

The Hunny Bee.

BY JOSH BILLINGS.

The hunny bee iz about 10 times the size of the hous fly-i never measured them-they won't stand still long enuff, but i think i hav got their dimenshuns about right.

If i hav made a blunder in this matter i am ready to repent and be forgiven for it.

They are as bizzy as a type-setter on the N. Y. Weekly, in thozu countrys wharo hunny iz skarse, but wharo sweet meats are a drug they went work at all.

I dont kno az wo kan blame them for this, for if beef-steak lay hot and well buttered bi the roadside all the time, and bivalves were running around on the half shell, peppered and salted, crying "Who will eat me?" i would like to see the man yu could hire to thrash out ryo that was wet in the bundle for 10 shillings a day.

Hunny bees are built with a sting, which is quicker than a ghost when a good bizzness chance offers; but i never knu one to use it just for the devilry ov the thing.

Theze little workers travel about five miles a day during the sweet season, and bring their hunny home stuk unto their logs. If there is a lazy one in the hive he gets lynched at once. Lynch law iz the hunny bee's justiss.

Man stole this code from the hunny bees, just az he haz stole pretty much evrything else he haz got.

Killing oph the lazy may look a little tuff, but after all thare is smuthing like morey in it, for it iz the only way known az yet to put an end to their torments.

Hunny bees have a queen, but never a king; this is a grate kompliment to the sex, and iz an argument for Wimin's Rights, which the beleavers in this doktoring are welkum to use without giving me kredit for it.

The hunny bees are the only nation i kno ov who hav allways had a queen for their ruler, and who hav been more prosperons and have existed longer than enny people we kno ov.

I luv the hunny bees bekauzo they are allwuss bizzy, and hav a stinger allwuss hot and redovy for the lazy, and for thozu who poke their nose into their bizzness.-N. Y. Weekly.

The Men Who Are "Going to Do."

This reminds me of some men who are always going to do great things but never begin. I once had a neighbor-and in fact, may have some of the same sort now-who was perpetually telling what he was going to do, consequently never had time to do anything. He would get up early in the morning, draw on a heavy pair of boots, with pants tacked inside; then to see him start out for the barn, making everything fly right and left, one might suppose him to be one of the driving sort. So he was, for about an hour or less, or until called to breakfast, after which he would light his pipe, stroll over to his nearest neighbor, or hang over the fence and talk to every passer-by respecting the same old story of what he was going to do to-morrow, or next week. It is needless to say that my neighbor soon found out that farming was a poor business.

I can call to mind a number of similar instances where the best of resolutions failed to bring success. It is well enough for a farmer to get up early and "storm about" a little in the morning; but if he lacks the "sticktoitiveness," all his bluster will not amount to much in the long run.

Neat, cosy homes, good gardens, orchards and other home comforts, are never obtained by these going-to-do sort of folk.-Cor. Rural New Yorker.

A SUNNY TEMPER.-What a blessing to a household is a merry, cheerful woman-one whose spirits are not affected by wet days, or little disappointments, or whose milk of human kindness does not sour in the sunshine of prosperity. Such a woman in the darkest hours brightens the house like a little piece of sunny weather. The magnetism of her smiles and electrical brightness of her looks and movements infect every one. The children go to school with a sense of something great to be achieved; her husband goes into the world in a conqueror's spirit. No matter how people annoy and worry him all day, far off her presence shines, and he whispers to himself, "At home I shall find rest." So day by day she literally renews his strength and energy, and if you know a man with a beaming face, a kind heart and a prosperous business, in nine cases out of ten you will find he has a wife of this kind.

A SMOKE CONSUMER.-The proprietors of a Cleveland newspaper have recently applied an apparatus to their office chimney which is said to be a perfect preventive of smoke and a great saver of fuel. Its discovery was purely accidental. As a mechanic was trying to secure a better draft for a sluggish fire the thought occurred to him, after other devices had failed, to try the effects of steam. A small pipe was made to conduct the dry steam from the top of the boiler to the upper part of the furnace, which it entered in two small jets, striking downward on the burning fuel. No sooner was the steam injected into the furnace than the sluggish, smoky fire sprang up into a clear, bright yellowish and intensely hot flame, filling the whole furnace with a loud roar. The man found he had not only secured a strong draft, but something much more important-a smokeless fire.

A FARMER can do more work with a good thin' ing apparatus than with the best span of horses ever hit and to a waggon.

Do Does PERSPIRE?-It is frequently urged as an argument against the ordinary method of muzzling dogs, that it closes the mouth, and thereby prevents perspiration, which, in the dog, is said to take place only through the mouth. This, according to Land and Water, is an error; perspiration going on through the skin, as in other animals. The idea of perspiratory glands in the tongue is characterized as absurd, these organs being only found in the dog's skin, which is abundantly supplied with them. The real cruelty of the close or strap muzzle is, that it hinders free respiration rather than free perspiration.-Popular Science Monthly.

