

even in dysentery itself, milk is invaluable, and the emollient effects of milk warm from the cow are well marked in cases of chronic or winter cough.—*Scientific American*

The *London Live Stock Journal* thus describes a most English dairy, which is considered the most elegant and complete affair of the kind in the world. At the left wing of Sir Henry Peck's nearly completed house at Raddon, Devon, is situated the dairy, which for beauty, solidity, and originality of design has never been surpassed and cannot be matched in all England. The floors and shelves and central tables are formed of slabs of the purest marble; and in the centre there is a fountain, the spray of which lends a delightful coolness to the air and Arcadian beauty to the scene. There is depicted on blue China tiles, arranged in a continuous chain all round the apartment, scenes from every phase of rural life. There is also a magnificent marble fountain in the yard beyond.

DAIRY COWS.

The selection of dairy animals is one which requires considerable experience. A fat cow is but seldom a good dairy animal or a heavy milker, for one which yields large quantities of milk regularly, seldom lays on much fat or flesh, the majority of the food consumed being devoted to the development or production of milk. In the butter dairy mere largeness of yield should not induce the dairyman to purchase, as such milk is seldom very rich nor does it make high-colored butter. Such an animal is worth far more to the milk dairyman than to the butter maker. There are some butter cows which, while they produce a very high quantity of butter as to texture, color and flavor, produce so little of it as not to be very profitable animals to have, unless it be to raise the standard of the butter produced by the rest of the herd. We had a little grade Jersey cow which did not make more than four or five pounds of butter weekly, but it was of such high color and quality as to very decidedly impress the quality produced by the others. For this purpose she was as valuable as any other cow we had. A good butter-dairy cow should have fair size, plenty of development behind; have a large udder, one which milks down small, and not a large and meaty one. The skin should be soft and velvety, and in color should be of a golden yellow. The inside of the ears and base of the horns should be yellow; and such cows are good, high-colored butter-makers. It is impossible to give such directions as will enable a novice to select good and profitable dairy animals, for there are many small items which experience alone can teach and which must be familiarly known to enable the purchaser to make judicious investments. Brains and experience are equally desirable here as in any of the mercantile pursuits, and average fully as large profits.

Cows, when at liberty to select their sleeping places, out of doors, will be observed always to lie down upon the side of a dry knoll, if there is one in the yard or pasture, never lying with the back down the hill, but always with this toward the higher ground. This affords more than one lesson pointing towards thrift, and bear in mind that there can be no full measure of thrift without comfort. These lessons are (1) no farm animal will select a resting or sleeping place that is not entirely dry, unless forced into a wet one; (2) that the comfort of the

cow, while confined in her stall, can be added to by giving her an abundance of bedding, and this may afford an ample cushion in whichever direction she turns her back.



APIARY.

OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

President, R. McKnight, Owen Sound. 1st Vice-Pres., Dr. Shaver, Stratford. 2nd Vice-Pres., W. C. Wells, Phillipstown. Sec'y-Treas., R. F. Hulterman, Fisherville.

Executive Committee—Dr. Duncan, Embro; J. B. Hall, Woodstock; D. A. Jones, Beeton; D. Chalmers, Musselburg; Dr. Thom, Stratfordville; M. Hamer, Cedar Grove, and N. B. Colcock, Welland.

INTRODUCING QUEENS WITHOUT ENCAGING.

It is well known that a serious loss is occasioned to a colony of bees, especially in early spring by the exchange of queens through the stranger being caged for 48 hours, or even a less time. The colony does not only lose the eggs that might have been produced during that time, but the sudden check imposed upon a full laying queen by being imprisoned, throws her back so much, that she does not recover her usual fecundity for some days. Imported queens will often not lay at all for the first few days; and the original sovereign having been deposed or destroyed the colony suffers the loss equivalent to an average swarm before the new arrival is in good order for laying.

This has been so strongly impressed upon my mind, that for a long time past I have been experimenting, in the hope that I might ultimately be enabled to dispense with the introducing cage entirely. I am happy to say that I have succeeded beyond my expectations, and the method is so simple that the only wonder is that I had not thought of it sooner. Colonies with fertile workers, or those that have been long queenless without brood, (as they are sometimes found in early spring), cause me no trouble whatever, as I can give them a laying queen without her ceasing her work, except for the few moments that she is being transferred from one hive to another. When a queen is sold with a swarm, another can be immediately inserted, and the queen of one hive can be exchanged with that of another without confinement, and none of the bees of the respective colonies will know the difference.

It is generally known that the bees of one hive may be united with those of another by altering their combs, and there is no disposition to fight. Having always succeeded in uniting them thus, I came to the conclusion that a queen on a comb with her own bees and brood, would be taken no more notice of than the others, and this I have proved to be the case by continued and unvarying success. Taken from one hive and placed in another, while parading among her own subjects and without being handled, the queen takes no notice whatever of the change, and thus her unconcerned behavior saves her from any rude inquisitiveness. I have introduced them

under all the respective conditions before mentioned, by this means, and have not met with a single failure; and during the last two seasons I have been saved a large amount of extra work by this method, besides a considerable gain in bees. As soon as the comb, queen and bees are inserted, the job is done, and I never troubled to look at the hive again until its turn comes in the ordinary course of manipulation.

