

authorities as to the value of bees as pollen distributors and in cross fertilization of blossom. Regarding the evil effect of untimely spraying, the editor says: "The practice of some unthinking farmers of spraying trees while in full bloom is considered by all horticultural schools and by the Government experimenters as useless, if not injurious to the bloom and harmful to the insects which are valuable assistants in making fruitful orchards." The Ohio Agricultural and Experimental station, Professor John Craig, of Iowa Agricultural College and Professor L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University are quoted in support of this, both of these gentlemen agreeing that the proper time to spray apples, pears and plums, is just before the blossoms open and again just as the last blossoms fall. We consider that the pamphlet is valuable and opportune.

BEGINNING IN BEE-KEEPING

We reproduce the following article from the pen of Harry Lathrop, Wisconsin, which appear in the Wisconsin Agriculturist, and recommend it to the consideration of our readers:

I advise those who have mastered some other branch of agriculture, and are doing well in it, not to take up bee keeping for the purpose of making money out of it; better invest more time and capital in the business you are already in than to take up something new. Of late I have become somewhat interested in sheep-farming, and thought strongly of starting in the business, as I have some land that is well adapted to sheep; but after more thought and

deliberation, have decided to enlarge my bee business instead, rather than to take up something in which I have had no experience, although I am satisfied there is more money in sheep than in bees if one has the necessary capital and experience. The case is different with those who wish to keep a few bees for pleasure or pastime (with the stings thrown in). The question has been asked, Is it best for a person to work a season or two with an experienced bee-keeper, or go ahead and learn by experience? The school of experience is all right, but the tuition is often too high.

If one, knowing nothing about bee-keeping, is determined to take it up as a business, I think it would pay them well to work a season or two with a successful man, even if they had to pay for the privilege. As a matter of fact, though, one can usually get small wages if they can find a man who needs help.

There are three ways of gaining knowledge, all of which are necessary to a practical understanding of the business in question—study, observation and practice. I advise every beginner to get one or more standard works on bee culture and study them: as to which is the best, I do not propose to give any publishers a free advertisement, but if any one asks me privately I will give them my opinion. By observation, I mean keeping one's eye open and making careful note of what they see. Practice alone can make the theoretical knowledge, gained by reading, a benefit to us.

Then comes the question, How many colonies should one have to begin with? I started with one, and during the first year of my bee-keeping I had but the one, as there was no increase. I now think I am more competent to properly care for one hundred colonies through a season