

## THE APIARY.

### Beekeeping During the Month of June.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate.":

The observing and experienced man no doubt has observed with what rapidity one of long experience can do work to which he is accustomed. More than that, he can size up a situation and know just what is required to put a matter into the needed condition.

Let me use an illustration which should appeal to the agricultural class. Hogs in the great slaughter houses are killed, scraped and prepared for market with a rapidity which has astonished the beholders. The reason is two-fold, experience and study, with money, have given the best equipment, and experience in workmanship has enabled man to make every move tell. So is it in bee-keeping. "Experience makes perfect."

No, I dare not say that, but experience should make efficient. The expert by outward conditions may see what is wanted when the uninitiated discerns nothing. Or he rolls the quilt back on the frames and can see at a glance that the bees require or do not require room. Such experience can only be acquired by practical experience and yet this undoubtedly can be helped by judicious tuition along with the experience. One of the difficulties in connection with the tuition in bee-keeping is that whilst in a special class in judging, animals can be brought into a class room, and a tree may be pruned in the dead of winter, bees cannot be handled in the winter, neither can a colony be taken with the combs, indicating that they need more room, yet, if care is taken, valuable instruction can be given, which must mostly benefit one who has already some experience. A very critical time with a bee-keeper is when the colony is in a condition that it should have upper stories put on the hive to prevent the bees from having the swarming impulse. There are many bee-keepers who do not know enough about their bees to give them room at the right time. It is no longer considered good management to have early swarms. If the bees have wintered well, and depending in a measure upon whether the bees have been able to gather from early blossoms, and if the hive is large or small, one should watch the bees fairly closely all through fruit bloom. It is not often that colonies will swarm during fruit bloom, but they may, when the brood chamber is full. In the production of comb honey it is much more difficult to know what to do than in the production of extracted. With extracted honey an upper story with drawn comb can be put over the brood chamber, putting no queen excluder between, the queen can then go into the super and deposit eggs, and brood can there be reared, perhaps increasing the number of young bees. When the clover flow comes on the queen can then be confined to the brood chamber by a queen excluder, the brood can hatch in the super and the comb there used for the surplus honey. I have never had any honey left in these super combs when clover came in, and I may say with my twelve-frame hive the amount of brood in the brood chamber has not been a serious item.

With comb honey, however, where sections are put on the comb foundation in the sections, first of all the queen bee is most unlikely to have any desire to lay in the sections, next, if honey is stored in the sections it will be off in color and quality and give an inferior section even if only very little of it is found in the sections. My advice to inexperienced bee-keepers is to produce extracted rather than comb honey.

But it may be asked "How shall we know when to super the hive?" It is not altogether a question of the time or kind of bloom, but first the condition of the colony. If the combs in the brood chamber are almost all full with either eggs (one in a cell means it is full for the bee) larvae, capped brood, pollen and honey, then they should be supered, providing that a honey flow may follow. By that I mean that the indications may plainly and unmistakably point to, or actually indicate that clover is about over. There is then no use in putting on supers if there cannot be any white honey expected after clover. This is true in my own section.

The comb indication that bees require room is the elongation of the cells in the combs showing that the bees are using any available room in the hive, but the mere building out of comb above the brood does not necessarily indicate that the hive is crowded. The bees practically always build the cell walls longer, when they store honey in the comb, than if the brood is hatched in the cell. If, therefore, the brood last year extended to the top bar, then if honey is stored above the brood, the bees may, and often do, attach fresh wax to the cell wall of the comb.

Cell cups are not even always a sign that the hive should be supered, but with a strong col-

ony, and the honey flow on, with a prospect of it continuing, is a sign of super room, provided the colony is not superseding the queen. Almost full combs and the promise of a continued honey flow, are the prime conditions for supering bees.