The foregoing applies, of course, to queens raised in the same yard, when taken from nuclei or other hives with frames all of one size, as should be the case in every well conducted apiary. If a nucleus cannot afford to lose the comb of brood taken with the queen, it is easily replaced by one from some other colony. When queens are received from other apiaries, the mode of procedure is slightly different, though a state of things somewhat similar has to be introduced. An imported queen will never lay vigorously for the first few days, therefore it might be said what delay would there be in encaging her? There would be considerable delay if the present laying queen were at once deposed.

To make the most of queens, first secure as many combs of hatching brood as there are queens to be introduced, and after cleaning them of every bee, place each in a nucleus hive with a tight fitting division board on either side, put the queens in, and close each so that no bees can get out, but give ample ventilation. Now put these nuclei into a moderately warm room for two or three days, when many young bees having hatched, and the queens nearly recovered from the effects of their previous confinement, each nucleus may be stood by the side of the hive its queen is to be introduced to, and the bees allowed to fly for a day or two before being united to the full colony. As soon as the imported queen is laying nicely on her one comb, the condemned queen can be removed and the former inserted (on her own comb with the bees) at one and the same operation, and no notice will be taken of her. By reserving the condemned queen till the moment the other is introduced, the colony receives no check whatever. The single comb is quite enough for the new arrival for nearly a week, as, after her long confinement, she is some days before getting into full laying order. It will be observed that instead of the usual way of allowing the bees to find out their loss, the exchange is completed before they are aware of the occurrence.

I have no doubt many will still cling to the cage, but no advancing bee-keeper can afford to lose so much valuable time at the beginning of the season. My experience bears me out in stating that there is absolutely no risk whatever in introducing in this way, even in what might be thought most obstinate cases.—*British Bee Journal*.

DOES THE QUEEN LEAD THE SWARM?

The *British Bee Journal* remarks as follows on this subject, correctly concluding that she does not:

"There is an impression prevailing among the uninitiated that the queen of a hive leads off the swarm, but this is by no means the case with first issues, for as a rule the queen does not come forth from the hive until the greater part of the bees are on the wing. Another erroneous idea in existence is that the Queen bee is the first to alight upon a branch or bush, and that the bees congregate about her, but the reverse of this is the fact. When the swarm begins to issue, if the bee-keep-

er will place himself upon the shady side of the hive and watch the stream of bees which pour forth like an army through a gateway, he may see the queen come out, and, if inclined to prove our assertions, he may capture and cage her, and put her in his pocket while he watches the proceedings of the bees. When the throng is circling in the air, we may imagine that the bees are searching for her, and will perhaps conclude that as they cannot find her they will return at once to the hive; but no, they will first congregate near a convenient tree or bush, and make a great noise, sufficient to attract the attention of her majesty, if she were abroad, and they will alight and form a cluster, and wait for some minutes to give her an opportunity of joining them. If now she be taken to them she will join them and all will be well; if not, the bees after a short time will disperse and return to the hive. Now, this sort of experiment has been so often proved that it may be taken for granted when a swarm of bees has alighted, and afterwards returned to the hive, that the queen was unable to join them, or she would assuredly have done so."

DOES THE BEE INJURE GRAPES?

It has long been believed, and is now almost universally accepted as a fact, that the bee destroys grapes and other fruits. I have watched the little workers for years, and have been loth to believe it. I observed long ago that they never attacked sound grapes. But when defective, or split as the result of a rainy spell, they would then suck out the juices. Being unable to convince others of the harmlessness of the insect in any other way, I devised for that purpose the following experiment, which any one may try for himself.

I placed at the mouth of the hives bunches of several varieties of thin-skinned grapes, and for days, although the bees were constantly crawling over them, not a berry was injured. I then punctured half of the berries on each bunch, and instantly the bees went to work on all so punctured, in a short time sucking them dry. The remainder of the berries were untouched, and remained so until punctured by me, when they in turn were attacked as promptly as the former.

This experiment demonstrated that it is necessary for the grape to have been previously injured so as to allow exudation of juice, otherwise the bee will not molest it. I have not observed so carefully in the case of other fruits, but it is my belief that this is the *modus operandi* in all cases.

Rot, splitting of the grape, injury by insects and birds (in this latitude a small, yellowish bird is conspicuous), are the causes that render grapes liable to attack by bees. And when we reflect that the berries thus injured would decay, it will be seen that the bee actually saves to us what would otherwise be lost, by storing it up as honey.

I have been hurried into this communication by observing that in some quarters legislative action is about to be taken against an insect which I believe closer observation will demonstrate to be not only innocent of harm, but productive of good.—*Scientific American*.

"LOCUSSES AND WILD HONEY."

The Reputation of John the Baptist Saved by a Tennessean.

The *New York Sun's* reference to the Baptist social union at Delmonico's, and the absence of the locusts and wild honey which formed the food for John the Baptist, recalls a little Sunday School incident which we avouch has never been in print and is pure fact. He was a country squire, an elder, a most excellent man, with all the pretentious ignorance of the Dogberry, or Fielding's squire. The lesson was