

## BEEES AND POULTRY.

## SUCCESSFUL BEE-KEEPING.

L. C. Root & Co., of Mohawk, N. Y., have issued their annual report for 1881, from which it appears that they commenced the season with 160 stocks, most of them in good condition. They were located in four places, forty in each. These apiaries were run for honey, and swarming was repressed. By the 1st of June white clover and raspberries yielded honey bountifully. The first extracting to any extent was done on June 28. Following is the result obtained at the best apiary:

June 28.....	1,500 lbs.
July 6.....	2,575 "
July 16.....	2,000 "
July 25, 26.....	3,140 "
Late honey.....	512 "

Total..... 9,727 "

From one stock of best Italian bees at the home apiary there were taken:

June 25.....	96 lbs.
July 4.....	62½ "
July 8.....	114 "
July 12.....	66 "
July 19.....	40½ "
July 22.....	36 "
August 5.....	42 "
August 27.....	27 "

Total .... 484 "

The entire yield from the four apiaries was 32,809 pounds, worth, at ten cents per pound, over \$3,000. With one machine, 2,760 pounds were taken in a single day. This is probably the largest yield of honey obtained in a day with one extractor. The fall yield of honey was almost wholly cut off by the extreme drought. Yet the yield for the year is a most encouraging one, showing that there is money in bee-keeping when properly carried on. The whole art and mystery, by which this degree of success was reached, are fully explained in "Quinby's New Bee-Keeping," a book which has practically been re-written by L. C. Root, the late Mr. Quinby's son-in-law. Those who intend to commence bee-keeping cannot do better than to study the subject thoroughly with the help of this or some other similar book. Let them not, however, expect all at once to attain the success above detailed. An average of 200 pounds of honey to the hive cannot be reached by a novice. Yet, with due care, bee-keeping may be made to pay from the start. There is no industry in which a beginning may be made with so small an investment of capital, and so sure a remuneration. A bee-keeper in Woodstock, Ont., began in 1876 with four hives, and from the natural increase of that number, this year had 200 stocks, and netted fully \$1,500. But such results can only be attained by a thorough mastery of the science and art of bee-keeping. They who go into it on the old-fashioned methods, and with the idea that bees will take care of themselves, need count on nothing but certain disappointment.

## MARKET FOWLS.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of many beginners to commence raising poultry for sale at fancy prices. Few of the hundreds who yearly embark in the business make the marketing of fowls and eggs a specialty.

Raising fowls for market pays well where the facilities, location, and other matters are favourable, and the business properly managed. Hundreds are making a good living by raising poultry for market, and we know of no domestic stock that gives quicker or better returns for the outlay expended. To be sure the profits are greatly lessened or increased, according to the skill or care with which the business is conducted. One branch in which much improvement may be made by

most poulterers is that of fattening the fowls for market. Although the mode of fattening may seem easy, there is a right and a wrong way; a long and a short manner of accomplishing the object desired.

Fowls can be fattened readily and without much trouble, provided a little care is taken in the start. Our advice is to keep them constantly in high feed from the beginning until they become fit for the table. With but very little extra attention their flesh will be juicier and richer in flavour than those fattened from a low and emaciated state, and always commanding quick sales at the highest price in the market. There is nothing gained by keeping any kind of live stock in a poor condition. Feeding well is positive economy, as every observant stock-breeder knows. When an animal is in a high state of flesh and condition, he consumes less food than if kept in a half-starved state. It is the same with poultry—judicious feeding, of the proper amount and quality of food for the production of eggs and flesh wherein lies the breeder's success.—*Poultry Monthly*.

## HOW BEES BUILD.

When a swarm of bees is about to leave its old home and seek another, each bee fills itself with honey. After entering their new home, the gorged bees suspend themselves in festoons, hanging from the top of the hive. They hang motionless for twenty-four hours. During this time the honey has been digested and converted into a peculiar animal oil, which collects itself in scales or laminae beneath the abdominal rings. This is the wax. One of the workers, called the founder, then draws from its own body, by means of its clawed feet, a scale of wax. This it breaks down and crumbles, and works with its mouth and mandibles till it becomes pliable, and it then issues from the mouth in the form of a long narrow ribbon, made white and soft by an admixture of saliva from the tongue. Meanwhile, the other bees are making ready their material the same way. On the ceiling of the hive an inverted, solid arch of wax is built, and now from this time the first foundation cells are excavated, all the subsequent ones being built up and around these, which are usually three in number. The size and shape of the cell is determined by its future use; but all comb is formed of two sheets always alternating with one another. If the comb is intended for brood, twenty-five cells of worker-brood, and sixteen of drone, go to the square inch.—*The Farm*.

