

What color shall we paint them? Practically it makes little difference, but to those who delight in having everything looking nice, and, above all, tasty, the matter of color is by no means of the least importance. They are usually painted white, because, when so painted, they are said to be coolest, but who ever succeeded in getting a single-walled hive white enough to dispense with shade? Then, if shade is a necessity, why not paint whatever color will look best, and, at the same time, be most durable. The best painter I ever knew said, that a *little* color with white lead would "hold the white," or last longer than if pure white. We have by a practical test proved the truth of this theory. So much for durability, now for appearance. Is it good taste to paint white? We think not. Have you never noticed how glaring a white house "stands out" in a landscape? Did you ever see an artist place a white house on canvas on a beautiful landscape painting? No. Then why paint your hives white? Rather give them color or tint to harmonize with the colors of nature. I like the idea of *different* colors on a hive and right here is where the nice point comes in. In Peck's *Ganot* (am. edition, page 319) you will find the following: "Where figures are stamped on a ground whose color is complementary to that of the figures, they render each other more brilliant. When the figures are of the same color as the ground, but of a different shade, the colors render each other less brilliant." We must look out that we "trim" them to harmonize. A good rule is to take the colors of the spectrum, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet; now commencing at red, the fourth color or green, may be said to be complementary to first, and this rule will hold good all through the list. Orange and blue, etc., thus: R. O. Y. G. B. I. V. I would not give them any very decided color, rather a tint, but still these tints, unless properly mixed, will fade, but a good painter will fix it for you. I would not have more than two colors on a hive, and have all the hives alike.

As far as I have heard there seems to be an abundance of fall bloom throughout this (Welland) county, and the bees are now in this locality revelling in a perfect sea of golden rod, boneset, asters and buckwheat. We have to-day removed supers and will let them store in brood-chamber, as we have just about decided that we don't want to sell any fall honey with mixed flavor. Customers get "sick" of it, and it certainly does lessen the number of pounds sold. So let them "cram" their brood-nest full, or, as A. I. Root would say, "to the right and left, over

head and under foot," that is just the condition we want them in for winter.

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BEES AND HONEY.

THE honey-bee has been an object of great interest from the very earliest ages; the most ancient historical records make frequent reference to it. 'A little balm and a little honey' formed part of the present which Jacob sent into Egypt to Joseph in the time of the great famine. The 'busy bee' figures also in Greek as well as in Hebrew history. The little creature has given a name to many females of high degree. The Hebrew name of the bee (Deborah) was given to Rebecca's nurse, as also to that magnanimous prophetess whose courage and patriotism inspired the flagging zeal and waning energies of her dispirited countrymen. The Greek name of the bee (Melissa) was given to one of the daughters of Melissus, king of Crete. It was she who, with her sister Amalthæa, is fabled to have fed Jupiter with the milk of goats. She is said, also, to have first discovered the means of collecting honey from the stores of the bee which some ancient writers inferred that she not only bore the name, but that she was actually changed into a bee.

Another Greek story tells of a woman of Corinth, also bearing the name of Melissa, who, having been admitted to officiate in the festivals of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture, afterwards refused to initiate others, and was torn to pieces for her disobedience, a swarm of bees being made to rise from her body.

The old Greek name for the bee seems to have fallen into disuse in this country as a name given to females, though there can be no reason why its use should not be revived, for it is at least as melodious as the Hebrew name of the same significance, still applied to many a matron and maiden—a name which is expressive of honeyed sweetness, as also of unwearied energy and untiring industry.

Those who have had personal knowledge and experience of bee-culture will bear out the remark that bees are not particular as to the size or the position of the home in which they choose to dwell, so that it suffices for them to carry on with security their wonderful operations. In their wild state, cavities of rocks and hollow trees are alike available; and in their domestic conditions they have no preference for a straw skep over a wooden box, nor for the wooden house over the straw castle.

The bee, which, while under proper control