

Ontario Women's Institutes



GEORGE A. PUTNAM,
SUPERINTENDENT
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO



Bee-Keeping

By JEAN CAMPBELL

ONE of the few outdoor occupations for women is that of bee-keeping. Woman's employment is invariably indoors, and she knows but little of the joys of outdoor physical work, as does her farmer brother, for instance. But if she tires of her indoor work, with a little study upon the habits of bees and how they make honey to the best advantage, she can earn a nice income and have the outdoor, health-giving life like her brother.

The Italian bee is very gentle. With a little use of the "smoker" before starting to work with them one will have no trouble. So the best breed for a woman to handle, or a man either, is the Italian bee. Before purchasing, find out all you can about them by reading books and magazines on bees, then buy the pure Italians from a reliable source, and don't buy too many at first. Start with one or two and increase them yourself; then after you have had practical experience it would be safer to invest in more.

Now I hope I am not writing to women who are like a girl who once said that there were two things of which she was afraid, a bee and a man, for my work would be wasted. But if you like bees—and men—as I do I shall tell you about the bees. I won't tell you anything about men, you all have at least one man to look after and as they are all more or less alike you know all about them.

I have been interested in bees since I was a little girl, when a bee expert came to the hotel at a summer resort where I was staying and invited all the guests to a neighboring farm to see him change a hive of bees into another hive. I thought it was the most wonderful thing to see that man handle that mass of stinging insects as coolly as if they were minus their stingers. With the party was a naturalist who was badly stung on the nose, as the bees were a cross half-breed variety. Although the expert didn't say anything about his stings if he got any, but the naturalist standing away off did, and he was very indignant at the poor bees, remarking that he got on much better with snakes than bees.

Bees are much alike, but, like men, some are hot-tempered. Those were the kind I had at first; I soon got rid of them, as I like to keep my temper and how could one keep one's temper working with hot-tempered bees! It was impossible; so, getting stung one day, I decided to re-queen all the hives. So, sending to a bee supply establishment I received a pure Italian queen. She was a beautiful yellow bee, and she came in a cylinder case attended by two worker bees. I put her in a hive that was full of bees and honey, first killing the common black queen that they had. I kept her in a case first, until they noticed that they had lost their queen, for had they not noticed their loss, they would have stung the stranger to death as they only observe allegiance to one queen in one hive.

As soon as they knew of the change, I let her out into the hive and soon she was laying tiny elongated white eggs in the comb prepared by the working bees, and in a few days the eggs had developed into larvae which the bees fed with honey

until they had enough, then they left them alone to develop into young bees.

In the spring when the bees first leave their hives, they take a good look around to locate their hive, then when they return in the early evening laden with pollen they know exactly where their homes are and make a "bee-line" for them.

Now a bee owner knows this. So, when he wishes at swarming time, to prevent the young bees with a young queen from swarming, i.e., to leave the old hive and seek a new home, he puts a new hive in the place of the old one, so the old bees that have been out working return to the new hive, and their queen is caught, as the queen doesn't leave the hive, and given to them, while the young queen with her young bees have the old hive. This knowledge saves the beekeeper much trouble and labor, for we all remember how, when living on the farm when we were children, before the bee-keeping became such an industry, the bees would swarm and locate on the highest branch of the highest tree, and how the men would be called by the small boy who had spied them. The men would be busy haying but they would come and

not only the officers, but the individual members. They can increase the attendance by giving personal invitations to other women. All are welcome at meetings addressed by delegates from the Department.

It has been decided not to give cooking demonstrations at the meetings this summer. We believe, however, that the addresses will be of greater interest and value than usual. Among some of the more interesting topics will be found the following: "The Sacredness of the Body," "Homemaking versus Housekeeping," "The Importance and Meaning of Woman's Work," "Teacher and Parent," "Rural Telephone System," "Responsibilities of Mothers to Daughters, and Vice Versa," "Demonstrations in Needlework," "Kitchen Conveniences," "Habits," "The Nervous System—Its Construction and Modern Abuse," "Physical Education," "The Educational Value of Plays and Games," "The Family as a Shaping Influence," "The Influence and Tendencies of Canadian Children," "Influence of Environment," "The New Woman's Ideals," "The Physiology of the Digestive System," "Some Changes in Home Life," "Mental Culture," "The Care of the

