

BEES AND POULTRY.*SEASONABLE HINTS.*

The *American Agriculturist* for November contains the following:—

A subscriber asks if sugar can be safely fed to bees in winter. There is no other food so good for bees as pure sugar. The granulated form is best. All beekeepers that have fed this sugar for winter stores are agreed that it is even superior to honey for bees. This is owing, doubtless, to its composition, as it contains more cane sugar, and also to the absence of pollen, which is to be found in all honey. While pollen generally does no harm to bees in winter, it is not good in some cases and may be the cause of fatal dysentery. Dissolve the sugar for feeding in an equal bulk of water, and heat until it boils, and when cold it is ready to feed.

It will be remembered that many bees were lost during the winter of 1880-81, from neglect. They were caught by the exceptionally early season. They need at least 80 pounds of good food per hive, and they should be crowded upon just enough frames to contain them, by using division boards. If the bees are to be packed, this should be done as early as October 1st, and if chaff hives are used, the packing above and at the ends of the frames should be added at the same time. It is always best to have the fine chaff or sawdust in sacks. However we winter, whether in chaff hives, or in the common hives with chaff packing, or in cellars, it will always pay to pack above and at the sides of the frames. The hives should be put into the cellar as early as November 1st, before the severe weather sets in. The hives should be dry when set in, and, in the removal, disturb the bees as little as possible. When in the cellar, remove the tops of the hives, but not the chaff pillow. The entrance should be left open.

HONEY PLANTS.

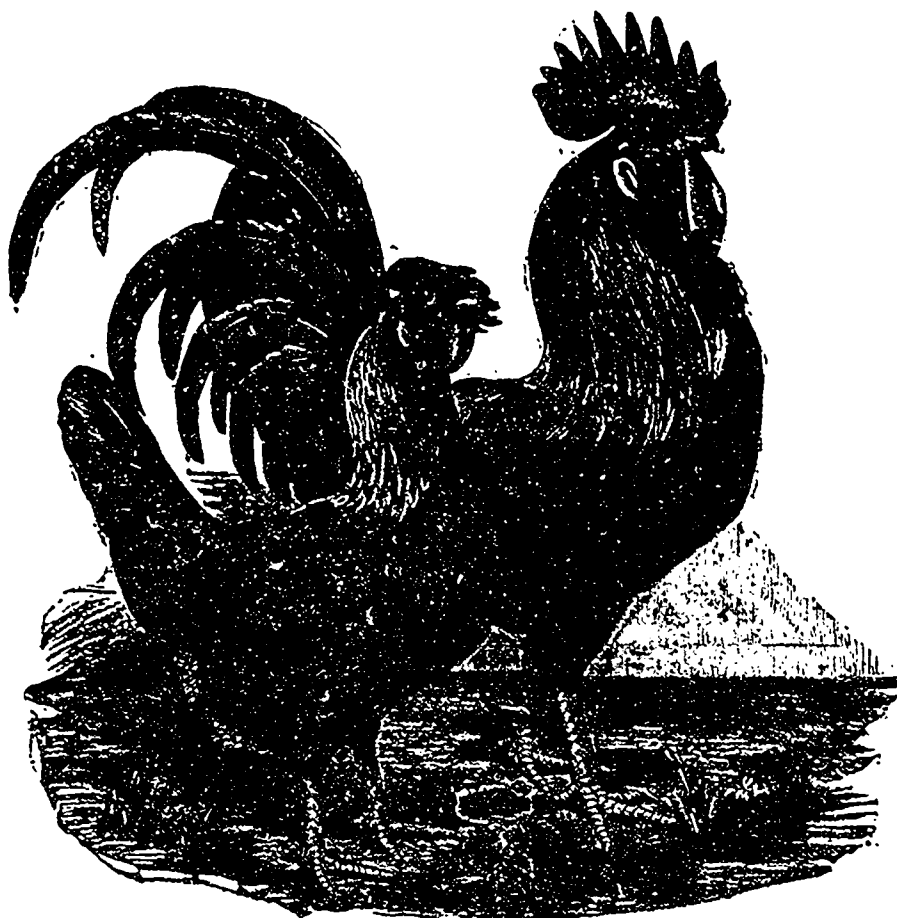
White clover, buckwheat, rape and alsike, recognized as the most valuable honey plants for cultivation on a large scale, and it is stated by beekeepers that the honey furnished by these plants pays for all expenses of cultivation. The Spider plant, *Cleome pungens*, and Figwort, *Scrophularia nodosa*, a tall, rank-growing herb, with small greenish purple flowers, growing wild in woods and damp places, are also highly recommended. Among garden flowers Mignonette stands at the head of the list, at least bees appear to be very fond of it, and "Mignonette Honey" is quoted in the market lists at a higher price than any other. Why not try "Wild Garden Seeds?" Among such a variety of flowers, surely even the most fastidious bees will find something agreeable to their taste.

