

ADVICE TO BEGINNERS.

DANIEL STEWART.

Advice of any kind has generally to be taken "cum grano salis," or at least with something to make it palatable, and young bee-keepers may console themselves with the fact that the something palatable is generally a natural sequence of successful bee-keeping.

ADVICE No. 1—Do not go into bee-keeping under the impression that it is a lazy man's job; that all you have to do is to get the bees and they will work for nothing and board themselves. They won't do it, but will require your attention as much as your horse, pet fowls, etc.

You must cultivate a liking for these interesting little animals, and show no fear when you enter the bee-yard. It is a matter of fact that the more one is afraid of being stung the more he is stung, and vice versa. A veil, such as you can purchase from any supply dealer, is a necessity for the novice, and enables him to summon up the necessary courage. If you are stung on the hands while working it will not improve matters to use strong language and fling things round with an insane desire to get even. No, quietly remove the sting by brushing it off, or carefully placing a knife blade under it and thus pulling it out. Be careful, however, not to squeeze the part, as the venom is thus discharged into the flesh and a bad swelling ensues. If the pain is very severe a little common salt, moistened, and applied to the wound, will give relief.

ADVICE No. 2—Supply yourself with some good practical work, or works on apiculture, and one or more bee journals. THE PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPER for one. I know no better book for a novice than "The A, B, C of Bee Culture," by A. I. Root, which you can obtain from almost any dealer in bee-keeper's supplies.

So much for the theoretical. The practical part will be the harder of the two, but vastly more interesting for you. If there is an established apiarist near you it will pay you to visit him and get a few hints.

You should start your yard with about three colonies, and these Italians, as in my opinion they are easier handled than the others and equally as good, if not better, as workers. If, however, you have black bees you can give them Italian queens, which you can purchase from your dealer and introduce in the following manner: "Lay the cage—after prying off the cover under the enamel cloth or quilt, on top of the frames directly over the cluster. If the weather is cold insert the cage between the frames in the clus-

ter. In 24 or 48 hours, by means of the opening to the candy at one end, the bees will eat through the candy and be ready to accept the queen. Unless the queen appears feeble do not examine again for twenty-four hours. If she is not released and in good condition close the hive again. The bees will shortly release her. The point is, the bees should release the queen themselves. This method gives general satisfaction, but there are others equally as good, and under certain circumstances, perhaps better. I strongly recommend the dove-tailed hive, which takes the standard frame, and is simple in construction, with square joints which make it convenient to tier up. It will pay you to get the best at starting, as a poorly constructed hive will be a source of trouble later on. You will also require a smoker, as it is a difficult matter to get along without them. Again, do not run to the other extreme and instead of neglecting your bees, pester the life out of them by constant observation. Having done your part you may depend upon the bees to do theirs faithfully and well.

(To be continued.)

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

—T. C. Kelley relate in the American Bee Journal that he never loses a swarm if the sun is shining brightly at the moment of their leaving. He uses a mirror of average size to reflect the sun's rays on the spot where the bees are the most numerous. For three years a swarm commenced to settle on the top of an elm about 50 feet high. He directed the sun's rays above and the bees left the spot, descended, and bunched on a little bush about six feet from the ground. This process has been recommended for years by a German apiculturist, M. Barnack, and is always employed with success.

Daniel Stewart, of Tilbury North, will clear between \$400 and \$500 from his honey this year.

HONEY PLANTS.—

The following plants are found to yield honey in greater or less abundance. They are named in the order of their maturity. The willows of several species, the silver and red maples, the aspen poplar, the dandelion and strawberry, the blossoms of fruit trees, locust, the clovers, the raspberry, basswood and buckwheat. The last four are the most important to the apiarist. Later on in the season, the motherwort, figwort, teasel, poppies, sunflowers, smart weeds and golden rods are also visited by the bees.