

BEEES AND POULTRY.**CARE OF SURPLUS HONEY.**

Prof. A. J. Cook, in the New York *Tribune*, writes as follows on this important subject:

"Last evening Mr. Samuel Hilbert came to me and dolefully asked: 'What shall I do with my honey? It has all soured.'"

"You, an old bee-keeper, mean to say that you have put your honey in a cellar or other damp, cool place! Didn't you know better?"

"Yes, but when I took off my beautiful white June honey, I was driven with work, and so hurried it into the nearest place, which happened to be the cellar."

This incident furnishes a text for an opportune article on the care and management of surplus honey. The wise bee-keeper will remove his comb honey just as fast as the bees cap it over. Let it form the highway of travel for the bees but for a few days, and its beauty is gone. Take it off as soon as it is capped, and it will rival the snow in whiteness, and must tempt irresistibly the buyer.

Secondly, put the honey in a dry, warm room. If the temperature is even 100 degrees F. it will be all the better. In such a room the honey will not gather moisture, "or sweet," as it is called, and there will be no trouble from souring. In winter, the warmth keeps the comb from becoming brittle, and may be more safely handled.

Extracted honey should not only be kept in a dry, warm room, but in open vessels covered with cotton cloth, so that the moisture, in case it was extracted before it was thoroughly cured, would escape. If this precaution is surely heeded, there is little (my experience says no) danger in extracting before the honey is capped over, beginning just as the capping is commenced. This saves no little time and labour. If extracted honey is kept in a temperature of 80 to 100 degrees F. it will not granulate. Granulation, however, does not injure the honey, in fact, it is one of the best tests of its purity. To relapse candied honey we have only to heat it. If we are careful not to raise the temperature above 180 degrees F., it will lose none of its excellence. To do this easily, place the crock or can containing the honey in a vessel of water, placing something on the bottom of the vessel so that the crock may not touch the bottom and become too much heated. Now, if the water in the vessel is not permitted to boil, there is little danger of the honey being injured.

GOOD BREEDS FOR GENERAL USE.

Fowls that combine the properties of both flesh and egg-production are difficult to find, and yet are frequently inquired for. It is nearly useless to try to unite the two qualities of flesh and eggs in one bird—it cannot be done in perfection. Fowls that attain the largest growth are slow in maturing, and before maturity is reached, it is unreasonable to expect any eggs. The large fowls require the whole season for development, and when the cold weather sets in, it is difficult to force them up to egg-production. Feed accomplishes wonders, but nature will take its course. For this end, however, the Houdan fowl may answer a good purpose where the breed is understood. They will make much flesh, and that which is prized by epicures, and are what might be termed good layers, unless when compared with the laying of the Brown Leghorns. The Houdans are non-sitters.

The Dorking is an excellent fowl, and unites size and quality of flesh with a pretty good yield of eggs for the season. They are sitters. When size is not required, there is no bird that equals the Brown Leghorn for any purpose. At all

seasons of the year they give a bountiful supply of rich, medium-sized eggs, and the flesh, being sweet and fine-grained, is greatly prized for early broilers. Size is demanded by the majority of poultry-seekers, and it is only to be attained at the expense of quality and egg-production. The Asiatic fowl has for many years been the meat-producer for the multitude. Epicures choose the game and other choicely-bred birds, but most poultry consumers take the feather-legged bird.

For a roast there is no fowl equal to the Dorking. It grows to a compact shape, of good quality of flesh, with small offal, and is sweet and juicy. The Asiatic fowl is oily and strong, more like aquatic fowls. Next to the Dorking may be reckoned the Crevecœur fowl. In size it is a little below the Dorking, but the quality of the flesh is choice and fine. They are of fair size, hens weighing from four to five pounds, and cocks from six to eight pounds. They have black plumage throughout, and are very handsome, ornamental fowls when nicely bred. They are good layers of large, fine, white eggs, and do not sit. They are rather tender.

One great drawback to good success with poultry results from not understanding the breed kept. The Houdans are what is termed hardy fowls, but require careful treatment. They should not be herded with other fowls. Their immense crests obstruct the vision, except one way, and this renders them helpless against attacks of other fowls, which they might in fair and open combat easily repel. They cannot withstand wet or dampness, but are not as sensitive to cold, providing it be dry, as some other varieties. The Dorkings are very tender, and so are the Crevecœurs. The Dorking must have a warm place in winter. They are even more sensitive than the large-combed varieties, but will compete with them in egg-production if well fed during the winter. There is no fowl more hardy, after fully grown, than the Leghorns. They will withstand great cold without injury, but no breed will endure gross neglect. Leghorn chicks are delicate when young, but soon get out of the way. They are rapid growers and mature early.—*Can. Country Gentleman*.

