

they fly direct to the place appointed for them by the scouts. On the morning when a colony is going to swarm, few bees leave the hive to gather honey, but cluster on the front of the hives, and some fly around as if waiting for the rest.

I would say, as I have said before, always provide a sufficient number of hives, so that when a swarm comes off you will be ready to hive it. In hiving a swarm it should be remembered that bees are usually peaceable, having filled themselves before starting, and are in that respect a great deal like the human family, better natured after being well filled.

Never put a swarm into a hive that has been standing in the sun, but, on the contrary, use a nice cool hive, sweet and clean. Hang a frame of brood in the hive before putting the bees in, and the bees will be very likely to stay. As soon as they have clustered, it is well to hive them, which you can then do without any great hurry or excitement. Take the hive to where they have clustered, and place a sheet on the ground in front of it. If the swarm has clustered on a small bough within easy reach, give the bough a quick jar and shake them into a basket or tin dish, carry them to the hive, and pour them in front of it on the sheet, right near the entrance; a few will then run in and give the rest notice by their joyful hum and soon they will all be in. The hive should then be placed on the stand where it is to remain for the season. Swarms sometimes issue when least expected, and for that reason one or more hives should always be kept in readiness.

Many bee-keepers practice artificial swarming or dividing, but as this requires a more extended knowledge of bee-culture than many have acquired, it would perhaps be better for this class of bee-keepers to practice natural swarming.

North Middlesex Bee-keepers' Association.

The above society held their 4th annual convention in the town hall, Parkhill, on March 31st. Proceedings opened at 2.30 p. m. with President Frank Atkinson in the chair. The attendance was large, there being 75 members and many others who were not members, but who take a great interest in bee culture. The President opened the meeting by reading his annual address. After routine business, papers were read by Mr. B. Gott on Bee-keeping and Fruit, and also by Mr. Henry Phippen, of Parkhill, on the Best Method of Strengthening a Colony for Early Honey Flow. Speeches were also given by Messrs. Holterman, of Brantford, J. B. Aches, Wm. Coleman and others, giving the different modes of handling and wintering bees. Much valuable information was imparted to all who were fortunate enough to be there, and great good feeling prevailed. Meeting adjourned to meet in Ailsa Craig at the call of the directors. The following officers were elected for the current term:—President, Frank Atkinson, Ailsa Craig; Vice-President, Jos. B. Aches; Secretary, A. W. Humphries; Directors—B. Gott, Arkona; W. Coleman, Devizes; H. Phippen, Parkhill; D. Stewart, Nairn.

A pound of bees in early spring, with a good queen and a liberal use of comb foundation in the brood chamber and sections, will rapidly build up into a good colony, and if the season is favorable, will store considerable honey during the summer.—[American Bee Journal.]

Poultry.

Edited by J. W. Bartlett.

"Good Enough."

This is the expression many farmers make use of in regard to their stock, and especially the nondescript motley group of fowls they keep, or rather that infest their barnyards. Now, in no case is anything but the very best good enough in the stock line, and when this is remarked they in many—I might say in most—cases, reply, "We only keep them for eggs and market fowls."

A young farmer, or, properly speaking, a farmer's son, who has the management of the farm, told us some time ago that he did not take much interest in fowls, that they kept about three hundred, but they were kept only for profit. Now, this is all right, in all cases profit should be the consideration; but where there is little interest taken in any branch of agriculture the profits will be correspondingly small, and more particularly so in poultry, in which success depends so largely on looking after details. Many people who would think little of building a house and furnishing feed liberally, would think if the house was cleaned twice a year it was "good enough," and if the birds got plenty of snow to eat or a dirty pool of water to drink from, that it was "good enough," but very many more think almost any kind of a house is "good enough." The question is, Does it pay to keep fowls at all? Now, no person who has intelligently experimented in this line will say no. We know it does, and if it pays any one it must certainly pay the farmer. The very circumstances by which he is surrounded make it more profitable to him than any other, and if it pays to keep any fowls, it pays to get and keep the very best. Get the breed suited to your circumstances. If eggs are the object, get the Leghorn. If a quiet bird that will keep in good health and prove remunerative in confinement, get the Brahmas, either light or dark (we prefer the dark); and if meat, early maturity and eggs be the desideratum, Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes are the best. Just here we might say we have been heretofore opposed to any such thing as a general purpose fowl, believing that it was impossible to combine in one fowl egg production and superior table birds, but with some years experience with the two last named breeds, the ground is going from under our feet, and more so since testing the latter, which has proved, with us, the best table bird we ever tried, and almost, if not quite, equal to the Leghorns as layers. But it is not necessary to take even these if they do not suit your fancy, as most any pure bred fowl is much more profitable than these "good enough mongrels."