HENS IN CONFINEMENT.

I have had an average of sixty Plymouth Rock fowls that have laid in six months' time 5,668 eggs, an average of ninety-four eggs per hen, and nineteen of them were set during the time. They have never been out of their pens since I put them in in November, and they never will until they go to the block to have their heads off. They are divided into flocks of twenty, each flock

having 100 square feet of house and 800 square feet of yard room. I have had flocks of twenty and forty that had free range, but never could get so high an average as when kept yarded in flocks of twenty. The cost of keeping was less, and the number of eggs much less, when they had their liberty. I cannot give the cost of keeping, as 185 chickens are fed from the same grain bins.

My flock has consisted of just fifty hens in July, and they have laid 910 eggs during the month, which I think is good evidence that confinement agrees with them. They are provided with all the green food they can eat, and are given a few ground beef scraps daily, but never any milk. The chickens hatched by the nineteen hens were divided among thirteen hens, nine of which began laying when the chickens were three weeks old and weaned them a few days later, evidently thinking it was better business to help fill the egg basket than brooding young chickens. As I manage my laying hens, it makes



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me a good deal of hard work, but the profit is large, which suits me better than little work and little pay.—*Poultry Monthly.*

CARE OF COMB HONEY.

J. L. Bowers writes to the *Maryland Farmer* the following on the care of comb honey: "Do not, on any account, store honey in a cellar. The dampness causes it to sweat, and then the cappings will break and you have a lot of ruined honey. Our honey room is in the second story of our house, and will hold two tons. It is 6x10 feet, and nine feet high, with two doors; one on each side; one opening from the hall; the other opening into a room over the porch. This room has one window. Here we put our honey first to let it harden, keeping this room light. After exposing it to the light for about two weeks, we place it in the honey room. Never, on any account, place more than two boxes on top of one another, but place shelves above each other on the order of a library. If little red ants bother honey, place the honey on a bench and put each leg or foot in a pan of water, and my word for it, if you keep water in the pans, no ants will bother

the honey. Our honey room is as dark as anything can be made to be."

BEST SIZE FOR A COLONY IN WINTER.

The *Country Gentleman* gives the following on this subject: "Considerable controversy has taken place with regard to the best size for a colony when put into winter quarters. In my estimation, six Langstroth frames, well covered with bees, answer as well as eight or ten, particularly if in a chaff hive; they will be found as strong in the spring usually as the larger ones. I would myself prefer four or five frames crowded with bees, with a young laying queen, to twice as many with a two-year old queen—the results on the first of April next year would be much more satisfactory. On the final examination, before putting the bees away for winter, I prefer to take away, if necessary, some frames of their fall-gathered honey and pollen, and introduce into the middle of the hive two frames of empty worker comb; then feed the bees liberally pure sugar syrup (made of 'coffee A' sugar and water) until those frames are filled and sealed over.

"The bees will come out cleaner, brighter and more healthy in spring on sugar syrup than on any fall honey they may gather. The frames removed should be kept in a warm, dry room until spring, and then be fed back to them for brood-rearing, after the bees are able to fly and void their feces. Pollen consumed in winter is now acknowledged to be the main cause of dysentery, and by removing the frames filled or partially filled with pollen, and substituting pure sugar syrup, the bees can live for months without any necessity of leaving their hives, and come out in spring clean, bright and healthy."

THE SURPLUS HONEY.

Let all remember to keep their honey, whether extracted or comb, in a dry warm room. It is best to keep the extracted honey in open vessels, and if to be shipped, in barrels or kegs,

these latter should be coated inside with paraffine, or beeswax. Let no one be in a hurry to sell his honey. It should be thoroughly graded before it is sent to market. No pains should be spared to have the honey look neat, which will largely increase the price it will bring. In some parts of the country the crop has been very good, in many others it is a total failure. It is to be expected that good prices will prevail.—*American Agriculturist*, for November.

"FANNY FIELD," authority on poultry matters, says: "The Hamburgs will lay more eggs in a year than any other breed in existence; the Cochins and Brahmas make the best mothers, and the Plymouth Rocks are among the best, if not indeed the very best, for market fowls. If you want a fowl for all purposes, take the Plymouth Rocks; if you want to get the most eggs, without regard to size of fowl or eggs, take the Hamburgs; and if you want to get the most meat to sell by the pound in the fall, take the Brahmas or Cochins. Hamburgs are non-sitters, and will not bear confinement so well as the large breeds. Leghorns, Houdans, La Fleche, Black Spanish, and Polish, are all good layers, non-sitters, but, like Hamburgs, will not do their best in confinement."