

BEEES AND POULTRY.**FACTS FOR BEGINNERS.**

The following are facts which every bee-keeper ought to know:—

1. That the life of a worker bee, during the working season, is only from six to eight weeks' duration, and that a large majority of them never live to see seven weeks.
2. That a worker is from five to six days old before it comes out of the hive for the first time to take an airing, and that it is from fourteen to sixteen days old before it begins to gather either pollen or honey.
3. That all swarms engaged in building comb, when they have not a fertile queen, build only drone comb, and that all the comb in the lower or breeding apartment should be worker or brood comb, except a very small quantity of drone comb, four inches square being amply sufficient.
4. That the more prolific the queen is, the more young bees you will have, and the more surplus honey will be gathered, other things being equal.
5. That you ought never to cut mouldy combs out of the hives, for the reason that you should never allow it to become mouldy.
6. That you ought never to double swarms or stocks of bees in the fall, because you ought to attend to that and make them strong during the summer, by taking brood from the strong stocks and giving it to the weaker.
7. That a drone-laying queen should be taken away, and one producing workers be put in her place, else the colony will soon come to naught.
8. That, as a rule, as soon as an Italian queen shows signs of old age or feebleness, the bees themselves will supersede her.
9. That all colonies should be kept strong in order to be successful.
10. That every hive should contain about two thousand cubic inches in the breeding department.
11. That beginners in bee-keeping should be very cautious about increasing the number of their swarms or stocks rapidly, until they thoroughly understand the business.

TWO WAYS.

When a woman has a hen to drive into the coop, she takes hold of her skirts with both hands, shakes them quickly at the delinquent, and says, "Shoo, there!" The hen takes one look at the object and stalks majestically into the coop. A man doesn't do that way. He goes out of doors and says: "It is singular nobody can drive a hen but me," and picking up a stick of wood, hurls it at the offending biped and observes: "Get in there, you thief." The hen immediately loses her reason, and dashes to the other end of the yard. The man straightway dashes after her. She comes back with her head down, her wings out, and followed by an assortment of stove wood, fruit cans and clinkers, and a very mad man in the rear. Then she skims under the barn, and over a fence or two, and around the house, and back again to the coop, and all the while talking as only an excited hen can talk, and all the while followed by things convenient for handling, and a man whose coat is on the sawbuck, and whose hat is on the ground, and whose perspiration has no limit. By this time the other hens have come out to take a hand in the debate and help dodge missiles, and the man says every hen on the place shall be sold in the morning, puts on his things and goes down street, and the woman has every one of those hens housed and counted in a few minutes.—*Mobile Register.*

"THE BUSY BEE."

BY ANTI-BEE.

I wonder if they'll ever cease
To praise the "busy bee?"
That "good example for mankind,"
It fairly sickens me.

Old fogies tell us "to admire
And pattern after them."
Why, if we did—but I will strive
My honest wrath to stem;

And in few words display their traits.
(I'm daft, I hear you saying.)
Well, never mind, we'll take that bee
Upon yon blossom swaying.

He sucks and stuffs until he is
Upon the point of bursting;
A glutton, then, upon the start—
Well, this we'll call the first thing.

Then, like a miser to his safe,
Straight to the hive he hurries;
And if you happen in his way,
Good gracious! how he worries.

With angry buzz, and sting unsheathed,
He strikes you on the forehead;
Your classic brow, the neighbours say,
In consequence, "looks horrid."

When "times are hard," just like mankind,
He robs and slays his neighbours;
And confiscates, for his own use,
The fruits of all their labours.

And if, perchance, a stranger bee
Should happen in their hive,
They start him home so suddenly,
He doubts if he's alive.

A glutton and a thief he is,
A murderer and miser;
And if you study him a year,
You will be none the wiser.

They live and die for wealth alone;
Their strife is never ended;
Their hive's a world in miniature,
Where good and bad are blended.

But if, for us, my friend, you still
A good example find them,
I'll own that I was in the wrong,
And cruelly maligned them.

—California Apiculturist.

FEEDING CHICKENS.

