

tracting, and think it would be of any use to cottagers and others in the bee business, I shall be very glad to see it explained in your valuable Journal, that all interested may have the benefit.

—T. H. KERR, Sanquhar, N. B.

Bee-Keepers' Inventions.

THERE is no branch of agricultural industry that has furnished a much larger number of inventions than the beekeeping fraternity, and very few of them have grown rich by their inventions. The very first and foremost in the ranks of American inventions pertaining to bee-keeping was L. L. Langstroth—his inventions, the moveable comb holding frame made it possible to perfectly control the interior of a bee hive, to govern the bees in their inclination to swarm and to take honey as it was stored either as comb honey or for extracting purposes. But from one cause and another Mr. Langstroth never reaped a tithe of what he should have received for the valuable invention he gave to the world. He opened up an extensive trade for hives and sections, and his neighbors who took advantage of his inventions have grown rich, the inventor is left penniless in his old age. * * *

The patent laws, like any other good law, may be swerved so as to seemingly aid fraudulent and unworthy ends, but we believe that in a great many instances the fact that one may be rewarded for inventive effort has quickened inventive genius and given to the world labor saving devices that would never have seen the light but for our patent laws. We know of one publication that never misses an opportunity to speak of patent hives as something to be shunned. Had that publication been in existence at the time of the introduction of the Langstroth hive it would undoubtedly have warned the public against investing in the device, probably consigned the invention to outer darkness and oblivion. With the Langstroth hive, the extractor, the comb foundation mill, the various sorts and sizes of comb section and the many devices to facilitate the production of and handling of honey, the bee keeper of to-day is away in advance of the bee-keeper of 1850, and he is very much indebted to the many enterprising inventors in the line of apiarian supplies, whether they applied for patents or not. It is possible for bee-keepers to materially aid those inventors by purchasing whatever of supplies they may need from such dealers as are at least friendly to the inventor and patentee, and in that way show some gratitude and a desire to keep in kindly remembrance those heroic men who

risked their time, money and inventive genius for the benefit of the beekeepers of to-day. We would advise every bee-keeper who has not already a revised copy of Langstroth on the Honey Bee, revised by Dadant, to at once secure a copy. Something of the purchase price will go to the inventor who gave us a patent moveable comb bee hive, and at the same time the purchasers will secure the very best work on apiculture as well as one of the latest.—Rural Californian.

From "Gleanings."

Wax-Melting.

WHY FOUNDATION IS MILKY IN COLOR.

THERE are some who think steam makes foundation milky, and some that heating hot injures wax. Now, steam, if not used right, will make poor foundation, and heating hot will spoil wax; but wax heated in water cannot be heated too hot, and steam used rightly increases its value. When melting wax, if steam is used direct, be sure to let all boil together (water and wax) *furiously* for 15 minutes. Then let it stand five hours, and the wax will be perfectly clear—so clear that you can see to the bottom of a dipperful. There is now no water with the wax. If the wax is dipped immediately over into the dipping-can after melting, or if the wax is not heated hot, but only enough to just melt it, the wax will be milky, and foundation made from it will look as though full of sand. At our State fair there was 150 lbs. which we clarified for a bee-keeper, and it took the first premium. It certainly would not if it had been sandy. Every one who has rendered wax is acquainted with the refuse on the bottom of the cakes. Some of it is loose, and is easily scraped off. This is in the same condition that the whole cake would have been if it had been heated only just enough to melt, and given a good stirring. If you ever have a cake of wax in this condition, to remedy it put the cake in some water and heat to the boiling point, and boil hard for 15 minutes, then set off the stove, disturbing it as little as possible; cover up so as to keep in a melted state as long as you can. Let it stand for 24 hours, when you can take off a cake of wax just as good as it ever was. Save all the scrapings from the bottom of your cakes, and try this. You will get enough wax from them every year to more than pay for *Gleanings*.

I wonder whether those who say steam injures wax have melted much that way. We rendered about 1,000 lbs. of wax from old combs this last year, and challenge any one to show as nice a lot. It was rendered by steam at a pressure of 80 lbs., blowing directly into the water containing