

Mailing Queen Bees.

The trade between the United States and Canada in queen bees has grown to an enormous extent. Many beekeepers in Canada who are anxious to improve their stock purchase queens in the United States from specialists who make a living by raising queen bees for sale, and some of them do a very extensive trade. Canada also has some very large queen breeders, and some of the handsomest as well as best queens are produced in this Province. Many queens are therefore mailed both from Canada and the United States.

For the last six or seven years it has been the custom for postmasters at the lines to pass them without delay, but last May the custom was changed, and postmasters were ordered not to allow bees to pass through the mails to Canada, thus interfering with the regular trade. Mr. G. M. Doolittle, with other prominent beekeepers, at once set to work to see what could be done in the matter, and have succeeded admirably through the exertions and influence of the Beekeepers' Union, which body deserves great praise for the able manner in which they have handled the case. Queens with their attendants can in future be mailed without any danger of delay.

Marketing Honey.

A few hints in regard to marketing honey will not be amiss at this season. For the home market have everything clean and handy, so that when you bring it to market your customers can handle the packages without getting their hands sticky. If it is extracted honey, put it in glass bottles with a neat label, so that they can see what they are buying; it is also more attractive in that shape. Explain to your customers that the honey will granulate in cold weather, and explain at the same time that granulation is a proof of purity. Some beekeepers have been in the habit of shipping honey in barrels containing from 150 to 300 lbs. These packages are too large to be handled easily. The best thing for the purpose is pine kegs holding not less than 50 lbs. or more than 120 lbs. Dealers can often dispose of a small package where they could not touch a large barrel. Always be sure that you are dealing with responsible merchants when it is necessary to ship your honey away.

Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been making some very interesting investigations, and has proven that a queen bee will, at times, lay in a single day enough eggs to overbalance her own weight.

Honey is an excellent palliation in coughs, colds, sore throat, baby sore mouth, and early stages of diphtheria.

A correspondent of the Bee Journal writes that a brood of chickens were in the habit of frequenting the shed in which he kept his bees. The bees stung all the dark colored ones to death yet did not molest the light colored chicks. Why the preference? The editor writes that he has frequently spoken of the advantage of wearing light clothes among the bees. We wear black bee veils because we cannot see clearly through any other color. Woolly, fuzzy and dark materials are objected to by bees. A man with a plug hat on rarely gets stung unless by a bee that is trying to "shoot the hat," aims too low and hits the face by mistake, while a companion at a suitable distance is perfectly safe.

Veterinary.

Training Horses to the Saddle.

The constantly increasing demand for trained saddle horses will cause the following directions for training to be read with interest by a large majority of our readers. The selection is from a work on the subject by the noted expert rider and trainer, Mr. E. L. Anderson:

Nearly every horse finds certain forms of resistance easier than others, and this is due in a great measure to the conformation of the animal. A horse with a stiff, unyielding jaw, and a horse with a tender mouth, will be apt to rear; the first because it opposes the hand until the bit hurts it, the second because even a slight pressure of the bit is disagreeable. A horse with a "roach back" is more likely to plunge than one that has a depression between the withers and the croup. As a rule, the horse with a "dished" face is nervous, the horse with a Roman nose is headstrong, and the horse with a small protuberant eye is suspicious and excitable. Horses that are high and strong in the fore-hand are more apt to rear or grow restive than horses which are high and strong in the hind-quarters. The latter will usually resist control by bolting or by kicking. The reason for these kinds of misconduct is that in the horses first described the weights and forces of the fore-hand are thrown back, and that part is made lighter; while, in the case of horses with high and strong hind-quarters, the weights and forces are thrown forward, and the fore-hand is hampered while the croup is lightened. The disposition of the horse will usually be influenced by its conformation; certainly its resistance will in most cases be governed by its conformation.

A well balanced horse, that can obey the demands of its rider with more ease and comfort than an ill formed one, is less likely to show vice, and generally has a better temper than the horse that is ill balanced. The first duty of the trainer, then, should be to direct his work with reference to the conformation of the animal he has in hand, and by changing the carriage of the horse, to correct in effect its faults of form, so that it may not find difficulty in obeying the hand and heel of its rider.

