

Apiary.

A YOUNG LADY APIARIAN.

The following letter is addressed to the American Bee Journal, by Miss Kate Grimm, the daughter of a very extensive apiarian in Wisconsin:

It was on the 29th of May that my father came home from the northern apiary, and told me that I was to take charge of it the next day (May 30th). It was nothing very unusual to me, because I have done so yearly for the last four years, and therefore I was ready immediately to enter my services.

June and July had always been the most lonesome months of the year for me, and so the former proved to be this year, but the latter was far different, as you will hear.

When I first came here I had only forty-eight stocks to take care of, and indeed I must say that it seemed almost impossible for me to stay with such a few, as I had been used to have at least over one hundred.

During the month of June I had thirty-eight young swarms from the forty-eight; but still they were far from being enough to give me a chance to spend all my time in attending to them.

When I came home one evening to report to my father, (as I did every Saturday), I complained to him of my few hives, and told him that though they were all very busy, and doing their very best, I could not be satisfied; so he promised to send me more in a day or two. Two days afterward I received a load with eighteen hives; in about a week another; and some days afterward a third one. Then I thought there would be more of a chance for me to be doing something, and so indeed there was.

The stocks which father sent me were mostly young swarms, some of which swarmed twice again, others only once, and most of them only once; so that after the first of July I had nineteen more young swarms, and a little honey, as you will soon learn.

June 30th, father was here to examine my hives, when he also made twenty double hives, from which I was to extract honey about every three days, as he thought that during that time they would be filled.

July 5th, I extracted my first half barrel, which was one hundred and eighty-five pounds. When I was through with it I felt pretty well tired out, and I thought it was quite a task for one day; but I had then no idea of what was still to be done.

July 8th and 9th, I extracted 1 1/2 barrels, so that I then had two barrels.

July 14th, I extracted 1 1/2 barrels, and during the rest of the week 2 1/2 barrels.

July 17th, two barrels.

July 19th and 20th, one barrel, and four or five days after filled the tenth barrel. By this time I had given up the notion of a half barrel being a day's work. You will bear in mind, Mr. Editor, that I was all alone, so that I not only extracted the honey, but also took out the frames, and put them in again.

The room in which I lived all this time was so filled up with barrels and boxes, that I feared its breaking down, and was obliged to have some of them removed to another apartment.

This shows what can be done with bees, when there is a good season and they are properly managed. I am very certain that those twenty double hives, which were mostly young swarms, gave me three times as much honey as they would have given me, had I not extracted the honey. Had there been two strong men, instead of a girl of seventeen years, to take care of more double hives, we might have had a larger number of barrels of honey.

With the honey extracted at home and at the southern apiary (of which my eldest sister takes charge), we will have nearly thirty-five barrels of honey, each barrel containing three hundred and seventy pounds. How much more honey we will have I cannot yet tell; but it will not be a little—perhaps 12,000 to 15,000 pounds. And all this honey is gathered by 290 hives, all that my father had left after his spring sales—with their increase, making in all 614 hives. If the month of August should be as favorable for bees as it was last year, we may have another 3,000 pounds in fall honey.

Does not this show that he who keeps bees? Even if bees did something sting me, that I got what I desired, when the time came again to put on or take off honey boxes, or

extract again (which was almost every two days), I felt very much pleased that I could again fill several barrels; I did not blame my bees for stinging me, and indeed would not have bees which do not sting, else mischievous boys would come and steal the honey.

I have not been absent from my bees a single day for the last two months; but as the honey harvest is now over, I think I shall again get leave to come home.

Of course I can say very little about bee-business, for I only take charge of my apiary during swarming and harvest time; but I am almost convinced that that is the time when the greatest amount of work is required. I have had to work very hard sometimes these last few weeks, but my work has indeed been rewarded.

Entomological.

THE CODLING MOTH.

From Downing's Fruit and Fruit Trees of America.

The apple worm or Codling moth (Carpocapsa pomonella of European writers) is the insect introduced with the apple tree from Europe, which appears in the early worm-eaten apples and pears in the form of a reddish white grub, and causes the fruit to fall prematurely from the trees. The perfect insect is a small moth, the fore-wings grey, with a large round brown spot on the hinder margin. These moths appear in the greatest numbers in the warm evenings of the 1st of June, and lay their eggs in the eye or blossom end of the young fruit, especially of the early kinds of apples and pears. In a short time these eggs hatch, and the grub burrows its way till it reaches the core; the fruit then ripens prematurely, and drops to the ground. Here the worm leaves the fruit and creeps into the crevices of the bark and hollows of the tree, and spins its cocoon, which usually remains there till the ensuing spring, when the young moth again emerges from it. The readiest way of destroying them when it can be done conveniently, is to allow swine and poultry to run at large in the orchards when the premature fruit is falling; or otherwise the fruit may be picked up daily and placed where the worms will be killed. It is said that if an old cloth is placed in the crotch of the tree about the time the fruit begins to drop, the apple worm will make it a retiring place, and thousands may be caught and killed from time to time. As the cocoons are deposited chiefly under the old loose bark, the thorough cultivator will take care, by keeping the trunks of his trees smooth, to afford them little harbor; and by scraping and washing them little early in the spring, to destroy such as may have already taken up their quarters there.

