Our Young Folks.

By sending ten cents to us we will have Mr. James Rennie, of Toronto, forward to your address, or any address you may name, five packages of flower seeds, valued at 25 cents, or for 25 cents we will forward to you five packages of flower seeds and also five packages of vegetable seeds.

Communications.

ED. YOUNG FOLKS.—I have not written to you for some time but I have been reading all the other letters. I am glad that spring is here again Some of our neighbors are going to Dakota and Manitoba, but I think those going to the States will be sorry, as I believe Canada is the best country in every respect. I hope your column will continue to prosper in the future as well as it has in the past. I send 25 cents for seeds.

LEVI SUTTON.

Oxford Co.

ED. YOUNG FOLKS'—I am pleased to see that you are getting along with your column so well. I will try and write you a letter I take the CANADIAN FARMER and the first thing I do when the paper comes I look for the young folks column. Pa belongs to Moncrief Grange. I like your paper very much. I am 14 years of age. I go to school in the winter and work in the summer. I want to get five packages of flower seeds and five of vegetable. I enclose 25 cents for the 10 packages of seeds.

NEIL N. MCTAGGART.

Huron Co.

Puzzles From Young Contributors.

NO. 1.

1—What goes round the woodpile squeakity squeak, has more horns on than 10 score of sheep?

2—Around the house, around the house that peeps in every hole, that sleeps in the corner at night?

NEIL MCTAGGART.

Bible Questions.

Neil McTaggart sends us the following—

1—Where in the Bible are all the letters of the alphabet except J in one verse?

2—Where in the Bible will you find the word "girl" mentioned?

Answers to Puzzles in March 20th.

NO. 1.

1—A woman knitting. 2—The people were all married.

NO. 2.

1—Hay. 2—A fire.

NO. 3.

1—The moor. 2—A waggon. 3—A bin.

Boyd J Yorke, of Middlesex Co., answered correctly the puzzles 1 and 2 in No 2, and 3 in No. 3.

Answers to Words Transposed in March 20th.

Gazette; Milwaukee; Oswego.

Answers to Bible Questions in March 20

1—Ezekiel 12, 38 verse. 2—Numbers 7, 56 verse.

AN APRIL JOKE.

BY M. D. BRINE

Master Ned on the door-step sat,
Busily thinking away.
Now what shall I plan for a clever trick
For an April-fool to play?
There's Tom, he's mean as a boy can be,
And he never can pass me by
Without a word that is rude and cross,
And maybe a punch on the sly.

"Some trick I'll find that'll pay him off
And teach him a lesson too."
So Master Ned he pondered awhile,
Till the dimples grew and grew
And he laughed at last as away he ran.
"I'll make him sorry," thought he,
"For the many times he has done his best
To tease and to trouble me."

On April first, with the early dawn,
Was found at Tommy's door
A package tied, and "Master Tom"
Was the only address it bore.
"'Tis only a trick of Ned's" said Tom,
"He owes me many a one;
But I'll match him yet—he'd better beware—
Before the day is done."

Then Tom peeped in at his package. Oh,
What a shamefaced fellow was he!
A handsome book and a line which read,
"Accept this, Tom, from me."
And this is the way in which Tom was
"fooled";
And afterward meeting Ned,
"Your trick has beaten all mine for good—
Forgive me, old fellow," he said.

—*Harper's Young People.*

SEEDS.—Those desiring good, reliable, new seeds should read the advertisement of the Canadian Farmer Seed Warehouse in this issue. Send for catalogue.]

APIARY.

OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

President, Hon. L. Wallbridge, Belleville. 1st Vice-Pres., J. B. Hall, Woodstock. 2nd Vice-Pres., W. F. Clarke, Listowel. Sec'y-Treas., R. McKnight, Owen Sound.

Executive Committee—D. A. Jones, Beeton Dr. Nugent, Strathroy, Dr Shaver, Stratford. S. Cornell, Lindsay, W. C. Wells, Phillipstown

BEE MATTER.

Written for the CANADIAN FARMER.

I beg to apologize for the awful mistake, either you or I made in my last letter to you. I am made to call D. A. Jones the "king bee," where it should have been the "bee king." If it is your mistake please say so; if mine, I beg pardon. While writing that correspondence I was at a loss for a name to call him, as I wanted to call him something more important than D. A. Jones. I thought at first of calling him Father Jones, but at second thought that would not do as he has not been called by that endearing name yet that I know of, although he is certainly the father of bee-keeping in this vicinity. I hope Mr. Jones will accept this apology if I made the mistake.

Now Sir, as to my own affairs. I have made another careful examination of my bees and find them all in good condition. I have just finished making 50 Jones' hives for my own use and must say I don't see how he can sell his hives so cheap unless he steals his lumber, for I could not afford them at less than 65 cents each in the flat. I think parties wishing to purchase had better order before he finds out he cannot afford them for that. The next thing in order should be spring dwindling. I would like to see a good essay on that important part of bee-keeping, and no doubt it would be of some use to others, although I do not expect to need it. I have also made ½ doz. hives packed with sawdust, which I think will be splendid for putting a nucleus in or weak stock to breed up, as they are only about ½ size and packed with sawdust 1¾ thick all round, and 6 inches on top. I hope all the other bee-keepers are fixing to give an account of their winter operations by the first of May, which will soon be here.

C. R. TENCH.

[Our friend, Mr. Tench, is responsible; his copy reads "King Bee," although we do not see why he need feel bad over it, as the "King Bee," in such a hive as ours is a title no one need be ashamed of.—ED.]