Whatever may be the form of a horse, it must be supplied in the neck and jaw, so that it will answer to the bit at the lightest pressure upon the bars of the mouth, and will raise or depress the head at the demands of the hand. It must also be taught to answer the pressure of the rider's heels without reluctance or struggling. The horse that is too high in the fore-hand can then be taught to move with its head so lowered, and its hind-quarters so well brought up, that the weights and forces may be brought to a point of balance under the rider, so that the movements of the animal can easily be directed. As long as the jaw yields to the bit, and the croup answers to the heels, the horse will neither rear nor grow restive; and it is a mere question of time and patience to confirm the horse in this obedience, for, as I shall show, the impulses of the horse are cultivated in the direction of this obedience, and it answers to bit and spur instinctively.

The horse that is low in front and strong and high in the hind-quarters will be made to move with its head carried up, by which means the weights and forces of the fore-hand are carried back, while the hind legs will be brought under the body to lower the croup, until the weights and forces of the extremities are brought to a point of union and balance under the rider, and the horse will have no difficulty in answering the demands of its rider. It would be impossible for a horse so trained to bolt or to kick, for the rider can bring the hind legs of the horse under the mass, and with the hand throw back the forces of the fore-hand, and so bring it to an instantaneous halt from any pace.

I wish, in a few words, to explain what I mean by cultivating the impulses of the horse in the direction of obedience, for in that lies the whole success of the school method. The first impulse of the horse upon feeling the pressure of the bit against the jaw is to yield; the second

is to oppose the pressure. The first impulse of the horse on feeling the touch of the spur is to draw forward the hind legs; the second is to extend the flexed hind legs. By carefully-conducted lessons these first impulses, the instinctive muscular actions of the animal, are cultivated, until the hand controls and directs the fore-hand, and measures the propulsion from the hind-quarters. In ordinary training, as must occur to any reader, the second impulses are unwittingly cultivated to the detriment of the first impulses, for most horses wait for a more or less forcible reminder from the bit, and spring forward at the touch of the spurs.

Doubtless the greater number of horses that are in daily work were trained without reference to "the point of balance of the forces," but all causes that can be ridden, whether intentionally or not, are to a greater or less extent taught obedience through their instinctive yielding to the aids; and it can not be contended that those broken by rough and crude modes are under the same control as that exhibited by horses which are prepared by discipline and an acquired equilibrium to instinctively obey every demand of their riders.

One is often called upon to ride a difficult horse before he has had an opportunity of training it sufficiently to compel its obedience, and under such circumstances I think the following suggestions may be of value. It is of the first importance in riding a vicious horse to keep it moving, never permitting it, when showing signs of temper, to come to a stop. If a "fresh" horse makes a few curvets or leaps, the rider should not at once confine the head too closely, but, holding the reins so that the animal can not get its head down, make it advance, and then gently bring it back to a quiet pace, and afterwards increase the speed if it be desirable. To check or to punish the horse at the moment it is restless will induce the animal to rear or to plunge. If a horse rear, the rider should release the tension of the reins and press his legs against the animal's sides at the moment the fore-hand comes down, to drive it forward; but the spurs should not be applied with severity, for that will not cure the horse of rearing, and may add plunging to its vices. A horse can be cured of the vice of rearing only by the suppling of the jaw. If a young horse rears without malice, as many do in their early lessons, a light tap on the neck and a harsh word from its master will often prevent a repetition of its action, but a horse should never be punished for vice. For many years I have kept my horses at riding-schools where the masters undertook to break the horses of their patrons from bad habits. I have seen all kinds of methods employed, and I have myself tried all, and I never knew severity to succeed; but I have often seen horses that were dangerous to ride made safe and quiet by a kind and strict discipline. A really vicious horse works itself up into a rage, and punishment can do nothing more than to increase the violence of its madness. If the horse can not be brought to know that the rider will not hurt it, the animal must remain incurably vicious. If the rider can obtain the confidence of his horse, he may then cultivate its obedience, until to yield to bit and spur becomes instinctive; but I believe that there are some horses which can not be broken from bad habits, and any of them are liable to relapse into vice through injudicious treatment.

Most young horses plunge, more or less violently, for the first three or four times they are mounted. If at this time the animal is not carefully ridden, plunging may become a vice. When a horse plunges it must be driven forward in any pace or action that it will take, the rider giving it a loose rein, but taking care that it does not get its head down, for the horse will then stop in spite of all the man can do, and probably unseat him. I mean by giving the horse a loose rein, that it should not feel the restraint of the bit, but if the animal lowers its head, the rider should give one or two sharp pulls upward to elevate it. When the horse goes forward for a few strides, the rider should take a light tension upon the reins and gently regulate the pace and the direction. Many horses will plunge if mounted immediately after being saddled, and it is a good rule to have all