

drawing the lips of the wound together by silver wire suture. The fowl must then be fed for a few days on materials which do not lodge in the crop, in order to be prepared for the action of the gizzard, and well broken down meat with sloppy bread and milk, are the best forms of food for it.—*Prof. Gungeer.*

The Apiary.

Wintering Bees.

In countries where bees are prevented by the cold of winter from flying out at least for two months, it is best to transfer them to a particular standing-place. In making this change the fly-holes must be stopped, but they must be opened again after the bees are put up in their winter quarters. This removal not only saves food and affords protection from the cold, but the risk of the bees being ruined and the hives stolen is thus also avoided; as in winter they are prevented by torpidity from defending themselves, entire bee-stands might in this season be destroyed. It is hardly possible to provide bee-houses sufficiently with locks; at all events, it is expensive. In transferring the bees to their winter quarters, the following rules should be observed:—

1. The transfer should not take place until the frost has set in.

2. The winter quarters should be absolutely dark, else the bees will fly from their hive without being able to find their way back.

3. A dry cellar should be chosen, or rooms with covered windows, which allow neither the warmth of a stove, nor evaporation from a stable nor from cattle.

The hives may also be placed in barns among hay or straw. If warm weather sets in after their transfer, the holes of the cellar, &c., may be opened during the following night for the purpose of cooling the stand, for it is always better to keep their standing place a few degrees below than above the freezing point; but no particular ventilation is required. There are many villages in Germany having a common subterranean place into which hives are transferred, watching them and looking after them from time to time. In such cases the fly-holes must be made more narrow, so as to protect the bees from mice. To bury them in the earth, as above described, without admitting air, forms likewise good winter quarters as the bees require still less food. [Wm. Buckisch, Patent-Office Report for 1860.

PLANTING WHOLE POTATOES.—A correspondent of the *Mark Lane Express* says he did not see a field of defectile potatoes in Germany last season and attributes it to the practice of planting small potatoes whole.

Miscellaneous.

Habits of Beavers.

The habits and habitations of beavers furnish many interesting lessons for study to the woodmen and hunters, whether scientific naturalists or not. In our boyhood the principal sources of information respecting them were the old dams and traces of dams that were found on every little brook where we fished or hunted crowslips for greens. These beaver dams consisted of ridges of earth from four to five feet above the common level of the "beaver meadow" flat, running each way from the brook to rising land. We would find great numbers of these dams when it would be hard to understand how they could ever make ponds of sufficient depth for the beavers' use. But the brooks in the primeval forest, before the inroads of civilization, afforded more water than in modern times, and in many instances the marshy pools which the beavers' habits require, by natural process have grown up and filled up to solid land. As in the older part of the country no new works were found, it was generally understood that the beavers left and moved off whenever civilized settlements grew up near them, and we have been surprised to find in this region the evidence of so many working beavers. On the different tributaries of the St. John river, running out of this State, there are some hundreds of them caught every year, and they do not seem to diminish. Hunting parties, whether of white men or Indians, consisting usually of two or three men, get from ten to twenty beavers in a winter's hunt. Lumbering operations have a tendency to drive them to the small brooks and head sources of the rivers, when found on "driving streams" their dams have been torn away; but they do not seem particularly shy of men or settlements unless their dams or houses are destroyed. Four or five years ago, it is said, a company of them built dams and houses in the town of Ashland, only two miles from the village, or corner, as it is called, and staid two years, when a part were caught, and the rest driven away, by the hunters.

There are two kinds of them, differing only in habits. For some reason, now and then one of them usually wanders alone, and has only a hole in the back of the river to live in, while they generally live in pairs or families, building houses and providing stores in companies—hence the terms "family" or "working beavers." The supposition is, that the bank beavers are such as have for some reason come short of a mate, or for idleness have been driven from the ponds and houses. They are the same animals every way, only exiles. The law of industry among the working beavers is well attested by hunters. Their dams or houses are built anew or remodelled every fall, in a way to suit the height