WITH MOVABLE FRAME HIVES AS EARLY AS 1762.

Swammerdam, who wrote in the latter part of the seventeenth century, mentions a bee-keeper, who knew the art of producing queen bees at pleasure, and of securing thereby four times as many swarms annually as were usually obtained by the old plan of natural swarming. In 1762, Graewell, in his "Approved Bee Culture," gave directions for making artificial swarms and dividing colonies, and Schirach published a special treatcis on the subject in 1770, in which he first announced the fact, previously known to but few, that bees are able to raise a queen from worker brood. The practice seems to have been of but little success, as many facts having an important influence were then unknown, and the hives then in use were ill-adapted to the business. The elder Huber and others of his time, made a success of artificial swarming, when they developed the movable-frame system (not Langstroth's, as is credited to him) and made their important discoveries in the physiology of the bee. Their practice, though, was necessarily imperfect, and was seldom practiced successfully, except by the most expert and well-informed apiarians. Since that time rapid advances have been made in this branch of bee-culture It would require a volume to describe all of the different modifications of artificial swarming, with the advantages and disadvantages of each. The reader can consult the works already published, in most of which this subject has been extensively discussed. We only introduce it here to describe some of the newer and simpler methods later introduced, and now successfully practiced.

Artificial swarming is based on the following facts:

First—A queen and some workers, few or numerous, constitute a swarm capable of carrying on all the labors of the hive. Drones are only necessary in the case of a young, unfertile queen.

Second—Worker bees, without a queen, can rear one if they are furnished with comb, having in it a worker or female eggs or larvæ which is still uncapped.

Third—A queenless colony will adopt a strange queen, if given to them at the proper time, and with the proper precautions.

Fourth—A part of the bees may be taken from the hive, with or without the queen, without disorganizing the others.

Fifth—A part or all the comb may be taken, with its contents, from a colony of bees without destroying them, as they will immediately go to work and replace it.

Sixth—Queens can be reared in any desirable number by taking a piece of comb containing worker brood less than six days old, with workers enough to cover and nurse them, and placing them in a separate hive or box.

Seventh—The bees will start a number of queen cells, from four to eighteen, each of which can be made to produce a perfect queen, by separating them and giving each of them to a pint of bees, in other hives. These facts, while they form the basis of artificial swarming, are subject to many qualifying conditions, and a knowledge of them alone would not enable a novice to set up at once as a successful apiarian. A thorough knowledge of the economy of the bee hive, and of the habits and peculiarities of its inmates, are necessary, and also some practical experience in handling and manipulation.—*Cincinnati Bulletin.*

MR. M. RICHARDSON, of Port Colborne, in a report concerning his apiary says: "I wintered twenty-five hives in good condition with the exception of one which is queenless. Sold them all but five colonies, and could sell a hundred if I had them for sale."

THOMAS MYERS, Bracebridge, writes: "Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil is the best medicine I sell. It always gives satisfaction, and in cases of coughs, colds, sore throat, &c., immediate relief has been received by those who use it."

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

Whereas it has pleased the Almighty God to remove from our midst our Brother James Ferguson, one of the members of Forest Rose Grange, we hereby express our heartfelt sympathy with his esteemed wife and family in their bereavement, and trust that they may be enabled to look for strength and comfort to him who has promised to be a "Father to the fatherless" and a "husband to the widow."

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be given to the family, and one sent to the CANADIAN FARMER for insertion.

JOHN DUNDAS, Master,
JACOB BAINARD, Sec.

ALSIKE CLOVER.

BY L. C. ROOT.

One of the important questions of the day in connection with our bee-keeping interests, is that of supplying forage for our bees.

It is an indisputable fact that the natural sources of honey are in most sections decreasing.

The basswood in our forests is being largely cut for timber, and farm lands are being cleared of berries, and other honey affording trees and shrubs.

It is also true that in most localities, even where forage is most abundant, there are times during every season when there is not an abundant flow of honey from general sources.

With these facts in view it should not be a matter of surprise that thoughtful bee keepers are interested in supplying this lack in some substantial manner.

The matter has been brought most forcibly to our notice and has received our attention to a considerable extent. Much has been said in regard to the feasibility of cultivating various plants for this purpose alone. Let me say that I have little hope that this will ever be made a success. For a brief period, while a demand may be created for the seed that may thus be raised, motherwort &c., might be cultivated in quantity and the seed disposed of, but as a dependance, I am convinced that the yield of honey must be derived from a more general source, and one of greater value as a general crop.

After quite a thorough investigation, I find nothing which seems so likely to supply the demand as alsike clover. I shall endeavor to show its value as a general farm crop, as well as a honey plant, and also to show how it may, if properly understood, be quite generally cultivated, and fill this vacancy.

I think I am correct in saying that but few have tested the value of alsike clover to an extent that would enable them to speak of its worth with any degree of certainty. Many have sown it in small quantities and I think that all who have done so, will agree with me that bees work very freely upon it.

My experience has been that they work upon it much more than upon white clover. In establishing its value as to quality of hay, and as a honey plant, I might give instances where it has been tested in the past, but as we have a recent report of more than usual importance, I will simply refer to this.

Those of your readers who read the report of C. M. Wolver, of Holleville, N. Y., will remember that he gives as one of the reasons why he secured his large yield was that his bees had access to several acres of alsike clover.

Mr. Woolver informs me that basswood yielded but little honey with them, and that his crop would have been far short of what it was, had it not been for the clover referred to.

It is generally known that alsike clover is a medium between the white clover and the coarse red clover. I have grown it over two feet high, and it was fine and full of branches.