

The Apiary.

Profits From Bee-Keeping.

We this month give the following extracts, culled from a useful handbook on bees, by J. W. Pagden, of Sussex, England, entitled, "350 a Year: How I Make it by my Bees."

THE AUTHOR'S SUCCESS IN BEE-KEEPING.

"Four years ago I recommenced keeping bees, and without any other outlay than three dollars, excepting what has been produced from the sale of honey, I have now nearly one hundred stocks, remarkably strong and vigorous, independent of a considerable balance in money in their favor."

THE PLEASURE ATTENDING THE KEEPING OF BEES.

"Amid all the boundless power of our great Creator, there is not probably one individual subject more full of interest to all inquiring minds than the natural history of the honey-bee; for, to those who look merely on the surface of things for amusement, there is the spectacle presented of an insect community, constituted under a regular government, and exhibiting various social phenomena, which are not the less attractive, although they are only partially understood."

"We, as honey manufacturers, must be content without inquiring too deeply into the whys and wherefores connected with the mysterious natural history of the honey-bee, on which pages by the hundred might be written; but will be content with the knowledge of the fact that they are ever ready and willing to work from morn to night, gathering and storing honey for our benefit."

ASPECT FOR HIVES.

Having at once taken much interest in this very interesting and pleasurable pursuit, we are pleased to see that Mr. P.'s remarks are in entire accord with your observations on the most suitable aspect for hives:—

"In almost all bee gardens you will notice that the hives of bees are ranged close under a south wall; this I have found to be the worst situation possible, the heat sometimes being so great that all work is entirely suspended for some of the most valuable hours of the day, and moreover they are exposed to all the storms of wind and rain which prevails from that quarter. I have made a trial of almost every point of the compass, and find east, or a point north or south of this, to be the best. A straw hive will last three times as long in this as in the first named position."

"It is not at all necessary or advisable to place the hives under a wall or hedge at all. The most convenient plan is to range them two or three feet apart, with the back of the hives to a garden path; this much facilitates all operations that are required to be performed, such as putting on or removing supertop hives, feeding, etc."

"The bees are also much less pugnacious, from not being irritated by persons passing in front of them and thus frequently impeding their flight to and from the entrance of the hives."

"Bee houses are worse than useless, as they afford shelter and a nursery for all their worst enemies, and generally in attending on one hive you cause annoyance and confusion to the whole household. It is important in practising the depriving system to have every hive on its own stand, detached from others."

We may in a future number continue our extracts from Mr. Pagden's work, but for the present we will merely give another extract:—

BEES' ENEMIES.

"Never put a new swarm of bees in an old hive, as there will almost certainly be the eggs of the honey-moth deposited in the crevices of the hive, which will hatch out and probably destroy the swarm. Nothing is more to be dreaded by the beekeeper than the moth, as when they once gain an entrance to the hive, the bees appear as if powerless to expel them, although they will seize them savagely at the entrance. When moths have once established themselves in a hive, and the maggots begin to eat their way through the combs, the sooner the bees are fumigated and put into another hive the better, as for them to remain with the moth maggots will be certain destruction to them."

"Moths, as well as the large slug, may be taken in great numbers, late on summer evenings, by spreading a mixture of sugar, home-made wine, and rum, on walls or the stems of trees."

ENTRANCE TO HIVES.

"Do not have a large round entrance to the hive, making the admission of mice, large slugs, and other enemies an easy matter; but have an entrance of only about a quarter of an inch in height, and from an inch in winter, to four inches in length in summer. But a watch must be kept on the entrance, as sometimes the weight of the hive will press it down, stopping the entrance altogether. I have known many swarms destroyed from this cause."

"Should wasps, or robber bees, attack a hive, the only plan is to narrow the entrance, so that only one or two bees can pass at the same time; this enables the bees the better to defend their gates, and generally to hold their own against all invaders."

TO DESTROY WASPS.

"A very simple and easy plan of doing this is to saturate a piece of woollen rag with spirits of turpentine, and put it into the entrance of the nest, leave it there for the night, and the next morning every wasp will be dead. A wasp's nest, when removed unbroken, is very extraordinary and beautiful in its construction, and a curiosity quite worthy of preservation."

Poultry Yard.

Non-Setters.

ED. OHIO FARMER:—I have about seventy hens, and I am troubled very much with their wanting to set. I want a non-setting fowl. Will you or your correspondents tell me what to get? How many cocks should run with one hundred hens? Tioga Co., N. Y. C. P. S.

The Black Spanish, the Polish, the Leghorns and the Hamburgs are all great layers, and not inclined to set. Some prefer one breed and some another. One cock to every ten or twelve hens is sufficient, at most, and some of our best poultrymen keep a less proportion than that. The following, from the American Fancier's Gazette, gives the prominent points of different breeds:—

In the egg-producing class, the Leghorns stand pre-eminently above all others. This variety consists of the white and brown. The browns appear to be the favorites, being hardy, easily raised, and maturing quickly—the pullets often laying at four months. Pullets of this breed frequently lay as high as 260 eggs during the year. Their large comb and pendents require a warm house during our rigorous winters.

