

bloomed but was soon ruined by drought. At the annual meeting of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association held in Detroit in December, 1885, a committee, of which I was a member, was appointed by the association to investigate the merits of a new plant being cultivated by Mr. Chapman, of Versailles, N. Y., who was present and represented that the plant was of unusual value to honey producers. Being instructed by you so to do, I met with other members of that committee at Versailles, on the 28th of July. I herewith enclose a copy of the report which I prepared in behalf of that committee, together with a letter of Mr. A. E. Manum, president of the Vermont Bee-Keepers' Association, which I presented to the North American Bee-Keepers' Association at its annual meeting held in Indianapolis, Ind., October 12, 13, 14, 1886.

My experience with the plants furnished for observation at this station was nearly identical with that of Mr. Manum. Fifty-two plants arrived here by express, fifty-one of which came to maturity. Plants were furnished to Prof. A. J. Cook, Lansing, Mich.; T. F. Bingham, Abronia, Mich.; W. F. Clarke, Guelph, Ontario, and Mr. Van Dom, Omaha, Nebr., each of whom highly recommend it as possessing unusual value as a bee-forage plant.

From the Rural Californian.

BEE-KEEPERS.

THE number of persons engaged in bee-keeping in this vicinity is diminished year by year, and from various causes there is reason to believe that the number will still grow less. One reason is that honey commands so low a price that even the efficient and successful bee-master can realize much more on the time and money expended in almost any other calling or industry. But the great drawback is the scarcity of skilled, reliable help in the apiary. To successfully work bees, the work must be done in time, and exactly on time and must be done neatly and expeditiously, otherwise heavy and irreparable losses occur. To find an educated bee-keeper, I mean educated in and to the business, is quite a task, and judging from our exchanges the same state of things exist throughout the United States.

To find some one who claims to know all about bees, and ready to go to work at two dollars a day and boarded would not be difficult; but when you examine the candidate and it turns out that his father kept the bees, and that all the candidate for two dollars a day and board ever did with the bees was to drum a tin

pan in swarming time to keep the bees from going to the woods. One begins to think that the dark ages are coming instead of the millennium promised. It seems to us that the U. S. Experiment Stations ought to turn out annually a class of young men educated in the business, and the several State Universities so richly endowed by the Government, both State and National, could aid somewhat in this direction and furnish a good supply of intelligent workers for the apiary.

From the British Bee Journal.

Honey-producing Flowers and Plants.

DOUBTLESS most of the readers of your valuable and esteemed *Journal* are aware that much has appeared in its columns in reference to many kinds of flowers and plants which are more or less valuable as honey-producing plants, and some of the accounts given appear very contradictory. I think if our friends were to give us a few more particulars respecting the kind of soil and the treatment the various kinds of plants require to make them honey-producing, the apparent contradictions would be much lessened. I may add that I take a very great interest in the *Journal* and also in growing many kinds of plants which have been recommended from time to time in its columns, some of which I find entirely useless as bee-plants in my soil.

With your permission I will illustrate, in some small measure, my meaning, and to do this I will describe the soil, and follow on with a few different kinds of plants. The soil, then, is a rather strong and stiff kind of clay, top soil, and clay subsoil; it is very bad to work if much is done to it in wet weather; but if dug up rough and allowed to get well frosted, it works very well. I find that a good coating of burnt earth of any kind answers better than manure for a time and makes it work much better and prevents the cracking which often occurs in dry weather.

Now let me give a few remarks respecting the plants which I have tried upon this kind of soil. First, Borage; this I find to be the best kind of all plants which I have tried; it grows very strong, each plant growing to about 3 ft. high, and many of them, where they have room, will measure 5 ft. through, and this will be always in bloom from the middle of June until the sharp frosts come and kill it, and it is also very thickly covered with bees all the time the weather permits them to fly; there is no slackness, and they visit it from morning till night; I have often heard them flying about it when it has been too dark for me to see them, and I believe they col-