When the fruit of orchards is much liable to the attacks of this insect, we cannot too much insist on the efficacy of small fires lighted in the evenings, by which myriads of this and all other moths may be destroyed before they have time to deposit their eggs and cause worm-eaten fruit.

A simple preventive remedy, or method of trapping the insect when in the grub form, has been introduced by J. P. Trimble, of New Jersey, and consists in twisting a band or rope of hay, long enough to pass three or four times round the body of the tree, and putting it thereon, securing its ends so as to prevent its becoming loose; as soon as the fruit shows signs of the worms being at work, or from the middle to the last of June. They should be examined every two weeks, as long as the warm weather lasts, the earlier broods of worms becoming moths and producing a second crop. If the orchard is pastured, the bands must of course be put out of the reach of the animals. Sometimes it may be necessary to place them around the limbs; in that case the scales of rough bark on the body of the tree below them should be scraped off.

A PLEA FOR THE BUMBLE BEES.—The Tariff, Field and Farm puts in the following:

Boys think it glorious fun to fight bumble bees, but they should not be encouraged in the warfare. Bumble bees, like all the hymenoptera, play an important part in the great field of nature. The vein-winged insects which fly from flower to flower, do not injure or destroy the flowers, but make them productive by distributing the pollen. They also rid us of innumerable noxious caterpillars and other insects, which they convert into wholesome food for their offspring.

The ordinary honey bee performs its work well in the fertilization of white clover, but its proboscis is not long enough to enable it to reach the nectaries of red clover. For the fertilization of red clover, we must rely to a great extent upon the bumble bee.

Darwin has called attention to the intimate connection between the number of cats in a given district and the yield of red clover seed. The mice destroy the bumble bees, and the cats destroy the mice; therefore, the more cats the more bumble bees, and the more bumble bees the greater is the red clover yield. In order to make red clover grow more abundant in New Zealand than it does, some enterprising gentlemen are talking of importing colonies of bumble bees from England. Our young friends will thus see how earnestly the bumble bee is desired in countries where he works not. They should we not protect what we have, and which performs such important services in our fragrant meadows? We think so even if it does interfere with the wild pleasures of careless boyhood.

Miscellaneous.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?—Now that the comparative leisure of the fall and winter is approaching, we renew our request to our readers to furnish us brief, practical articles. It certainly is not a compliment to any farmer to say that he has never learned at least one thing by his experience or observation, which it would be of value to his neighbors to know. So every house-keeper should have learned some one thing at least of value to others. Now we ask that these things be sent us, so that not only a few but many others may be benefitted by them. The common excuse of not being able "to write well enough" should have no weight. The simplest and plainest statements of facts are what are wanted. Let us hear what you have learned by this season's work; what you think of the prospects for the next year; what advice you have to give, etc., and thus you will help us to make our paper more valuable and interesting to all.

BEST PARLORS.

Almost every American house possesses one of these dreadful altars, erected to what unknown goddess it is impossible to guess. It is a Bogy, before whom from time to time people burn gas in chandeliers of fearful design; to whom are dedicated fragrant carpets, impossible oil paintings, furniture too gorgeous for common day, and shrouded therefrom by customary holland. Musty smells belong to this Deity, stiffness, angles, absence of sunlight. The visitor entering sees written above the portal:—"Who enters here abandons conversation." What is there to talk about in a room dark as the Domdaniel, except where one crack in a reluctant shutter reveals a stand of wax flowers under glass, and a dandy-deserted hostess who evidently waits your departure to extinguish that solitary ray? The voice instinctively hushes; the mind finds itself barren of ideas. A few dreary common-places are exchanged, then a rise, a rut-tie, the door is gained and the light of the blessed sun; you glance up the passing-flap goes the blind, inner darkness is again resumed, Bogy has it all his own way, and you thank your stars that you have done your duty by the family for at least a twelve month.

INTELLECT IN AGRICULTURE.

Horace Greeley, in his "What I Know About Farming," very pertinently and truthfully says:—

A poor man who undertakes to live by his wits on a farm that he has bought on credit, is not likely to achieve a brilliant success; but the farmer whose hand and brain work in concert will never find nor fancy his intellect or his education too good for his calling. He may very often discover that he wasted months of his school-days on what was ill-adapted to his needs, and of little use in fighting the actual battle of life; but he will at the same time have ample reason to lament the meagreness and the deficiency of his knowledge.

