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The Apiary.

Bee Notes.

In most localities all surplus honey-boxes should be removed from the hive before this date. The practice of leaving boxes upon the hive until late in the season should be avoided, as they become soiled by so doing. All unfilled boxes should be removed as soon as the yield of honey is over, and packed away for the following season's use. Combs containing honey in partly-filled boxes may be taken out and the honey drawn from them with the extractor, and the combs used for guides in boxes next season. If single-comb boxes are used, the honey may be extracted without removing the combs.

MARKETING HONEY.—Where but a small amount of surplus honey is secured, it is usually best to dispose of it at a home market. It requires less attention in packing, and, as a rule, will bring a better price. Large quantities will necessarily be shipped to a city market. The provision of a proper package for transportation is essential. For box honey the shipping-case should hold from 10 to 25 pounds, and may be neatly made as follows: The size will depend upon that of the boxes to be packed; basswood lumber is most suitable; cut two pieces,  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, of proper dimensions, for the ends. At equal distances from the ends, and about 1 in. from one edge, cut a hole  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep for a handle. A top and bottom, and four strips  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide and of  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thickness, according to the size of the grate, constitute the remaining material of the case. Nail together. Before packing, boxes should be nicely cleaned from propolis, and care taken in every way to place the honey in market in a neat and attractive package. The boxes which each case is to hold should be placed upon the scales and weighed before packing. With a little care in selecting boxes, fractions of pounds in a case may be avoided, which is desirable. The net weight should be neatly marked on the case.

EXTRACTED HONEY.—The quantity of liquid honey placed upon the market is increasing each season, and finds ready sale in nearly every style of package, from jelly cups to casks holding 500 lbs. If fruit cans are used, let them be of some standard make, and pack them in crates of twelve each. Each can should have an attractive label, indicating the quality of the honey. For the past few seasons we have shipped largely in tin cans, holding 10, 15 and 20 lbs. At present the demand is for casks, or firkins, holding from 150 to 200 lbs. Such casks should be well made, and bound with wooden hoops, which should be nailed in place, and the casks well coated with bees-wax inside before filling. To do this they should be allowed to stand in the sun until they are quite warm. The wax should be applied quite hot. Pour a quart into a cask, and cork up tight; then roll and turn it until every spot is touched, when the unused wax may be poured out. The warmer the cask, the hotter the wax, and the quicker the work, the less wax will be required. Avoid filling the casks too full with cold honey, for if allowed to stand in a warm place, the honey will expand and cause the casks to leak.

PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER.—All openings at the top of the hive should be closed, so as to keep the interior warm, which will tend to continue breeding later in the season, and thus aid in securing a larger number of young bees for winter. Combs of honey from the heaviest hives may be changed for light ones in less prosperous colonies, and each thus have a sufficient quantity of food for winter. Each hive should contain about 25 lbs. of honey. Avoid exposing honey, whereby robbing may be induced. Where few hives are kept, the different operations may be performed morning and evening, when the bees are flying less freely, and robbing will be less likely to occur.—L. C. R., in *Am. Agriculturist*.

We have a copy of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE before us on the table. In looking over its pages we are struck with wonder at the fund of valuable information it contains, and involuntarily ask how many of our Eldom, Mariposa or Thorah farmers subscribe for this to them most valuable of magazines. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published in London, Ont., by Wm. Weld. It is a monthly at \$1 a year, or 10 cents per single number. Each number is a treasure in itself to the farmer, and when bound will make a volume invaluable.—Woodville (Ont.) Advocate.

Poultry Yard.

Advice for the Season.

We take the following from the editorial columns of the *American Poultry Yard*:—

MILK FOR FATTENING FOWLS.

What a different taste a fine, nicely and quickly fattened fowl has, when served on the table, compared to one which has been forced to scratch for all its living, and then is consigned to the spit in anything but a fit condition for food. Farmers realize the importance of fattening quickly, when feeding beefs for the butcher, yet many do not seem to realize the fact that what holds good with that kind of meat is equally true when applied to fowls. Tenderness and juiciness are results of fattening quickly, while mere ordinary flavor and want of tenderness result from letting fowls run until wanted for use on the table.

To enable one to fatten fowls or chicks quickly, it is absolutely necessary to give such food as will accomplish the purpose best, and to this end we unhesitatingly recommend plenty of milk in any state, from fresh to thick. This should be fed in connection with a grain diet, for one counteracts any possible deleterious influence of the other. If kept in a darkened place and fed unsparingly on milk, with grain in proper proportions, you will soon have something very choice to offer up on your tables to your friends, as well as to your family. When milk is fed, no water is required for fattening fowls.

EXAMINE THE COMBS.

It is the easiest thing in the world—when you know how 'tis done—to tell when your fowls are in ill-health, even in the incipient stages of any disease or ailment, if you but examine your flock carefully. The comb of each fowl is a true index to the working of its system. If they be in ill-health, the comb will lose color, and become far less firm in texture; as the malady increases, the color decreases, till a very sick bird will show a comb almost devoid of scarlet, being of a livid, dull crimson, or else pale or ashy in appearance. If the cholera, or any other disease, should come into the flock, carefully examine the combs of each bird, morning and night, and all those which are wanting in that bright, rich color which denotes perfect health, remove at once from the flock to a place remote, where they should at once be put under medical treatment.