A great deal may be said in regard to feeding; pushing the young chicks along towards maturity as rapidly as possible. The first month or two is the most critical period; while yet "downy," they are very tender. Their thin covering is not able to resist the cold winds or pelting rains; and unless judiciously fed on cooked and dry food, scraps of meat occasionally, cut onions and cabbage, and milk if it can be had, they will not thrive as rapidly as we would wish. A well-fed and well-cared-for chick or adult fowl is not as liable to disease as a neglected one. It is poor economy to stint young or old birds; and it is well to bear in mind that there is no more profit in feeding well and pushing the chicks ahead than in not feeding them at all.—*Poultry Monthly.*

CLEANING POULTRY HOUSES.

One of the chief difficulties experienced where many fowls are kept is in having the houses free from the germs of disease, and especially to keep the fowls free from lice in the spring and during the sitting season. The fumes of burning sulphur form probably one of the very best means ordinarily available, when the house can be closed up quite tight. The ordinary farm-house, however, is seldom sufficiently tight for this purpose. Where the building may be made perfectly tight, by caulking or otherwise, all that is necessary, after scraping out all manure and thoroughly brushing down all surfaces with a stiff broom, is to place an iron pan or pot upon a bottom of bricks, and set on fire rags saturated with sulphur.

If the fowls have any contagious disease, such as roup, cholera, etc., let them remain in the

building, when fumigated, as long as there is no danger of suffocating. Then turn them out and continue the fumigation until every part of the building is fully filled. Keep all as close as possible for ten hours, and the deadly germs and insect life will have disappeared.—*Prairie Farmer.*

TO "BREAK UP" A HEN.

Remove the hen to a separate pen, if possible, out of sight and hearing of her usual haunts, and keep on very spare and low diet, and in about a week she will be quite cured, and may be returned to her mates. But all this is of no use unless the removal to a separate pen be made at once, after first discovering signs of the inclination to sit. It is here that the mistake is generally made, and the bird is allowed to sit on the nest day after day until the fever (for it is nothing more nor less) has increased to an extent very difficult to cure. Do not, on any account, resort to the practice of throwing cold water over the hen. Many a good bird has been permanently ruined in health by such a shock to the system; besides, it does not hasten the cure, and is cruel in the extreme.

ABOUT POULTRY.

An "Old Poultry Raiser" gives his experience about poultry in the *Country Gentleman* as follows:—

"All black varieties of chickens are poorly suited for market poultry. They show the pinfeathers, and are not so saleable as white or light-coloured fowls. Those with yellow legs and skin are more saleable than blue or white-legged ones. Asiatics are among the best winter-laying fowls, and the chicks can be raised in early spring, when they command a high price as broilers. The small breeds are tender, and may die if hatched early; they cannot stand cold or wet. Asiatics grow and thrive, even when snow is on the ground. In starting in the poultry business, do not build one large house, but several small ones. They need not cost much to hold thirty, or near that number, without crowding. The smaller flock always does the best under all circumstances, provided they are fed in proportion. Divide the flocks into several buildings, and healthy fowls and the best results are sure to follow, if food and cleanliness are also provided."

HEN MANURE.

An exchange says: Mix it with loam or muck, never with ashes, for ashes will discharge the ammoniacal qualities. Mix it on the barn floor, and put it, as soon as convenient, into the soil, where its valuable fertilizing qualities may be utilized and not wasted by exposure to air. It should be well mixed with the soil.

MASH FOR POULTRY.

An exchange recommends a mash composed of two-thirds wheat bran and one-third corn-meal for solids, with hot skim-milk for liquid. Fed in the morning when about blood heat, it makes a good breakfast for poultry, especially for laying hens. Oats and buckwheat for mid-day feed, and corn and oats for supper, are excellent for poultry. Clean, fresh water is a very essential article.

The little girl rattled it off as if she knew it by heart. "Why do ducks put their heads in the water? For divers reasons. Why do they take them out? For sundry reasons. Why do they put them in again? To liquidate their little bills. Why do they take them out again? To make a run on the banks."