## EVERGREENS AND POULTRY.

The *Ohio Farmer* asks: "Do evergreens growing about poultry premises help to keep poultry in healthy condition?" It then proceeds to answer its own question as follows: "We have been taking observations for some time, and feel convinced 'there is something in it.' Fowls certainly have a decided liking for these trees, will hop about the branches and peck at the woody fibres for hours at a time, and will choose the trees for a roosting-place in lieu of warmer quarters. We have also noticed those fowls that have access to the evergreens seem unusually healthy and free from vermin, are hearty, and keep in good condition without extra amount of care in their behalf." There can be little doubt that evergreens are promotive of healthfulness in fowls, but it is not so certain that fowls are beneficial to evergreens. As above stated, they will hop about the branches, roost in them, and peck at the woody fibres for hours at a time. Where fowls are plentiful and evergreens few, the evergreens are apt to be transformed into that species of poultry known as scarecrows.

## CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.

ONTARIO FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.—The winter meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association will be held in Hamilton on Wednesday and Thursday, January 24th and 25th, 1882.

MEDICINES will not cure colds. Opening the skin is important, but the principal means is a reduction of food. You have eaten meat twice a day. Eat none for two or three days, if the cold lasts so long.—*Golden Rule*.

THE lead-pipe scare, in connection with drinking water, has good enough reason, but in the provision can there not only be lead, but generally an acid to take it up far more rapidly than water could do.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*.

ALL the swill from the house was hauled away to the pen in a barrel hung on pivots, and emptied into a tank, opening directly into the trough, and by raising a two-inch gate, the slop, which had been mixed with meal and stuff, so that it "soured," had free access to the "boarders" in the pen.—*Oskaloosa Herald*.

I VISITED Mr. Cleveland's garden, and just over the hill where the orchard is protected the trees were all right, while in more exposed situations the trees were killed. Mr. Butler has an orchard protected by a wood on the West, and there the trees are all right, while on the flats, where they were exposed, many of the trees have been killed.—*Utica Herald*.

DR. MCGOWAN, the well-known manager of the Rysdyk Stock Farm, has sold his trotting stallion, Walter Jones, by Conkling's American Star, dam by Long Island Black Hawk, to Louis Aure, of Alpine, Michigan, for \$1,200. He has also disposed of General Wayne, by Strathmore, to Joseph Martin, of Picton, Ont., and the black mare Barbara Allen to Rev. A. D. Traveller, of Morrisburgh.

THE "polled" breeds could be used with great advantage on the Western plains to put symmetry and quality into the present style of Texan or Western cattle. It would shorten up their horns, make them better feeders, and their meat would be far superior to what it is at present. It would also enable feeders to put their stock into market in ripe condition fully six months earlier.—*Michigan Farmer*.

A HORSE that was always restive at mounting and dismounting was completely cured in a few lessons by strapping, first the near, and then the off fore-leg, and mounting and dismounting continually for an hour or so in a fold-yard. The theory of Rarefying is to so bind the horse that he cannot resist, and then prove that neither "the flag, nor the drum, nor the explosion of musketry will hurt him."—*London Live Stock Journal*.

THE farmers in the neighbourhood of Kirkton, Perth Co., Ont., formed themselves early in the year into a company for the manufacture of butter, and their first season's operations have just drawn to a close. In the beginning of the season, it is said, they were quite prosperous; they succeeded in making one shipment of excellent butter to England, and everything seemed to be in the ascendant. But prosperity injures some institutions and certain people; some of the patrons became too grasping, and it is alleged that certain of them were guilty of some questionable acts in connection with the cream which they supplied, and the result was that what at one time promised to be a fine institution, and a pride to the locality in which it was situated, turned out in such a manner that people hesitate about discussing its merits. It is hoped that the Kirkton butter factory will renew operations next spring, and take proper precautions against a recurrence of the evil which crept into the enterprise so early.—*Journal of Commerce*.