

### Subduing and Handling Bees.

By Morley Pettit, in *Farmers Advocate*.

"It is true that bees cannot bite and kick like horses, nor can they hook like cattle; but most people, after having had an experience with bee stings for the first time, are inclined to think they would rather be bitten, kicked and hooked, all together, than risk a repetition of that keen and exquisite anguish which one feels as he receives the full contents of the poison bag from a vigorous hybrid, during the height of the honey season." (A. B. C. of Bee Culture.)

The writer well remembers using an old-style smoker, manufactured by the author of the above, from which live coals would occasionally fall on the hand; and these were often mistaken for stings. However, bees do not sting, promiscuously, anyone who approaches them, nor do they know one person from another, except as one learns their whims in order to deal with them peaceably. They are often much annoyed by persons standing in their way and interfering with their work, as is aptly illustrated in the work quoted above. "If you should go into a factory, and stand in the way of the workmen until a dozen of them were blocked up with their arms full of boards and finished work, you would be pretty apt to be told to get out of the way. Now, you are to exercise the same common sense in an apiary," and not stand in front of a hive or anywhere in the bees' line of flight.

Avoid quick or agitated movements, striking at flying bees or jerking the hand back in fear of being stung. Last summer a toy windmill was placed near the yard to frighten birds from a cherry tree. It so enraged the bees, partly by its rapid motion and partly by being in their line of flight, that thirty or forty of them might be seen at anytime buzz-

ing about it, and darting at the revolving fans. Their especial enemy, as they seem to think, is the lawn mower, whose rapid motion in front of the entrances, even on cool days, often bring them out "like hot shot."

The smell of perspiration is very offensive to them. For this reason so-called sting-proof clothes and gloves are objectionable in hot weather, as they cause so much extra perspiration that the bees are almost sure to get in more stings at vulnerable points than though the clothing were light and cool. For myself, I prefer a complete suit of white cotton, and a bee veil, of mosquito bar with fine black net veiling before the face, attached to the end of a broad-rimmed straw hat, and tucked into the clothing far enough down on the breast to stand out clear of the face. This, with a good smoker filled with rotten wood, and burning well, renders a person reasonable safe from stings.

To open a hive, blow two or three gentle puffs of smoke in at the entrance, and, having removed cover and cushion, blow smoke over the frames as you gently turn back the cloth, beginning at one corner. It may be necessary to blow some down between the frames, but too much smoke will often cause the bees to run excitedly over the combs and perhaps out of the entrance. Then they become almost unmanageable, and even the queen may run out and be lost. Black bees, or those containing some Carniolan blood, are worse for "running" than pure Italians; but even they may lose their heads at times. When they start running it is often best to quit smoking altogether, go on carefully with your work, showing no signs of fear, and they will soon quiet down. Avoid jarring the hive at any time. Much depends on letting neither bees nor bee keeper become excited. By a