UTILIZING HEAT.-A Boston letter says: "Dr. S. G. Howe has arranged a simple contrivance for utilizing heat in the dwellings of the people, by means of a wooden box and air box about the hot water boiler which is now a common appendage to the kitchen range, even in the dwellings where the rent is low. By means of this arrangement, which is in use at Dr. Howe's own cottage at Newport, the room over the kitchen can be kept warm with moistened air, with no expenditure for fuel more than is now necessary. The same idea has often occurred to others, perhaps, but I have heard of no contrivance so effectual as Dr. Howe's."

FIGHTING FISH.-The Paris Jardin d'Acclimatation has just received from Shanghai a collection of Japanese and Chinese fishes, among which are some of the fighting sort, which furnish great amusement to the Annamites. The following is their mode of proceeding. They select two combatants of dark color and put them into separate glass bottles, which they then place close together. The fish immediately begin to watch each other; their hues change; they become black, the tail and fins grow phosphorescent, and the eyes sparkle with peculiar lustre. They soon rush towards each other, but are stopped by the bottles. When their rage is at its height, they are liberated and placed in the same reservoir, and a furious combat takes place until one being defeated seeks safety in flight, again changing its tint to a whitish grey.

SEA-WATER ICE.-The notion generally prevails that, when salt water freezes, the ice is fresh, and, when melted, will produce fresh water. Prof. Tyndall states that such is the case, in his "Forms of Water." But Dr. Rao, the Arctic explorer, declares that he was "never able to find sea ice, in situ, either eatable when solid or drinkable when thawed-it being invariably too salt." He adds, however, that when his party found ice projecting above the water, and from its appearance indicating that it was a year or more old, it was generally fresh and made good drinking water. His theory explaining the fact is, that the salt is not itself congealed, but that a concentrated brine, imprisoned in minute cells, is retained in the solid ice. These cells communicating with each other, when the ice is lifted above the general level, the brine is drained off, leaving the mass fresh.

STOCK GAMBLERS AND THEIR SLANG.-Gamblers of every grade have their slang terms to convey to the initiated just what they mean, and however blind it may be to the uninitiated, it is perfectly intelligible to those possessed of the high civilization (!) necessary to "manipulate stocks." Four different forms of contracts are known under the general term of stock privileges. The "put" and "call" are single privileges. The "straddle" and "spread" are double privileges. A "put" is a contract giving the holder the right of delivering a certain amount of stock within a definite time at a stipulated price. A "call" is exactly the reverse of a "put," being a contract giving the holder the right of calling for the stock instead of delivering it. A double privilege is a "put" and "call" on the same stock in one contract. When a double privilege is drawn at the market price of the stock, it is called a "straddle," and cost from two and a half to five per cent. premium. But when drawn at a distance of from one to two and one-half per cent. above and below the market price, it is called a "spread," for which a fixed premium of two per cent. is paid. The distance from the market at which a "spread" is drawn, depends on the class of stock and the activity of the market.

WHITE MICE.-White mice are very pretty pets, yet many object to them on account of their musky odor, which is natural to them and cannot be removed. By keeping a little box of chloride of lime or carbolic disinfecting powder in their cage, this odor may be entirely neutralized. A good box for the purpose may be made of a tin baking soda can, and nailing it to the upper part of the cage. A cage for the mice can be constructed out of a starch-box, fitting it with a second story leading from the first by a flight of stairs. Tin cages are very nice. The best diet for white mice consists of wheat flour and cracker-dust, alternating with oatmeal once or twice a week. An occasional crust of bread, nibble of oats, canary-seed, &c., will be relished. Raw meat, fed just before the litter, will tend to prevent their devouring their young. Milk should be their sole beverage. White mice are very prolific, producing monthly litters of from four to twenty. They are very intelligent little creatures, and can be taught innumerable tricks and antics. One was once caged with a canary, with which it was on the most amiable terms, eating and drinking from the same dish without quarreling.

CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

Table listing various articles and their page numbers, including sections like THE FIELD, GRASSES AND FORAGE PLANTS, IMPLEMENTS, HORTICULTURE, THE ORCHARD, THE FRUIT GARDEN, THE FLOWER GARDEN, THE VEGETABLE GARDEN, BREEDER AND GRAZIER, VETERINARY, THE APIARY, THE POULTRY YARD, EDITORIAL, AGRICULTURAL INTELLIGENCE, and MISCELLANEOUS.