Brant Co., Ont.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

## POULTRY.

### Shade, Water and Grain during Summer.

The hot weather is at hand, and the poultry, including the young chickens, are all out on a free range, or in the poultry yards. It must be remembered that poultry, especially young chickens and ducks, require shade. If a number of the young birds are noticed to become weak and suddenly throw their heads around over their backs, it can generally be concluded that they have had an overdose of sun. While a moderate amount of sunlight is essential to poultry-raising success, shade during the heat of the summer is also absolutely necessary. Here is where and when the orchard proves a good place for the chickens. There is shade in plenty, and where the land is kept cultivated the poultry get considerable feed in destroying grubs and insects of various kinds.

Heat also means thirst. Even though green feed is abundant, it is surprising how much water a flock of young chickens or laying hens will consume each day. If possible, place the water troughs under the shade of a tree, or at any rate in as a cool a place as is available. This will aid in keeping them clean, and clean troughs are very important. If filth is allowed to accumulate on them, they very soon become unfit for use and the water may in a short time become sickening to the birds. Putrefaction and fermentation take place much more rapidly in a high than in a low temperature.

If best results are to be looked for some grain must be fed in addition to the feed which the birds are able to obtain in their rambles over the fields. Too many farm flocks are compelled to pick up their entire living during the summer months, and at the same time expected to lay an egg per bird each day, and also come in for considerable abuse if they purloin a few grains from the sown field, or a few tubers from the potato patch. Poultry requires just as careful management as does any other branch of agriculture.

### Feeding Young Chickens and Turkeys.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate.":

As the feeding and caring for young poultry usually falls to the lot of one or more of the feminine portion of the household, a few suggestions may be a help to someone who is trying to make a success of the business, for it is a busi-

ness as much as storekeeping, or any other mercantile trade, and has to be attended to, and looked after with intelligence or there will be failures. If the eggs don't hatch, or disease takes the flock, it is so often attributed to bad luck. To my mind there is no such thing as luck—there is a cause for everything, and we may reap a profit by the failures, if turned to good account in experience, and not sit down and whining say "What bad luck I have." Always keep the motto in view "Onward and Upward," even in the poultry business.

A good plan, instead of making a summer resort for the hens and their families in the back-door yard, is to make a sort of box with slats on one or all sides, so the young chickens can get in and feed to their heart's content, leaving the older ones out, as they cannot get through between the slats. The top may be put on with hinges, to be convenient in putting the feed in. This can be set anywhere desired, and moved at almost any time, the making of it is only a few minutes work. Enough feed can be put in these in the morning to do all day. Have it large enough so that a long-necked turkey cannot reach the feed. For watering them fill a keg with water having a tap or plug, so that a little water will drop into a shallow pan and they have good drinking water and no anxiety or fear of a chicken being drowned in it.

The same plan of feeding may be adopted with young turkeys that are kept with the hen, except that only enough feed should be put in that they will eat up clean. I prefer to let the young turkeys go with their natural mother. They can be raised with less work, grow faster, and are not in so much danger of being over-run with lice. Feed when young with dry bread crumbs and rolled oats mixed with some sour milk curds, to be moist but not sloppy, and a few onion tops cut up rather fine. Have never tried shorts, but have used cracked wheat, and think the oatmeal was better, not causing so much diarrhoea. Oat chop sifted is not bad feed for them, mixed a little moist. They drink a lot of water and if given regularly will do no harm. If they are fed twice a day, they are not apt to stray too far away. Like some young people they think far away fields look green, but if given contentment and enjoyment near home, the far away fields will be a myth, and not a reality. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Lambton Co., Ont.

BROWN EYES.

## HORTICULTURE.

### Blasting Holes for Tree Planting.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate.":

In reply to your enquiry—regarding the results of planting fruit-trees in holes blasted with stumping powder, will say that on May 21st, 1912, the Canadian Explosives Limited, Montreal, gave a demonstration of blowing holes with stumping powder for tree setting, at my farm.



Poultry and Fruit Go Well Together.

All signs point to a good crop of both here.