

Bee Notes for October.

From the American Agriculturist.

THE HONEY CROP.—The yield of honey from Basswood and other sources, in this section, has not equalled our expectations. During the last days of June the supply of honey, from basswood, promised to be abundant, but it was very suddenly and unexpectedly cut short. Reports from all parts of the United States indicate a small crop. We judge it to be less than one-half of the usual average; many report an entire failure. In our own apiaries we secure over 15,000 pounds from 176 colonies. Thus far we have taken from three selected swarms as follows: July 10th, No. 1, 77½ lbs., No. 2, 66½ lbs., No. 3, 83½ lbs.; July 13th, No. 1, 41 lbs., No. 2, 41 lbs., No. 3, 55 lbs.; July 19th, No. 1, 12 lbs., No. 2, 18 lbs., No. 3, 18 lbs. After the last date given we removed the swarms, with others, to where Buckwheat, Golden Rod, and Eupatorium are found in greater abundance than around the summer stands nearer home.

FALL PASTURAGE.—The subject of fall pasturage is of considerable importance, as, with a fair yield of honey at this season, breeding will be continued, and thus one of the essentials for successful wintering is secured. It will therefore be found profitable to study the sources from which a yield may be expected. In many sections buckwheat is the chief dependence for late honey. In other localities, like our own in the Mohawk Valley, Melilot or Sweet Clover, is of great importance. But more generally, we think that the supply will be gathered chiefly from Golden Rod and Eupatorium. These wild plants can be found upon rough, waste land, in nearly all parts of the country.

FALL MANAGEMENT.—If surplus boxes have not been moved as directed last month, it should be attended to at once. If swarms have been supplied with extra combs for extracting, they should be removed and packed safely away for use another season. The value of these combs, as well as those taken from piece boxes, cannot be overestimated, consequently great care should be taken to preserve them. Mice and rats should be carefully excluded. If disturbed by the destructive moth, the removed combs should be smoked with brimstone.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HANGING AND STANDING FRAMES.—“Do you not crush more bees, and are you not more liable to kill the queen with the Quinby standing frame, than with the hanging frame?”—We consider the standing frame quite as desirable, yet we, as well as others, in answering such questions, should not lose sight of the fact, that every beekeeper becomes more familiar with whatever style of hive he adopts, and, naturally, can handle it better than any other, until he acquires a large experience.

OPENING HIVES.—“How often should a beginner open his hives?”—Just as often as practical operations requires him to do so.

BEES IN A GARRET.—A correspondent in N. J. comes with the old question of the desirability of keeping bees in a garret. This story of arranging bees in a room in a garret where they will not swarm, and where the owner can go and cut out cards of honey for family use, at any time, is a very old one, and the immense swarm of bees

somewhere in the rocks, where bees pour forth in masses, and honey may be found by the ton. As regards keeping bees in an attic or upper room, or even upon a roof they may be so kept, if some practical hive is properly arranged in such a location. There are even some advantages derived, where but few hives are kept. But all things taken into consideration, it is preferable to have the bees placed somewhere near the ground.

Cradles.

The following wise suggestion is from the Herald of Health. Fortunately for children, cradles are seen more and more rarely in all families, and we are decidedly of the opinion that those soothing machines, once so popular, will soon have only a historic interest, like the spinning wheel. Still there are here and there mothers who advocate the cradle, and for such we have a word of advice. In the first place the rocking motion to which the child is subjected causes an unnatural circulation of the blood in the brain, which tends in the end to produce a state of unnatural excitability. Now if this takes place several times a day, and these motions of the cradle are carried to excess with restless and wakeful children, it is clear to our mind that the effects can only be injurious, especially when we remember the fact that children once accustomed to it are often treated with it for years. Cases are not rare of serious injury to the circulation of the brain, from violent rocking given to the infants when intrusted to nurses or ignorant children. It is not difficult with a little patience to treat an infant so that as soon as the time for sleeping approaches, he will go to sleep in his little bed without any artificial aid. If the beginning has been made, and if the mother has not been softened by the disagreeable crying of the child to rock it to sleep in the cradle or in her arms, it will be found after a few days, how quickly the child likes to go to sleep alone without the aid of any popular remedies of mothers. Many mothers will not believe this true until they have tried it and learned from experience. Although the child may cry at first, it soon learns to go to sleep quietly, and the mother has the additional advantage of gaining valuable time for rest from her domestic duties. Why does a healthy baby need rocking, more than a bird a colt, or a calf?

