



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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### EDITORIAL.

Do old bees ever secret wax and build comb.

WE are asked, which secretes the wax to build the comb old or young bees? Seemingly young, but sometimes old. We recollect having a colony of young bees that had lost their queen. We had changed them from several hives, and allowed them to build comb themselves in order to get rid of fertile workers which we failed to do in that way. After the bees were old enough to be considered old bees, as there were none in the hives less than perhaps two months old, after putting them on a few empty frames, we tested it to see if they were building comb again, we found some old bees with loaves of wax on their bodies, about half the size of a grain of wheat, and on examining them closely found there were a great many that had these loaves of wax on their bodies, which had the appearance of little warts. Some of them had apparently been there for weeks. Some one asks, how do you know how long they were there? Well those last secreted were clean and white while the other edge of the pellets of

wax on others was dark like soiled comb, showing that it had been so long on the bee that it had become dirty. Now, these soiled loaves of wax, when taken from the bee and examined carefully with a microscope showed clearly that it was dirt, and by taking a knife and cutting it at the darkest point, the beautiful white wax was clearly seen. We have sometimes noticed when feeding an old colony of bees in the fall slowly, that the bees would secret wax and carry it on their bodies, until it apparently became cumbersome for them to carry around. We frequently caught such bees and killed them and placed them in a case with their backs to the walls of the case. This enabled us to see the wax scales easily, and the different sizes on the various bees, some scarcely discernable, others very large; some snowy white, others quite dark.

#### How we punished the robbers.

THE other day we asked one of our students to feed a few late colonies of bees that had not gathered quite enough to carry them through the winter, and there was a danger of robbing. We thought he had better put the feeder on at night, so that they might have it taken down before morning. We think our instructions were carried out fairly well with one exception. When turning the syrup in the feeder, a little was allowed to drip down the side of the hive. This, of course, at-