I hold our average common schools defective, in that they fail to teach geology and chemistry, which in my view are the natural basis of a sound, practical knowledge of things—knowledge which the farmer, of all men, can least

afford to miss. However it may be with others, he virtually needs to understand the character and constitution of the soil he must cultivate, the elements of which it is composed, and the laws which govern their relations to each other. Instruct him in the higher mathematics if you will, in logic, in meteorology, in ever so many languages; but not till he shall have been thoroughly grounded in the science which unlock for him the arcana of nature—for these are intimately related to all he must do, and devise, and direct throughout the whole course of his active career. Whatever he may learn or dispense with, a knowledge of these sciences is among the most urgent of his life-long needs.

Hence, I would suggest that a simple, lucid, lively, accurate digest of the leading principles and facts of geology and chemistry and their application to the practical management of a farm, ought to constitute the reader of the highest class in every common school, especially in rural districts. Leave out details and recipes, with directions when to plant or sow, etc.; for these must vary with climates, circumstances, and the progress of knowledge—but let the body and bones, so to speak, of a primary agricultural education be taught in every school, in such terms and with such clearness as commend them to the understanding of every pupil. I never yet visited a school in which something was not taught which might be omitted or postponed in favor of this.

Out of school and after school, let the young farmer delight in the literature illustrative of his calling—I mean the very best of it. Let him have few agricultural books; but let these treat of principles and laws rather than of methods and applications. Let him learn from these how to ascertain by experiment what are the actual and pressing needs of his soil, and he will readily determine by reflection and inquiry how those needs may be most readily and cheaply satisfied.

SUB-SOIL PLOW.

A new sub-soil attachment intended to work with an ordinary plow was tried this afternoon on the farm of Mr. Richard Saul, adjacent to the town. The attachment consists of two pieces of iron similar to the teeth of a cultivator attached to the plow in rear of the mould-board, and sunk to the depth of five and a half inches from the top of the furrow. With a cut of six inches, the sub-soil attachment gives five and a half more, or eleven and a half in all. The auto-furrow wheel of Mr. Lamb, the inventor of both improvements, was also attached to the plow, and the furrow turned to the depth named; while the ground underneath to a depth of nearly six inches more was thoroughly pulverized. Two horses drew this plow through the land, a sandy loam, with ease.

A SIMPLE AND EXCELLENT CLEANSING AGENT

Ammonia, or as it is most generally called, spirits of hartshorn, is, says the *Technologist*, a powerful alkali, and dissolves grease and dirt with great ease. It has recently been recommended very highly for many domestic purposes. For washing paint, put a tablespoonful in a quart of moderately hot water, dip in a flannel cloth, and with this simply wipe off the work, no scrubbing will be necessary. For taking grease spots from any fabric, use the ammonia nearly pure, then lay white blotting-paper over the spot and iron it lightly. In washing lace put about twelve drops in a pint of warm suds. To clean silver, mix two teaspoonfuls of ammonia in a quart of hot soap-suds. Put in your silverware and wash it using an old nail-brush, or tooth-brush for the purpose.

For cleaning hair brushes &c., simply shake the brushes up and down in a mixture of one teaspoonful of ammonia to one pint of hot water; when they are cleansed, rinse them in cold water, and stand them in the wind or in a hot place to dry. For washing finger-marks from looking-glasses or windows, put a few drops of ammonia on a moist rag, and make quick work of it. If you wish your house-plants to flourish, put a few drops of the spirits in every pint of water used in watering. A teaspoonful in a basin of cold water will add much to the freshening effects of a bath. Nothing is better than ammonia water for cleansing the hair. In every case, rinse off the ammonia with clear water. To which we would only add, that for removing grease spots, a mixture of equal parts of ammonia and alcohol is better than alcohol alone; and, for taking out the red stains produced by strong acids in blue and black cloths; there is nothing better than ammonia.

Read Before

THE Editor furrowed His mind a the top of His chair-hand up! His eyes o' document There were under in And a shor' ing his The e wer' carning s And a stra' cribing a There wer' bills from And his be' inquired There wer' the smoo And one of he was a There wer' teling w Ca-onizing done not There wer' and seep There wer' biters at There wer' and mo Which a h send in y There wer' meetings Which sa ment for There wer' tivals p Wrapped notice." In short, a its ink-s There was ing, per

The Edit' deon't a On differ' different Upon som' vcat ch' On how f' By prom' On friend' and wor' And had g' had pai' On vineg' him eve' Who saw' wond're On sever' was so v' That th' y' told him On mea' never p' So long a contain' On vari' temper And final' an edit' And so e' hadly I And he n' wakene He had it re tabl' A farmer the wor' " Good m' lowly to I'm glad alays r' Your pap' as the c' But I sp' be who The follo' for you And our they th' But I hus a good I told 'em as well And I th' whoeve That you blam' But, lay brought And I th' an edit' " My fe folks'