

BEES AND POULTRY.**TO MAKE BEE-KEEPING PROFITABLE.**

Isaac Hutching, an American authority on the apiary, gives the following advice on the subject: "To make bee-keeping profitable we should keep the best strains of Italian bees in preference to the black or German bees. Some of the new races of bees may prove equal, or superior to the Italians, but they have not been sufficiently tested to warrant a change. The dollar queen traffic, if rightly managed, will be a blessing to the intelligent apiarists, as it will open a market for the small and inferior queens that might otherwise find their way into the class of tested queens. I believe that bees winter better and build up quicker in the spring, where they are well packed with chaff or dry sawdust on their summer stands, than they do when wintered in a cellar. Spring dwindling, I believe, in most cases, is a result of cellar wintering. Those who winter in a cellar use a single walled hive, and when they put them out in the spring the sun will warm them so that many will fly out when the air is so cold that they become chilled and never return. If we have a few days of warm weather, and they have all the brood that they can care for, one cold night will drive the bees into a cluster and leave the brood to die. The bee-hive needs protection from the rays of the sun and the cold storms and winds of early spring, as much as it does in the winter months when there is no brood to chill. We should encourage breeding early in the spring, remembering that it is the early bees that store the surplus honey. The old box hive is a thing of the past with all progressive bee-keepers. A movable comb hive is indispensable to profitable bee-keeping. As soon as the weather will admit in the spring we should examine each colony, so that we may know if they are in need of any of our aid. No. 1 may have lost their queen; No. 2 may be short of stores; No. 3 may be weak in numbers and need a frame of ripe brood. It would be very difficult to ascertain the wants of a colony in a box hive without movable comb frames. I should be very sorry to have a colony die for want of food or care, after they have survived our cold winter. If our bees are well wintered and well cared for in the spring, they will be ready to divide the swarm before the white clover honey harvest. If we divide it should be done at least ten days before the honey flow commences, and the honey sections should be put on soon after, so that the bees may get settled down to business in season to give us good return. In dividing, leave each colony as strong as it will do, and not induce swarming."

FEEDING YOUNG CHICKS.

On this subject our excellent contemporary *Farm and Garden* writes:—Young chicks cannot procure green food at this season, and consequently are subject to constipation which sometimes destroys a whole brood. The chief trouble is feeding raw soft food. This is not injurious, however, if it consists of all that is required for the growth of the chicks. In the early stages the feathering is very rapid, which

accounts for the constant appetite of the chicks, which keep their crops full all the time. But there is such a thing as starving the chicks even in the midst of plenty, and that is the policy often pursued by those who feed liberally but not the right kind. Corn meal certainly serves to create heat in the chicks, a very essential matter, for they should be warm and comfortable, but the chick in its first stages demands material for bone and feathers, and in order to eat enough corn meal to supply the natural want in that direction the internal organs are impaired and the chick droops. Neglect will so retard a chick that it cannot recover. The loss of a single meal will often do this, and hence the necessity for regularity in feeding. The demand for the production of bone and feathers is mostly for lime, and this should be accompanied by iron and phosphoric acid. Lime may be given in the shape of bone meal, ground fine, oyster shells, or as old mortar pulverized. Even slacked lime is appropriated for use, and the food also contains traces of it. Iron exists in all vegetation in minute quantities, but a little copperas solution to the drinking water will supply all that is needed.

The best method of feeding is to allow nothing the first twenty-four hours. Then give hard boiled egg for a day or two. It is well after that time to mix together one part corn meal, two parts ground oats, and one part wheat bran (ship stuff) moistened with boiling water to a crumbly dough. Once in a while give mashed potatoes, and occasionally vary with a little hard boiled eggs, chopped cabbage, boiled turnips, etc., keep warm and dry, feed regularly, and keep them up on stormy days.

TIME TO THINK AND REVIEW.

An Exchange gives the following "good and timely" advice:

As the spring advances it will be well to review the past season's work, and see wherein we have failed; to try and avoid like mistakes in the future. The winter and early spring is a good time to read upon the subject in hand, then there will be less danger of failures in the time to come. Hives and fixtures necessary for the season's work should all be secured in times. Do not wait until you are in urgent need of these things before ordering, but order early and thus avoid not only the loss of time, but bees and honey, for time with us is money, for which we work. The writer knows from experience of what he writes.

On the amount of surplus secured depends the profit of the apiary, and for this end, it should be our aim. The honey crop should consist of both comb and extracted honey. For the former, large sections are best for home consumption or for a home market, but for the general market, the one pound sections are the favourites. But let the object sought be what it may, the first and most important part of it all is to be ready in time, for in this may depend the entire success of a season's work.

FEEDING twice a day is often enough. Three times a day will make Brahmas, Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, and Wyandottes too fat to lay.

SALT FOR POULTRY.

A writer in the *Country Gentleman* has settled this much-discussed question to his satisfaction. He says:—To get at the true facts I have been feeding salt to all my poultry, young and old alike, and closely watching the result. I have fed it in cold mush and hot, in bran and everything else, all the spring and summer (so far) with the following results:—The poultry will eat all kinds of salted food in preference to unsalted; they are better in general health; not a louse of any kind in young or old (the first year I have been able to say so), and they are all beginning to moult, many of them laying as though not moulting. Eggs are cheap now, and the hens will be ready for fall laying when the weather is cold and eggs scarce. This may or may not be the result of feeding salt largely to them, but I am compelled to believe this to be so, as there are some other peculiarities. I have noticed one feature which may not be in favour of salt—the hens being more persistently inclined to sit, it being very difficult to break off the inclination; they sit much closer than usual. All seem voraciously fond of green food of any kind, and have eaten a large quantity of clover, grass, young corn and other similar food. My observations lead me to conclude that salt is a needed condiment for all our poultry, and in all points beneficial to them. Pigeons are excessively fond of salt in any form, and why should not our poultry be also? Such being the true status, it behooves us to consider their needs and attend to them.

THE COST OF KEEPING A HEN.

The cost of keeping a hen depends upon her ability to forage, and the labour bestowed upon her by her owner. As sheep are considered the scavengers of the farm they may be said to have suitable companions in poultry. It is a saving of material to convert refuse into saleable eggs, and the result of the hen's efforts in that direction should not be entered in the account-book, and if it does she should be credited, as an offset, with the amount saved that would otherwise be wasted. Her feed has been estimated by some practical poultry breeders as the value of a bushel of corn, but such a calculation cannot be relied upon, as it costs more to keep a hen in Quebec than it does in Virginia, with the advantage of an earlier spring, in favour of a southern climate, to say nothing of the many open days of winter when but little snow is on the ground. She will also begin to lay earlier and larger, wean her chicks sooner, and require less care and attention, which are items of cost. Then, again, no two hens are the same. Breeds make a difference, and the *kind* of feed has an influence. The cheapest is sometimes too dear, as it is not the kind demanded. No one can safely state the cost of keeping a hen, except for his own section.

As the spring comes so will vermin. White-wash with carbolic acid in it will prevent them.

KEEP fat hens on ground oats, and avoid corn or wheat. The best remedy for this trouble is exercise, and the more active the fowl the less liability in that direction. Leg-horns are usually exempt from being too fat.