Talk Over What You Read.

Nearly forty years' experience as a teacher has shown how little I know of a subject until I begin to explain it or teach it. Let any young person try the experiment of giving in conversation, briefly and connectively and in the simplest language, the chief points of any book or article he has read, and he will at once see what I mean. The gaps that are likely to appear in the knowledge that he felt was his own will no doubt be very surprising. I know of no training superior to this in utilizing one's reading, in strengthening the memory and in forming habits of clear, connected statement. It will doubtless teach other things than these I have mentioned, which the persons who honestly make the experiment will find out for themselves. Children who read can be encouraged to give, in a familiar way, the interesting parts of the books they have read with great advantage to all concerned. More than one youth I know has laid the foundation of intellectual tastes in a New England family, where hearty encouragement was given to children and adults in their attempts to sketch the lectures they had heard the evening previous. The same thing was done with books.

A MAN asleep at the top of a telegraph pole was a recent spectacle in Boston. He was a drunken repairer, who had grown drowsy at his work. A great crowd gathered, but nothing was done to arouse him, and he finally awoke in safety.

DR. DE VRY, of the Hague, has been made Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire by the Queen for his services in the introduction of the cinchona-tree into India, and in the manufacture of quinine there; and Dr James Prescott Youle has received the Albert Medal from the Society of Arts for establishing, after most laborious research, the true relation between heat, electricity, and mechanical work, thus affording the engineer a sure guide in the application to science and industrial pursuits.

Telegraph Blunders.

A gentleman who had gone to the country to find a summer location for his family telegraphed to his wife, “Home to-night.” The wires rendered this into “Come to-night,” and so the wife posted into the country at once, while her husband was making his way in a contrary direction.

Not long since a message came to the principal of a business house in the city from his travelling agent, who had reached Philadelphia—“Am at Continental II use. Send some hash by mail.” The agent did not intend to reflect on the food at the hotel, but wanted “cash” sent by mail.

An affectionate uncle was informed by telegraph: “Mary is to be buried on Wednesday. Come sure.” Mary, who lived in Chicago, was his favourite niece, and, as he had not heard of her illness, the sad intelligence gave him a severe shock. He dressed himself in deep mourning, and made a hurried journey to the West to find a jovial party at Mary's wedding. The wires had arranged for her to be “buried” instead of “married.”

Probably the worst blunder ever made was one that occurred in the case of a St. Louis merchant, who, while in New York, received a telegram informing him that his wife was ill. He sent a message to his family doctor, asking the nature of the sickness and if there was any danger, and received promptly the answer: “No danger. Your wife has had a child. If we can keep her from having another to-night she will do well.” The mystification of the agitated husband was not removed until a second inquiry revealed the fact that this independent lady had had a “chill.”

A Terrible Punishment.

PONTO MOLE, Italy, can boast of a lady Abbess and reverend coadjutors whose Spartan discipline goes even beyond that of AN-NINO's renowned Mother Browning, “who whipped two female penitents to death and hid them in a coal-hole.” A lay servant having been detected in stealing some bread, my Lady Abbess and two senior nuns held an impromptu tribunal and condemned her “to undergo the torments of purgatory.” Most of us probably have entertained but vague notions as the nature of those torments, and will therefore learn with the more interest what are an Abbess's ideas on the point. The reverend Mother and Sisters having conveyed the delinquent to a cell where there was a stove, tied her hands securely, and then held her face to the hot metal until her eyes had lost their sight and her face was one huge blister. Some of the nuns, however, thought this discipline somewhat too stringent, and, possibly on the principle that “a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind,” and with the reflection that there was no saying but that the Lady Abbess might “go for” them next, communicated with the authorities, who have placed these severe disciplinarians in jail pending a trial.

A Grand Trade.

An old Glasgow bookseller used to give a humorous account of what was in his days an almost daily occurrence:—“Indeed,” he would say, “it's but a poor trade the selling of stationery. A muckle stupid simph comes into the shop, and says, ‘G o s a b. w. bee's worth o' paper.’ ‘Is is post yo want?’ ‘Oh, yes.’ ‘Bless me, man, dae yo want short or lang?’ ‘Ah, no; I it tak this anc, for it's biggest.’ Well, yo wad think ano was done wi' the fallow after' that fash, and ma r nor five or ten minutes lost: but no—he's at yo yet. ‘Mend that pen,’ he says, handing out an auld stump to yo that naboody almost could men; and when yo has den that, he follows it wi' ‘Fit a wee drap ink in that bottle.’ Ye pit some in in his bottle a' for laething, and syne he shoves out his great horny hand, and says, ‘I'll thank yo for a wafer.’ Now only think o' the sa-lacerie, sic a loss o' time, forbye the ink and the wafer for naething! Yo'll see that the stationery trade's a grand trade.”

