

New Lawns.

To keep lawns free from weeds, special care has to be given during the first year, as many weeds grow so rapidly that they crowd out the grass. Plantain, dandelion, and other perennial weeds are not yet deeply rooted during the first year, and may be easily pulled out, while in later years it becomes almost impossible to eradicate them entirely.

Vines on Houses.

We take the following from the *American Gardener* :—

It is generally supposed that vines make houses damp, for which reason there are not nearly as many cottages and houses beautified with vines as there should be. It is only when the climbers are allowed to cover the eaves and obstruct the gutters, or find their way under the shingles, that they become objectionable, and these conditions should, of course, be carefully guarded against. The *Gardener's Monthly's* remarks in this respect are well taken :—"Vines should always be kept cut down below the roof. It is a little trouble to do this once a year, but we cannot get even our shoes blackened without some trouble. Those who know how beautiful and how cozy looks a vine-covered cottage will not object to the few hours' labor it requires to keep vines from stopping up the gutter. Vines really make a wall dry. The millions of rootlets by which they adhere to the wall absorb water, and an examination will prove a vine-covered wall to be as 'dry as an old bone.' One great advantage of a vine-covered cottage, not often thought of, is that it is cooler in summer and warmer in winter than when there is but a mere naked wall."

Growing Pansies.

This is one of our most beautiful flowers, and though it is popular and to be found in most gardens, comparatively few people understand its proper cultivation with a view of obtaining the finest flowers. They will go into the grounds of the florist and express amazement at the great size and beauty of the pansies they see there, will forthwith purchase a supply for their own planting and will be charmed with them, and be determined to grow the same on their own premises, though their previous efforts have so signally failed. When asked how they had been growing them, they often reply, "Oh, I got some from a neighbor, who has large beds of them, but they are all so small." When told that they should sow the seed of the finest of those obtained from the florist as soon as the seed was matured—say some time in August—and that that was the only way to have fine, large flowers, the idea was jumped at. And yet that is the way to get them. Every August the seed of the largest and most desirable should be sown and the old ones dug up and thrown away. And we should say that this was easy enough to do when it is once known. In the winter the plants should be lightly covered. There are new pansies advertised every year, but any one growing them carefully and taking, as we say, the seed from the best every year, will be likely as anybody to have large, new kinds, and will thus save the expense of purchasing them, which, at most, last only for a single blooming. —[Telegraph.

The Apiary.

Introducing Queens.

A great many queens are lost when introducing them; but I have not lost one of the 25 I introduced the past year. My method is as follows: First find the queen you wish to supersede, cage her, and place the cage above the bees. It is better to have a one or 1½ story hive. I then move the quilt, put the cage with the wire down, and leave it in that position about one hour; by that time all the bees will learn that their queen is imprisoned. Now remove her, and put the new queen in the same place, leaving her until sundown, when she may be liberated, after which the work is completed.

The old way of caging the queen for three days, is a failure; for in that time the bees very often take up with a drone-laying queen, and the new queen is killed, and the colony about ruined.

Do the work in the morning, but if you cannot readily find the queen, close the hive again and wait; do not be in a hurry, for you can keep the new queen a week or more if necessary.

Assorting and Grading the Honey.

How to grade the honey, has for a long time perplexed my mind, and is still unsolved. No doubt there are very many others who are questioning the feasibility or practicability of the apiarist to grade or classify the particular kinds of honey, save two grades, viz., spring honey and fall honey.

In my opinion the true source from which the honey is gathered by the bees at any particular time, cannot be ascertained, from the fact that we have so very many different flowers in bloom at the same time.

I have kept bees on the improved plan for five years, and my observations have been that bees of the same colony do not gather honey from various kinds of flowers all at the same time; and that each bee gathers a particular kind of honey. For instance, if a bee starts out in the morning and works on a particular flower, it will invariably gather from that same source all day, and perhaps for several succeeding days, while another bee will visit some other flower in like manner.

At this time we have, in this locality, many thousands of different flowers in bloom, with our bees gathering from every source. It is simply spring honey. My neighbors say that I have my bees so well trained that I can handle them as though they were flies; but I have yet to see the colony of bees so well trained that they will all gather one kind of honey at the same time.—*John G. Smith in The American Bee Journal.*

Only 50 Cents.

Commencing with this issue, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will be sent for the next six months to any address in Canada or the United States for FIFTY CENTS. We make this special offer to induce new friends to give the ADVOCATE a trial.

In the stomach of a cow killed in Logan county, Ky., were found 260 hairpins. The ferocious animal must have swallowed a lady.

Editor's Diary.

"Lock the lepers out," says the Kansas City Indicator, in reference to prohibiting the importation of live stock. It thinks that this precaution would be a gain of millions to the United States.

It would be a national calamity to eradicate our native stock from the face of the earth and supplant them with breeds imported for speculative purposes. If nature's law of "the survival of the fittest" were enforced, what would become of the thoroughbreds?

It is estimated that 25 per cent. of all the dogs in existence are affected by tape worms. Having passed through the dog system in their immature stage, some kinds of these worms infest cattle, others sheep and others swine. Eating carrion and other filthy foods is the most prolific cause.

We are receiving complaints of failures in breeding from different sections. This arises from mistaken ideas about thoroughbred stock. Any animal, male or female, that is gorged and nursed, is sure to have failures. Vigorous exercise and reducing the condition of the animal by lower feeding is the only remedy. Not only the animal, but also the offspring, is prejudicially affected by high feeding and lack of sufficient exercise.

In our last issue we referred to the destruction of noxious weeds and the late bill passed for their destruction. The same Act provides that all the black-knot found on plum and cherry trees shall be cut out and burnt. It also enforces the cutting down and burning of any peach, nectarine or other trees infected with yellows, and the destruction of all the fruit of trees so affected. It shall be the duty of the inspector appointed by the Council to enforce the provisions of the Act.

The wages of the English farm laborer are steadily advancing despite the deficient crops of the past six years, the consequent agricultural depression, and the slow advance of farm products. The average wages thirty years ago were barely 11s. per week, twenty years ago 12s., and they now average between 13s. and 14s. No doubt emigration has had some effect in enhancing the wages, and the extraordinary improvements in farm machinery do not seem to have any depreciating influence on labor.

One of the chief points in judging an animal is well-sprung ribs. This merit can be developed in young animals by a proper system of feeding. Feeding calves with highly-concentrated foods makes them flat-sided, while coarser foods will swell them out, developing a well-rounded barrel. The latter tendency is beneficial both for milking and beefing qualities—even also from an economic standpoint. The percentage of food digested remains constant in the same animal, under any variety of rations, so long as correct feeding principles are applied. Therefore give the calves plenty of grass.