Crossing Breeds.

Almost every agricultural paper we see has something to say in the matter of crossing fowls; and nine out of ten of them recommend the practice. Now, in reality, it is a complete failure after the first cross. Take for instance a yard of dunghill or barn-door fowls, and breed them to a P. Rock cock; the result is a much finer flock of chicks than the mothers, although inferior to the sire. The cause is evident—they are improved by the superior blood introduced, and just here is the only gain in crossing breeds, the offspring will be better than the poorest parent, but inferior to the best. But follow on in this line; mate the chicks above referred to, that is,

from the P. Rock cockerel and barn-door hens (which, by the way, will be mostly of the P. Rock color) and there will be no uniformity in the product, either in shape, size or color, but will revert to the motley throng on the mother's side at once; and if those people who have had such grand results from crossing breeds would for a moment consider that by mating a hen of the same breed as the cock that improved their stock so much, with that cock, the result would have been much more satisfactory than the one attained. Or, if they will continue introducing pure bred males, year after year, of the same breed, they will find the result still more satisfactory than the first cross.

What is a Common Fowl?

In comparing thoroughbred and common fowls we must take this question into consideration. There is no such breed as the common fowls, and the term is indefinite. As it is generally used it is comprehensive enough to include all fowls not pure bred, and of some of the recognized varieties. Hence the vast difference of opinion of the merits of thoroughbreds in comparison with common fowls. If one farmer's fowls are made up of a cross or crosses of Leghorns, Hamburgs and Games, they will be very productive and great foragers, while for table fowls they will be too small; on the other hand, his neighbor may have a cross of Cochins and Brahmas and perhaps a dash of Plymouth Rock blood, which will produce a fine large table bird, quiet and peaceful, and producing a good supply of eggs in winter. So we have two vastly different varieties, both classed as common fowls. Thus it will be seen that when we have a paying flock of common fowls we are indebted to the breed preponderating in their make-up, and no better proof is necessary that pure bred fowls are the most profitable.

Again, in the pure bred varieties there is such a chance for a selection of the variety suited to our circumstances, that it would seem folly to keep any other, or to cross the breeds; as, for instance, if we want eggs in winter, Brahmas, Wyandottes and P. Rocks; if for spring and summer, Leghorns and Hamburgs; if for spring chickens for market, the P. Rocks and Wyandottes certainly take the lead, and for hunting their own living nothing equals the Games.

Scurvy Legs.

There is no disease (if such it may be termed) so universally prevalent as Scurvy Legs. It is known by the white and scurvy appearance of the legs, and is caused by myriads of parasites clinging tenaciously to the scales and even getting under them in part, in some cases so bad as to cause the scales to stand out almost straight from the leg. They seldom appear on birds kept on clean ground or in confinement, except on chicks raised by a scurvy-legged mother, in which case it is a miracle if the chicks are not all thus afflicted. There are many remedies recommended for it, but the simplest is to wash with kerosene oil—wash thoroughly, and one application will be sufficient. Should the fowl be a choice one, and be wanted for exhibition use, use a mixture of sulphur and lard, or sulphur and goose oil, as the kerosene injures the appearance of the scales. Fowls thus afflicted never get over it without an application of some kind, and in old fowls, or cases of long standing, have a very filthy and repulsive appearance, besides being very uncomfortable, as the parasite causes an intense itching, burning sensation, and there have been cases where the attendant has caught it from the fowls. There is scarcely a farm yard in the country where this nuisance does not exist, and there is no excuse for such negligence when the remedy is so cheap and simple.