

The Apiary.

SUCCESSFUL BEE-KEEPING IN A NUT-SHELL.

The great secret in successful bee-keeping consists in knowing how to keep all stocks strong, or having them strong, with brood in all stages, nursing bees and outside laborers at the commencement of honey harvest. To illustrate this we will suppose that A and B both have the same resources in their respective localities, or we will say that they both reside in the same locality, and their honey harvest commences on the first of June. The last half of July and the first half of August there is no forage for bees; but June and the first half of July are good, and the last half of August and the month of September are good.

A commences in spring to stimulate, equalize, &c., and replaces all other queens, or queens that do not come up to the standard of fertility, with young, prolific queens, allowing but little increase—that is, provided surplus honey is the object. Here I would remark that with young, prolific queens, and with abundance of room, there is very little danger of increase. On the first day of June, when the harvest commences, he has every stock completely filled with comb, brood in all stages, nursing bees in abundance, less than sixteen days old, and they are in the very best possible condition to commence storing surplus honey immediately. Then during the scarce time in the last half of July and keeps up the fertility of the queens until the first of August. His bees are then ready to commence storing surplus honey again as soon as A receives a profit in surplus honey, pronounces the season a good one, and is well satisfied that bee-keeping pays.

On the other hand, B commences with the same number of stocks; in the spring lets them manage themselves, and on the first day of June they are not in condition to store surplus, or at least but very few of them, and those few he allows to swarm themselves to death, or what amounts to the same thing. When the honey harvest commences, his stock commence breeding very rapidly, and by the time they get in condition to store honey the harvest is done, or nearly so; for it takes twenty-one days to hatch out a worker, and sixteen days more, or thereabouts, before they commence laboring outside. Now the scarce time comes on again and B has no surplus honey, but perhaps has a number of extra swarms; the queens stop breeding, or nearly so, especially if the forage is nearly dried up or cut off, and when the harvest commences in the middle of August, his stock, instead of being in a condition to commence storing, have to go to raising brood again to replenish their stock of workers, for recollect that the brood hatched in June and July is very soon used up with old age, for the life time of a working bee is only from six to eight weeks.

Now, you can readily see that B's stocks are expending all their force and energy to replenish numbers again, and by the time they are ready to commence storing, the harvest is past and B has any quantity of stocks he has to feed in order to carry them through the winter, or he has to double up stocks, &c., and when he comes to sum up the season's operations, he has received no surplus of honey; and his surplus stocks, or a large portion of them, have either to be fed or doubled up in order to winter them. His conclusion is that the season has been a poor one for bees, or his climate is not adapted to bee-keeping, &c. A, with his management, in the same locality, mind you, has had good luck, as it is called; his stocks are in excellent condition for wintering, no doubling or breeding in winter being required, as he has fed at the proper time to feed; for I hold it to be a fixed fact that spring and summer is the proper time to feed. Keep your bees in the right condition to store honey, and when the harvest comes they will store it.

There may be seasons and localities where bees have to be fed in winter, but I never have seen such when they are properly taken care of in the summer. The whole secret of successful bee-keeping is contained in the above nut-shell.—E. G. before American Bee-Keepers' Association.

CLOVER HAY FOR HORSES.

The *New York Herald* says: Many farmers are strenuously opposed to red clover as feed for horses of any kind, as they contend the poisonous dust which rises from the dead stalks and dry leaves frequently causes the heaves. For many years we have kept horses almost exclusively on clover hay through our long winters, and if the clover was cut when about

one half of the blossoms had turned brown, and the hay mostly cured in the cock in good weather so as to retain most of its leaves and heads, and green appearance, we have never known it to produce either cough or heaves. We know of no reason why it should produce a cough in horses, any more than red top or herds grass. Clover when cut early for hay, as it generally should be, from its succulence, if not well dried before carried to the barn in large quantities, is very liable to heat in the mow, or on the scaffold; this process produces some injurious chemical changes in the hay. The starch, sugar, gum, &c., first assume the vinous fermentation, producing a saccharine quality in the hay. If the change be here arrested, no bad results would follow, the nutritive and healthy quality of the hay would not be lessened—but generally the vinous runs into the acetous fermentation—this is followed by sourness, mouldiness and dust. Such musty hay, fed to horses, when made from clover or any other kind of grasses, would be very likely to produce a stubborn cough, frequently ending in the heaves. It is no wonder that some farmers have a prejudice against such clover hay.

IS SPRINGHALT HEREDITARY?

The *North British Agriculturist*, in answer to a question being asked if springhalt is hereditary, states the case thus:

The precise condition on which springhalt consists are yet unknown. Frequently it is traceable to tumors about the brain; sometimes spicule of bone have, after death, been found pressing upon the great nerve going down the hinder extremity. Probably any cause which interferes with the nutrition of the brain, spinal cord, or even of the large nerves, may induce the peculiar catching movement characteristically entitled springhalt. In many cases it resembles chorea, or St. Vitus's dance. It may, indeed, be fittingly regarded as chorea affecting the extremities.

Although more common in the hind limbs, it occasionally affects one or both fore-legs. The nervous way some horses carry their heads, the trembling muscular twitching and other fantastic movements of their heads which are often excited whilst the bridle is being put on, appear to be manifestations of conditions very similar to springhalt. All these defects are usually particularly apparent when the animal is first brought out of the stable, and from any cause he is irritated or annoyed.

The slightest cases of springhalt are readily enough made apparent by causing the animal to move backwards or to take a sharp turn, when from a few steps the natural symmetry of motion is disturbed, and the sudden catch up of the affected limb is particularly noticeable. The great majority of cases over which we have as yet but little control. Although often born with the colt, or observed very soon after birth, it usually appears to be independent of hereditary transmission. In a few cases in which we have known it to re-appear in the progeny of springhalt parents, it has followed the sire rather than the dam. No treatment, either of pregnant mare or of her foal, can prevent its occurring. Violent exertion, undue excitement, unwanted sights and sounds, as in other animals, tells very prejudicially on the fetus in pregnant mares, and may become a source of springhalt. Choreia and other nervous disorders in children are often traceable to frights and violent nervous impressions sustained by the female while the child is in utero. In well established cases of springhalt, neither iron, arsenic, strychnine, nor electricity, are any permanent value as a cure.

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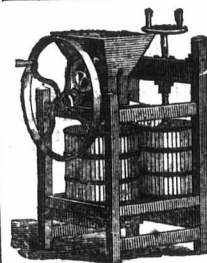
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