

e and hard condition. Beauty of plumage is great help to success, and this cannot exist with much fat, as its tendency is to loosen the feathers and make them hollow. Fowls should be sent to a show with clean plumage, and those that should be white and are not white should be washed to make them so. Soap and water may be easily and safely used with a flannel; and if the birds are afterwards put in a straw basket with soft straw, and placed before a good fire, they soon become dry. All fowls should be sent to a show with clean legs. Even here the birds shown do not belong to a breed in which feather is the principal merit, it is desirable to choose those that match as nearly as possible; and in every breed it must be recollected that positive similarity of comb and colour are imperatively necessary to constitute competing hen in *any* class.

"We advise sending fowls away early to a show. They get more care in unpacking, and they look better before the judges, from having more time to recover the effects of packing during the journey. It is, besides, due to the members of any committee who undertake the task of unpacking. There is no reason why they should be kept at their unpleasant work all night. It is also far better, where they have a long journey before them, that fowls should travel at night. Those who manage to a nicety sometimes come too late, and at others they arrive after the judges have commenced their work. One is almost as bad as the other. With regard to the food they should have before they start, it should be of a light character. They have no opportunity in their baskets of finding ones to assist in digestion, and for that reason an object to whole corn. We believe sopped bread to be the best thing they can have, and in very severe weather it is a wise precaution to give them a part of their meal steeped in strong beer."

"All baskets should be round, to prevent any others from being broken. There is no angle such a one for a bird to get into to escape from beating, or to crouch to roost. If it is in motion, the tail follows round, and the feathers are not injured. The basket should be covered with double canvas. It should be large enough to allow all the birds to sit down, and high enough to allow the cock to stand upright without injury to comb or top-knot."

(Concluded in next number.)

The Apiary.

On the Management of Bees.

to the Editor of the *Canadian Agriculturist*.

SIR,—In the October number of your valuable journal I noticed the following enquiries by "Apianian," addressed to the bee-keeping community, for information as to the results of their

experience in reference to the most profitable system, stating the average yield of honey, cost of stocks or swarms, the best time to stock an apiary, and any other particulars that might be useful? I have been looking for the requested information in answer to those enquiries, in the subsequent numbers of your publication, as an interchange of sentiment upon the practice of this pursuit, would have been acceptable to myself and, no doubt, to many others of your subscribers, especially from those apianians who have made it a special business, but have not yet met with it. In the absence of such information, I here submit a brief statement of part of my experience, in connection with particulars from other sources. But, from the limits of a communication of this sort, much of the details of operations in manipulating with the bees is necessarily omitted.

Having taken much interest in the natural history and practical management of this wonderful insect for the past twenty years, and keeping a limited number of stocks, I conceived this insect evidently intended for domestication, as much so as any other stock of the farm, its instincts and habits being devised in reference to the benefit of man.

This branch of rural industry is in a very low state, from the small amount of encouragement given by the different local agricultural societies in Canada West, in connection with the large number of failures,—by which bee-keepers have had to renew their stock every few years,—arising from defective management, and too often no management, excepting, of course, the hiving of a swarm and placing it upon the stand, and leaving the subsequent results to luck. The absurdity of a corresponding amount of management in connection with other crops, would be easily seen, and failure anticipated. This low state of the industry has given rise to an unfavorable impression in regard to its profitability and importance, as a natural resource of the country. But a land flowing with milk is inseparably connected with a flow of honey. And if the practical knowledge and attention be given, that the present state of improved bee-management requires, it can be made a profitable business. On the other hand, a deceptive or too sanguine an impression may be produced, from the perusal of those accounts of large profits inserted in many of the published papers, perhaps the results of one year in ten.

The average yield of honey in one locality will not be a reliable criterion for an expected result in another, as different seasons, situation, and the strength of the stock, materially affect the amount of the returns. In the absence of a record of profits, I should judge that from 30 to 50 per cent. on the capital invested in honey would be a safe estimate, leaving a limited number of young stocks, to offset expenses of hives, stands, &c. The prospective profits of the lo-