

Some Biological Notes.

A swarm of bees chased Willie, till the boy
was almost wild,
His anxious parents wondered why the bees
pursued the child.
To diagnose, they summoned their physi-
cian, Dr. Ives,
"I think," he said, "the reason's clear, our
Willie has the hives."

—Widow.

"I'm so tired this morning," said
the first moth. "Up late last night?"
asked the second. "Yes," replied the
first, "I was at a camphor ball."

CONCERNING NEW MEXICO, AND THE WORK
OF THE GREAT ARCH-FIEND:

He scattered tarantulas along the roads,
Put thorns on the cactus and horns on the
toads.
He mixed up the sand with millions of ants,
So those who sit down need half-soles on
their pants;
He lengthened the horns of the Texas steer,
And put an addition to jack-rabbit's ear.
He quickened the step of the broncho steed,
And poisoned the feet of the centipede.
He put juajalota in all the lakes,
And under the rocks hid rattlesnakes.

Grading up Cereals.

JOHN FIXTER, EXPERIMENTAL FARM,
OTTAWA.

Our method of selecting, cleaning
and storing seed grain is as follows:
We select enough grain of the largest,
heaviest, and best yielding sorts that
we can secure, also select from the
best we have on hand, plant those
side by side the first year in rows 1
foot apart, the plants to be left about
6 inches apart in the rows. The land
is kept clean until harvest. When
ripe, all the best plants are selected
and a second selection made by taking
the best heads of each plant. These
are threshed and thoroughly cleaned

and screened. After the second year
we usually have sufficient seed to sow
several acres. When selecting and
cleaning for field crops, after the grain
is threshed, it is put through a fan-
ning mill. The sieves are arranged so
as to allow all the coarse material to
go over the back of the machine, and
screens are set to take out the small
grain and seeds, at the same opera-
tion. We put on all the wind possible,
blow all the light grain over the back
end of the machine. Should we not
have a choice sample we run the grain
through the machine a second time,
close off the wind, put in all sieves to
act as screens and run the choice grain
over the back end of the machine.
With this operation there should be
no small grain nor weed seeds left.
We ascertain what amount is required
for spring sowing, weigh it out, bag
it up and keep it in perfectly dry clean
bins that are rat and mouse proof
until time for sowing.

—
PROF. JAMES ATKINSON, DES MOINES, IA.

For cleaning seed grain on the farm
the free use of the fanning mill is the
most common method of grading up
small cereals. A great many experi-
ments have been conducted which go
to prove that the selection of the
heaviest grain from year to year will
work an improvement, not only by
way of increasing the yield per acre,
but also the weight per bushel. I have
in mind an instance of this kind, where
a farmer who grows 2,000 acres of
oats annually, has succeeded in im-
proving his seed by this method to
such an extent that it is not an un-
common thing for him to obtain an
average yield of 80 bushels an acre
over his entire area, the seed of which