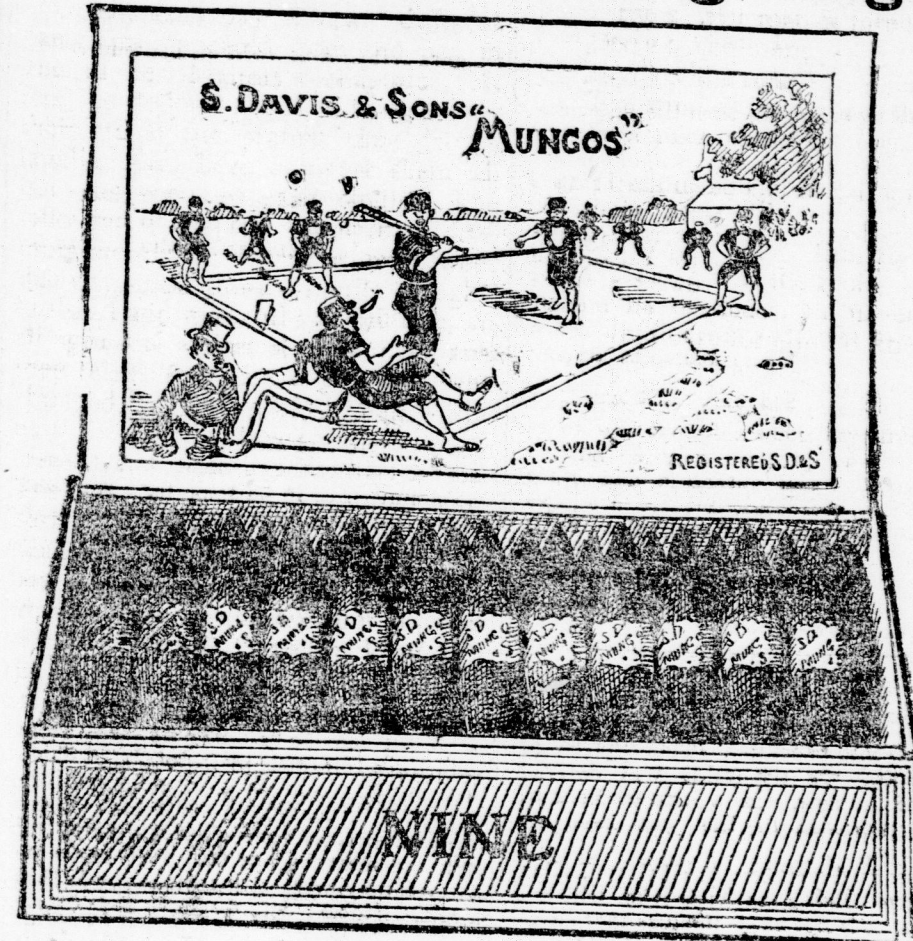
ORPHAN.—Can a boy who ran away from the home over four years ago be sent back? He has been shifted around from place to place ever since, and is nearly 14 years old and able to earn his own living. And if not, in what manner can I get papers to keep the boy, as he wishes to come and live with me? Ans.—If the boy is earning his own living he cannot be sent back to the home, the officials of which would not doubt legally apprentice him to you if application were made to them.

X. Y. Z., BRUSSELS.—B let a house to A, rent to be paid monthly in advance. A moved out on last day of February. Is A

liable for March rent, not having given legal notice? B sent, on 1st March, a threatening postcard demanding rent be settled at once to save further trouble. Is B liable, and what penalty? Ans.—A is, upon the facts stated, legally liable to pay the March rent if B does not take possession. The payment of rent in advance does not dispense with the legal notice unless it was specially agreed that it should. B has a legal right to demand his rent by postcard, and is not liable to any penalty.

UNION.—A hired to B as an apprentice for three years, subject to be terminated by either by giving due notice. A was to receive wages and such bench tools as B might see fit to supply. A continued with B one year, when it was found the verbal agreement was not binding for a further length of time. A then hired with B for the second year. At the close of three and a half months A desired to quit and offered notice, but B would not have notice and dismissed A on the spot. A's cause for notice was ill-usage. Can A collect his pay and claim his tools? Ans.—A is entitled to his wages for the time he worked, and also any tools which had been given to him before his dismissal. We assume that the facts can be proved to be as stated.

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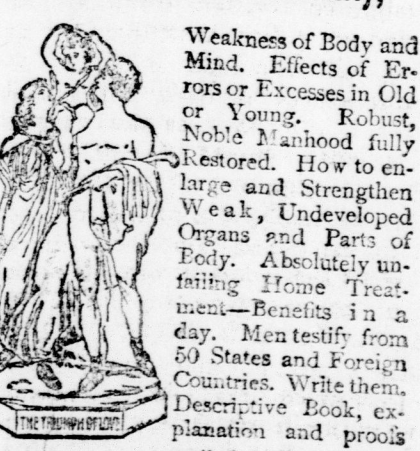
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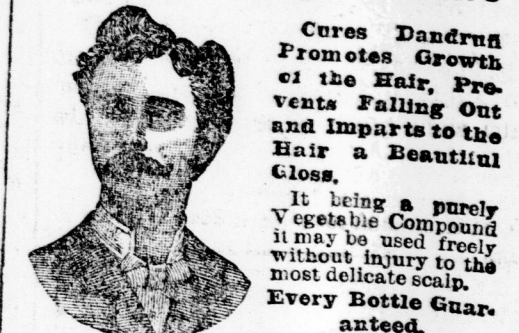
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