whether by original papers, extracts from Women's Institute reports or newspapers, roll call, or informal discussion. Then followed several splendid original papers on "Resourcefulness in Emergency Meals," by Mmes. Littlefield and Kennedy of Emo, "Making the Best of Things," by Miss Maguire of Shenston, and another on the same subject, read by Mrs. Woolsey of Barwick, a paper on "Pin Money for Girls," by Mrs. Chas. Gadd of Burris, one on "Gossiping," by Mrs. Law of Barnhart, one on "The Value of Reading," by Mrs. W. H. Weir of Stratton, and one on "Hints to the Home Nurse on Emergencies," by Mrs. Wm. Earl of Emo. Each subject in turn was thrown open to the meeting for discussion, when the diffidence in expressing views noticeable at the previous convention—an initial effort—seemed to have quite disappeared.

In connection with the convention, an evening "at home" was held, the twenty-number programme for which was contributed by representatives from each branch. As in the afternoon, the attendance was large and appreciative.

It may now be confidently said that in South Rainy River, the Women's Institute movement is past the experimental stage. Practically no advertising has ever been resorted to, to gain a footing, but through "making good" every branch is now established in the confidence of the public.

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Home Sanitation

A PAPER by Mrs. A. Ruppert of Preston deals informally with this subject, as follows:

People in general and housewives in particular are becoming more alive to the advantages and necessity of proper sanitation in the home.

What do we understand by sanitation? Why, the proper airing and keeping the home in a perfect condition. Let us begin with that most necessary of all rooms, the bedroom. In the first place the bedroom is intended as a sleeping-room only, therefore anything not necessary to the comfort and convenience of sleeping and making the morning and evening toilet should be eliminated. Unfortunately, most of us like to have our bedrooms look well and consequently all sorts of pictures, draperies, cushions, tidies, doilies and various kinds of bric-a-brac find their way into this room. Now these things, while, no doubt enhancing the appearance of the room, are more or less dust catchers, and as the air we breathe during sleep should be perfectly pure, it is important that we have all the breathing space possible. All vessels in use should be thoroughly scalded at least twice weekly, or a disinfectant added to the water in which they are washed, which will remove the necessity of scalding. Any cloths or sponges in use thoroughly washed, boiled or hung on the line in the sun or frost, to destroy or remove any germs that may have accumulated on them from contact with the body, all bedding, pillows, etc., should be thoroughly aired by windows being kept open at least a portion of the day in winter, and day and night in summer and during the warmer months, and lastly, the floor covering.

Personally, I am very much in favor of the present fashion of covering the floor with matting or linoleum



"WHEN ALL THE WOODS ARE GREEN."

climb a high ladder and shake the cluster of bees into a pail or basket and carry them down and empty them in front of a new hive. Sometimes the bees would remain in the new hive; but more often they wouldn't as the queen bee may have escaped and of course the bees would follow her.

But all that is radically changed and with a little study of the habits of the honey-producing insects one can very easily handle them and reap a harvest of pure honey yearly.

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Summer Series of Meetings

PLANS for the summer series of meetings are about completed. For the most part, only one speaker will be sent and it will be necessary, therefore, for the local officers to provide short addresses or musical selections to supplement the addresses of the delegate. Some 570 meetings will be included in the list this year, and the Department has been very fortunate in securing competent, experienced workers to address the meetings.

The success of the summer series will depend upon the co-operation of

Sick at Home," "Twentieth Century Devices for Preserving Health and Saving Labor."

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Rainy River Convention

ON March 2nd South Rainy River Women's Institute, comprising Barwick, Barnhart, Burris, Emo, Stratton and Shenston branches, held its second annual convention at Stratton, which was in every respect a complete success, a large share of the credit for which was due to the bountiful hospitality exercised by the Stratton people.

In a neat address, characterizing the year's work among the branches and making several recommendations for future attention, the District President, Mrs. Alex. Corless, opened the convention. Immediately following these remarks came an address of welcome delivered by Mrs. W. H. Weir, President of Stratton branch and District Vice-President, to which reply was made by Mrs. T. McDonald, Emo.

The programme proper opened with reports from all the branch secretaries on the subjects dealt with during the present institute year and the method of treatment in each case,