THE natives of the O'Keey Islands are said to enjoy good health and to live long. For these blessings they are indebted entirely to the bracing climate and to their own healthy outdoor occupations. A young woman from one of these islands was asked lately whether her people were generally long lived. With unconscious naivete she replied, “Yes, they live to a great age; there's no doctor on the island.”

GENERAL.

PHYSIC.—A witty old physician being asked by a beautiful girl what good all his doctor stuff did people, answered: “Why you see, my dear, by my pills, and powders, and blisters I distract the patient's attention, while nature cuts in and cures the disease before he knows it.”

It has been estimated that of the horses in the world Austria has 1,367,000; Hungary, 2,179,000; France, about 3,000,000; Russia, 2,147,000; Germany, 3,352,000; Great Britain and Ireland, 2,255,000; Turkey, about 1,000,000; the United States, 9,604,000; the Argentine Republic, 4,000,000; Canada, 2,634,000; Uruguay, 1,600,000.

The Fiji Islanders who, up to six years ago, when England adopted them were cannibals, and indulged in fricasseed traders, with cold missionary on the sideboard, have become so civilized that they wear clean shirts on Sunday, sing hymns, eat yams and beefsteak like any orthodox Christian. What with coconut, coconut fibre, cotton, sugar and coffee to export, and a luxuriant soil to grow all these products in, the colony ought to have a grand future.

THE oldest infantry regiment in the Austrian army celebrated, on the 21st of last month, the 250th anniversary of its enrollment. It bears the name of “Prince George of Saxony, No. 11,” and was raised in Bohemia in 1630, during the “Thirty Years' War.” The regiment is at present quartered in Herzegovina. The day was celebrated by a grand bacquet given by the officers, while the soldiers had a sort of historical masquerade, illustrating the career of the regiment.

On Saturday night Carter, the negro minstrel, who was performing in one of the big Bowery variety theatres, provoked long and loud applause with his newest song. “I was in Washington the other day,” said he, “and I met an old politician there who asked me how things were in New York. I told him that a Pennsylvania man is in a peculiar fix there. He asked how that was, and I said that the man I referred to is on the Island, and is going to be sent up for four years in November.”

AFTER the execution of Monseclou in Paris the other day for the murder of the little girl, Lucie Dou, his remains were conveyed to the anatomical theatre, and subjected to a singular experiment. Dr. Sappey injected under the cutaneous tissue of the head some fresh-drawn blood from the carotid of a living dog. The result was startling, for the colour returned to the cheeks, there was a perceptible nervous tremour, while the lips slightly moved. The same treatment applied to the body produced no effect.

THE champion jack of all-trades belongs to England, and lives near Chichester. He has served as seaman in the four quarters of the globe, and acted as steward, sailmaker, cook, mate, and navigator. He now hangs out his sign as “Prof. Pullinger, contractor, inventor, fisherman, builder, carpenter, joiner, sawyer, undertaker, turner, cooper, painter, glazier, sign painter, wooden pump-maker, paper hanger, bell hanger, and builder, clock case, locksmith, umbrella repairer, china and glass mender, netknitter, wireworker, grocer, baker, farmer, taxidermist, copying clerk, letter writer, accountant, surveyor, engineer, land measurer, house agent, vestry clerk, assistant overseer, clerk to the Selsay Sparrow Club, clerk to the Selsay police, assessor and collector of land tax and property and income tax, and collector of church and highway rates.”

A STRIKING acoustic effect has been produced at the Covent Garden Theatre concerts, London, by locating one of the bands in the front seats of the top gallery, while the other two perform on the temporary orchestral stand erected for the promenade concerts. The instruments during the realization of this novel idea were drums and bugles to the extent of over a hundred performers, and the players, under the direction of a inventive Frenchman replied to each other from floor and gallery in a kind of ancient antiphonal call and recall, with all the vehemence of military lungs and arms, going it hard at brass and goatskin. The rapid and almost startling transitions from half stillness to thunder were very strange, and as the sound rolled and reverberated along the roof, and up and down the ample building, such a clatter and uproar was produced has been rarely equalled. The effect was remarkable, and the critics say the thing was sublime.