

The Apiary.

Wintering.

Y. G. B. JONES.

Before commencing this subject, I wish to tell my readers that my article for last month on "Fall Feeding" was written and mailed in proper time, but has not reached the ADVOCATE office. Its loss was not discovered till too late for another.

As I have already stated, winter preparations should be commenced in July. Suppose this to have been done, and our bees to be ready for winter quarters, our next step is to pack them. I shall confine myself to describing the clamp system, and refer any who wish to cellar or house their bees to my communication in last November's number of the ADVOCATE for directions.

The clamp is simply a box with a sloping roof, of sufficient size to contain the number of hives to be wintered in it, and twelve or fourteen inches of straw packing about the whole. The joints should be matched or battened, and the roof of sufficient slant to shed rain and melted snow, and tight enough to prevent leakage. An inner porch or vestibule should be constructed in front of the hive entrances, about six inches high and eight inches back, whose bottom should be on a level with the platform of the hive. It should run the full length of the clamp, and have a board for a door hinged to its upper front edge, and so arranged that it may be either fastened up against the front wall or let down so as to close the porch in. Entrances should be cut opposite those of the hives and the same length, and passage ways constructed from the hives to the porch, but shut off from each other. The clamp should face the east, or if it be a double one, east and west.

To pack the bees, bring them together, as directed for spring doubling, into a row where the clamp is to stand, and face them properly; and the first day they don't fly, after they have marked their location, set them into the clamp and pack up to within an inch of the top of the lower story. As soon as the bees are well settled in their new quarters, choose a warm day, examine them carefully and decide just how few combs they can be crowded upon, removing those which contain no brood and least honey until these are left. Place the remaining combs all towards one side, and shut off the vacant space by a division board. Place three or four pieces of stick about an inch in diameter, or corn cobs, across the top bars of the brood frames at equal distances, and over the whole place a quilt of cheese cloth, and upon this the summer quilt. If the bees have not now twenty-five pounds of feed left, place one of the removed combs into the vacant space beyond the division board, and raise this half an inch from the bottom. Place another comb upon its face upon the quilt, whose corner has been turned back to make a passage for the bees to and from the comb. Supply combs till there is sufficient honey with the bees, and then close down the division board. As soon as settled cold sets in, put a cushion in place of summer quilt, and pack to the roof with straw, but leave the hive covers off.

NOTE.—This clamping should be done at

once. If short of stores the bees should be fed without a moment's delay. To feed: Make a cotton duck bag to hang in the space behind the division board, and to close at the top. Fill it with a syrup of two pounds of granulated sugar to one pound of water, brought to a boil and allowed to cool. Place it in the hive till empty; repeat as often as necessary.

The only care the bees will require is protection from winds and snow by means of the porch door and plenty of ventilation. Each day the bees fly during the winter clean the dead ones from the bottom board with a long stiff wire having a crook on one end.

Sheaves from our Gleaner.

The "Michigan Farmer" speaks thus confidently about the future of the wool trade: There is no longer any doubt but that wool is bound to advance. A Michigan dealer told us that he never saw the clip picked up closer in this State than it has been this season. Those who have wool, he said, refused to put a price on it. He intended buying a good deal more than he did, and is now feeling like kicking himself because he did not. One dealer in Detroit, quite able to hold it for a year, if necessary, has about a million and a half pounds stored in his warehouse. He thinks it a good investment, as he can sell at an advance of 4c. over what he paid for it.

The "Farmer's Review" says: "Pear blight is the source of much annoyance to fruit-growers. Of late years it has been recommended to seed down a pear orchard to grass as a preventive of blight." The editor of the "German-town Telegraph" says: "We never had a tree to blight in grass, though they were of all ages, from three years up to one hundred and seventy-five, and of about ten varieties, while scarcely a year passes in which we do not lose one or more by blight in cultivated ground." We first saw grass mentioned as a preventive of blight in our columns in May, 1884, and more fully by T. V. Munson, of Denison, Texas, in our June number of last year. We are glad to see that the information we gave our readers at that time has been so fully wrought out by the experience of so many practical growers. We seldom advance new theories, and should not then have done so, had it not been so forcibly proved to us by repeated observation of the advantage of the plan to which we gave circulation.—[Farm and Garden.]