POULTRY ITEMS.

The soil has much to do in affecting the shading and colour of poultry, and is a point that is seldom taken into careful consideration, though its importance is conceded by a few.

WHENEVER fowls can run at large without detriment to the garden, they should be allowed to do so by all means. Nine-tenths of the trouble and diseases among poultry are the result of keeping fowls too close.

CALVES' or sheep's livers, which can be always obtained in the market-houses for a few cents apiece, are valuable to feed fowls, for two reasons: They are devoid of bones, and they closely resemble insect diet. We advise the cooking of any sort of meat always.

OLD breeders declare that chickens from the eggs laid earliest in the season are the most likely to live and thrive after hatching. It is claimed that continuous laying enfeebles the hens' systems to such an extent that the later eggs in the spring litters are not so well endowed with vigour.

CAREFULLY gather the scraps from the table and give them to your fowls. There is no kind of feed which will produce a more liberal return of eggs. There are hundreds of families who throw these scraps into the waste bucket, to be taken away by the swill man, and buy corn for the fowls when the former is by far the best feed for egg-production. Corn or grain should also be fed, but only to a comparatively small amount.

CURRENT NEWS.

On the farm of Mr. William Weir, north of Wroxeter, is an apple tree which is now in full bloom on one side, while the opposite side is well loaded with half-grown fruit.

MR. ROBERT GUTHRIE, of Blenheim, has bought the farm of 250 acres, immediately north of Paris, forming part of the estate of the late Horace Capron, Esq. The price paid was \$84 per acre, making a total sum of \$21,000.

THE *Milton News* says: "A cat belonging to Mr. Thomas Missourier, of Progreton, has manifested a maternal affection for some baby squirrels. Mr. M.'s son one day caught a couple of infant red squirrels, and, expecting to see some sport, placed them with the cat, which had a number of very young kittens. The young aliens took kindly to their foster-mother, and she, reciprocating the strange affection, guards them as jealously as if they were her own offspring."

MR. Wm. DUNLOP has sold his farm on the 18th concession of Hullett, to Mr. John Aldrich, a gentleman from Aberdeen, Scotland. The farm contains 150 acres, with 125 cleared, and was sold for \$7,000. It is a good farm, and Mr. Aldrich has made a good bargain. He travelled over a considerable portion of the North-West, both on the Canadian and American sides, but was better pleased with Ontario, and the county of Huron in particular, than any other section he came across.

A FEW days ago, says the *Kingston News*, we recorded the death of a man from hydrophobia, occasioned by the bite of a skunk. In many parts of the West the bite of this animal is greatly dreaded, as being frequently fatal. It is believed to induce the disease which appears as rabies in the dog and hydrophobia in human beings, and we understand that the idea is by no means scouted among men of science. Such a creature ought to be exterminated, instead of being preserved for the benefit of furriers.

Messrs. D. CALDWELL & SONS, of Galt Nurseries, have had a splendid yield of strawberries this season. Up to the 14th inst., from five acres—one fourth year crop, one third year crop, two second year crops, and one first year crop—they have gathered, with fully one quarter of the crop to gather, 10,395 quarts, or 325 bushels of 32 quarts each. This will give an average yield of 65 bushels to the acre up to this time, and with the product yet to gather, the total of 80 bushels to the acre will probably be reached.

THE cattle quarantine at Levis, which has lately been much enlarged, now contains some 700 head of magnificent animals, including Jerseys, Herefords, Ayrshires, Devons, Polled Angus, Galloways, West Highland, Sussex and Shetlands. The Cochrane Ranch Company have in collection 23 bulls and 57 cows of the Polled Angus breed. Thos. McCrae, of Guelph, 40 Galloways; R. Hay, Toronto, 5 Polled Angus; J. R. Craig, of Brampton, 10 Durhams; and George Geary, of London, 8 Herefords and 23 Polled Angus. All are in splendid condition.

THE *Peterborough Examiner* says. "Mr. Wm. Best, of Emily, is the owner of a phenomenal specimen of poultry. A brood of chickens, hatched the other day, contained one which is the proud possessor of four well-developed legs. The legs are in a row from side to side. The chicken, which uses chiefly the outside pair, is lively and well. It should be killed at once. If it is allowed to grow up and become the father of a race of four-legged fowls, the amount of garden-scratching capacity thus developed will raise the price of 'garden sass' above even its present exorbitant figures."