The comb of a fowl is an honest index of the true inwardness, and should be daily consulted by the fancier who values the health and well-being of his flock. Look at the comb of a laying hen or pullet! She is in the height of health and strength, and carries her unfailing sign of healthfulness on her head, in the shape of a blood red, bright and full comb. A vigorous cock or cockerel will carry the same sign, though not, perhaps, in so eminent a degree as his harem.

TO WOULD-BE BUYERS

We would say prepare to buy early in the shipping season, for you will then have a larger and better lot of birds to select from than if you left your purchase until the winter or spring, by which time most breeders have their surplus birds disposed of, or at least the best of those they intend to sell. Buyers save something in the feed bill by buying their birds late in the season, instead of early in the fall, for they do not have to feed them so long, but this saving does not count for much, as the prices of the birds are correspondingly higher, while the quality is generally inferior. Breeders like to dispose of their surplus stock early, so as to get their flocks in shape for the following year's breeding, and to do this they are willing to make a concession in prices, and buyers should not be slow to see and take advantage of this reduction. Before viewing the thing carefully, we thought we were making a considerable thing of it by putting off our intended purchases until late in the spring, but a little experience soon taught us the fallacy of such a method. We therefore advise our patrons and readers to adopt the fall purchasing, for it is alike best for buyer and breeder. The breeder can then give better care and attention to those birds which are left, which he could not do when he had large flocks of young chicks of different sizes and ages running around claiming his time and attention.

Veterinary.

Abortion in Cows.

The following is an extract from the *Western Stock Journal*:—

At the present time abortion is drawing the attention of stock breeders, and although in other parts of the country committees have been appointed to investigate its causes, yet so far all attempts to reach anything definite regarding the matter have proved futile, for the causes are seemingly so various and diverse that at best but a general outline of them, with suggestions as to its prevention and cure, can at present be given, leaving each of our readers to carefully consider these causes and, if possible, adopt a remedy for each particular case.

The causes are numerous, the principal of which are mechanical injuries, such as slips, blows, falling on fences, ice, &c., inflammation of the bowels, indigestion, diarrhoea, plethoria, i. e., high bodily condition; breeding too young, irritating poisonous food, over-feeding; hot, ill-ventilated barns—especially the basement stories—damp, musty food, want of proper exercise, decomposing animal matters—especially the afterbirth of a previous abortion—proximity to slaughter houses, butchering pens, impure water, ergotized grains, grasses and hay, smut of maize, &c., &c.

Abortion generally occurs between the fourth and seventh months of the period of gestation, usually occurring about the sixth or seventh month.

The symptoms are a whitish muco-purulent discharge from the vulva, springing of milk with a weak flaccid condition of the external generative organs.

Treatment.—Remove any and every cause that exist. If the animals have been highly fed, give a sparer diet, with more outdoor exercise. Drain and properly, but thoroughly, ventilate the stables. Remove at once the afterbirth, and thoroughly disinfect the premises by sprinkling with a dilute solution of carbolic acid, or with chloride of lime. Whitewash the stables, and keep everything scrupulously clean. Separate the affected or suspicious animals from the herd, and keep them entirely isolated from the others. Avoid any sudden changes of diet, as from the dry food of winter to one of a more laxative nature, as the juicy, succulent grasses of spring, for any sudden change is liable to produce severe purgation, which, with other causes that may be present, will strongly tend to influence an abortion.

When the herd is attacked, give one-half ounce doses of chlorate of potash daily, dissolved in water. If the animals are in an emaciated condition, a course of tonics is indicated, and the following may be given in their feed twice daily.—

Sulphate of Iron . . . . . 2 drams, Troy.  
Powdered Gentian . . . 1 " "  
Powdered Ginger . . . . 1 " "

If constipation exists, give mild laxatives.

A Hint for Canada.

The milling industry of this country is said to rank next to that of iron. The number of mills is over 25,000, affording employment for over 600,000 men, whose annual wages are about \$20,000,000, and turning out yearly about 50,000,000 barrels of flour, of which 4,000,000 are exported to foreign countries.—*Am. paper*.

The late rapid growth of the steel manufacture in the United States is shown by the following figures.—In 1873, 129,000 tons of steel rails were made; in 1877, 420,000 tons; this year the estimated production is 500,000. In all other grades of steel goods and the product of steel there is a steady advance.

The Dominion may, in the good time coming, boast of her progress in industrial pursuits.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.—It is gratifying to see that with the improvement and growth of this country, and the growing wealth of our farmers, agricultural journals are being more liberally supported. None of these deserves more encouragement than the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, which is published in London by Mr. Wm. Weld. It is a Canadian enterprise, is admirably conducted, and should be in the hoase of every Canadian farmer. The content is particularly varied, interesting and valuable.—*Woodstock Sentinel*.