HOW TO KEEP CIDER SWEET.—Pure sweet cider that is arrested in the process of fermentation before it becomes acetic acid or even alcohol, and with carbonic acid gas worked out, is one of the most delightful beverages. The "Farm, Field and Fireside" recommends the following scientific method of treating cider to preserve its sweetness: When the saccharine matters by fermentation are being converted into alcohol, if a bent tube be inserted air tight into the bung, with the other end into a pail of water, to allow the carbonic acid gas evolved to pass off without admitting any air into the barrel, a beverage will be obtained that is a fit nectar for the gods. A handy way is to fill your cask nearly up to the wooden faucet when the cask is rolled so the bung is down. Get a common rubber tube and slip it over the end of the plug in the faucet, with the other end in the pail. Then turn the plug so that the cider can have communication with the pail. After the water ceases to bubble, bottle or store away.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post-Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the ADVOCATE, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c. per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Voluntary correspondence containing useful and seasonable information so solicited, and if suitable, will be liberally paid for. No notice taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not return rejected communications.

Correspondents wanting reliable information relating to diseases of stock must not only give the symptoms as fully as possible, but also how the animal has been fed and otherwise treated or managed. In case of suspicion of hereditary diseases, it is necessary also to state whether or not the ancestors of the affected animal have had the disease or any predisposition to it.

In asking questions relating to manures, it is necessary to describe the nature of the soil on which the intended manures are to be applied; also the nature of the crop.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

Beef and Butter Breeds.—I drop you a card to ask your opinion in reference to Holstein cattle. I hear them highly praised as comprising the combined qualities of beef and butter, which are two very essential points. What I now want is your opinion whether they would be suitable to our northern part of Canada, Muskoka. I have an idea of going into the stock business, and would like to improve my cattle by the introduction of a pure-bred bull. Which breed would you recommend as the best for a new country like this? All kinds of root crops can be raised with profit here, and good pasturage throughout the summer; but the winters are pretty severe. Please state what a good six month-old bull calf would be likely to cost, and the names of some reliable breeders; and any suggestions you may make will be thankfully received.—W. A. C., Muskoka.

[The Holstein is noted for quantity of milk, but the percentage of butter is usually low, although there is a great difference in individuals of the breed. Of all the dairy breeds the Holstein is the best for general purposes, but no cow or breed can be first-class in all departments. We do not, as a rule, recommend farmers to purchase general purpose cattle. Holsteins are best suited to farmers who sell their milk to cheese factories. They are very hardy, and would suit your climate very well. The Jersey is the best butter maker, but she is no beefier, and not very hardy. If you want to make a specialty of butter-making, you should for the present select the best natives you can find and improve them by selection, as there is as yet little known as to the real merits of the respective breeds; but if your natives are not beefy enough to suit you, you may introduce some Shorthorn blood of the Bates or Cruickshank strain. By consulting our "Breeder's Directory" on the last page of the ADVOCATE, you will find the names of the most reliable breeders. You can ascertain the price of a bull by writing to breeders who advertise in the ADVOCATE.]

Talk About the Northwest.—We have received for publication the following private letter written by a gentleman residing in the Saskatchewan district (Prince Albert), and addressed to a friend of his in Toronto. As it gives private advice to a friend, the accuracy of the information may be relied on, and many of our readers will have an opportunity of comparing it with the Northwest immigration literature that has been scattered all over the world: "Yours came to hand in time to have been answered by last mail, but I was camped out on the prairie making hay, and was quite unable to get writing materials. You need not have made any apology for writing to me, for I am always pleased to give all the information I can about the Northwest. I came to the territory of the Saskatchewan in the spring of 1882, and do not regret having done so. The Government gives all the supply contracts to the Hudson's Bay Co., and as they never pay for produce in cash, money is scarce; but nevertheless I am gathering land and stock which will some time or other be of value, although it would be quite impossible to get even half their value in money just now. I cannot advise any one to come here just now, as our political affairs are in a most unsatisfactory