The next in high favor is the Black Spanish; these, like the former, are non-setters, and prolific, but not so easily raised. They do not, until nearly grown, get their full feathers, being generally half naked for a considerable time after hatching. These, like the Leghorns, require comfortable winter quarters, owing to their large comb and wattles.

The Houdans, a French breed, come next as layers and non-setters. This is what they call a *made* breed, between the Poland and Dorking—showing the characteristic crest of the former and the fifth toe of the latter. Although not as continual layers as the two varieties mentioned, yet they possess points superior to the others in size, delicacy of flesh and hardihood, but very liable to disease.

The small breeds, the different varieties of Hamburgs and Polands, have their admirers as fancy fowls. They are excellent layers, partially non-incubators, but are not recommendable, owing to their size, as likely to improve our present stock of common fowls.

The Dorkings.—This class may be considered the standard English fowl, and combine more general qualities than any other; regular setters, large size, plump, square built, delicate flesh, and, highly flavored. They lay a full supply of eggs and are probably the best table fowl raised. They likewise have large combs and pendents, like the Leghorn and Spanish. They do not thrive well on damp soil.

The Asiatics are the most extensively bred and most fashionable class at present raised in America, and on the whole are probably better adapted to the rigorous winters of the United States and Canada than any other, being well supplied with an abundance of feathers down to the toes, having small combs and wattles, no danger thus arising from those parts being frozen.—Ohio Farmer.

Preventing Gapes.

I have seen many remedies recommended, but none better than this:—As soon as the chickens are hatched, put them in some dry place in an outbuilding which has a board floor, and keep them there a week with good well water to drink and meal or cracked corn for feed, and about a peck of road-dust for them to dust in. After that, take them out-doors; put the hen in a coop with a board floor, and let the chickens run at large, giving them wheat screenings all the time, for wheat is invaluable for young chickens. About three times per day, give cracked corn, wet. About twice per week, give two tablespoonfuls of cayenne pepper, mixed with the feed. Keep the chickens in the coop in wet weather, never allowing them to get wet, nor to have any foul place to peck in, or any buttermilk to drink. Always give them plenty of well water to drink, and do not let them drink the refuse water about the place. I have always followed up this plan and never had a chicken get the gapes. But if the chicken gets the gapes, it may be cured as follows: Take up the chicken in one hand, and with the forefinger and thumb pinch or press as low down as possible on the windpipe, pinching and working up till the bill is reached. Then feed, as soon as possible, some meal mixed with cayenne pepper and a small quantity of fresh lard.—Cor. Country Gentleman

Double-Yolk Eggs.

The large eggs which contain double yolks are rarely hatched. If properly fertilized and successfully hatched, they would doubtless produce twin chickens, or, by reason of a mechanical annexation of the yolks or growing bodies, they would produce malformed or monstrous chicks. A recent case occurred in Illinois, and is reported by a trustworthy paper. A chicken was hatched which had but one head, one neck, one breast bone, and then the chicken separated into two bodies, with four legs and four wings. The curiously malformed bird or birds was accidentally killed, and was found to have one heart, liver and gizzard, but the intestines split in two about one inch from the gizzard, and there were two sets of them, one for each body. This was probably produced by a double-yolked egg.

CONDIMENTS IN POULTRY DIET.—Cayenne pepper, mustard or ginger can, with great benefit, be added to the food of fowls, to increase their vigour and to stimulate egg production. This apparently artificial diet will be seen to be natural if we remember that wild birds of the gallinaceous species get access to very many highly spiced berries and buds—articles that give the "game flavor" to their flesh. The ordinary food of the domestic fowl is not, indeed, entirely without some such addition, since there is more or less of an aromatic principle in wheat, Indian corn and all other grains. Nevertheless, it is not sufficient in quantity to supply the place of the stronger spices.

England Hanking for Agricultural Colleges.

J. J. Mechi is grieving, in the English press, over the fact that there is but one Agricultural College in England, while America has thirty-two which proves that J. J. Mechi does not know much about American Agricultural Colleges. Our Agricultural Colleges, with one or two exceptions, neither make farmers nor experimenters. The one English College has added more valuable facts to agricultural knowledge than have the whole lot of American impostures; but the English institution is also accused, rightly or wrongly, of turning out only the kid-gloved species of the genus *Agriculturist*.—W. Rural.

IRON AS A PURIFIER.—The remark of Muspratt that iron is nature's scavenger has been justified by recent studies, in which it has been shown that strips of iron thrown into cisterns of water speedily destroy all sewage contamination. Medlock has proved, by a series of experiments, that iron produces nitrous acid by its action on the nitrogenous organic matter, which is the most destructive power nature has. He has found as a general result, that by allowing water to be in contact with a large surface of iron, in about 48 hours every trace of organic matter was either destroyed or rendered insoluble, in which state it could be purified effectually by filtration.