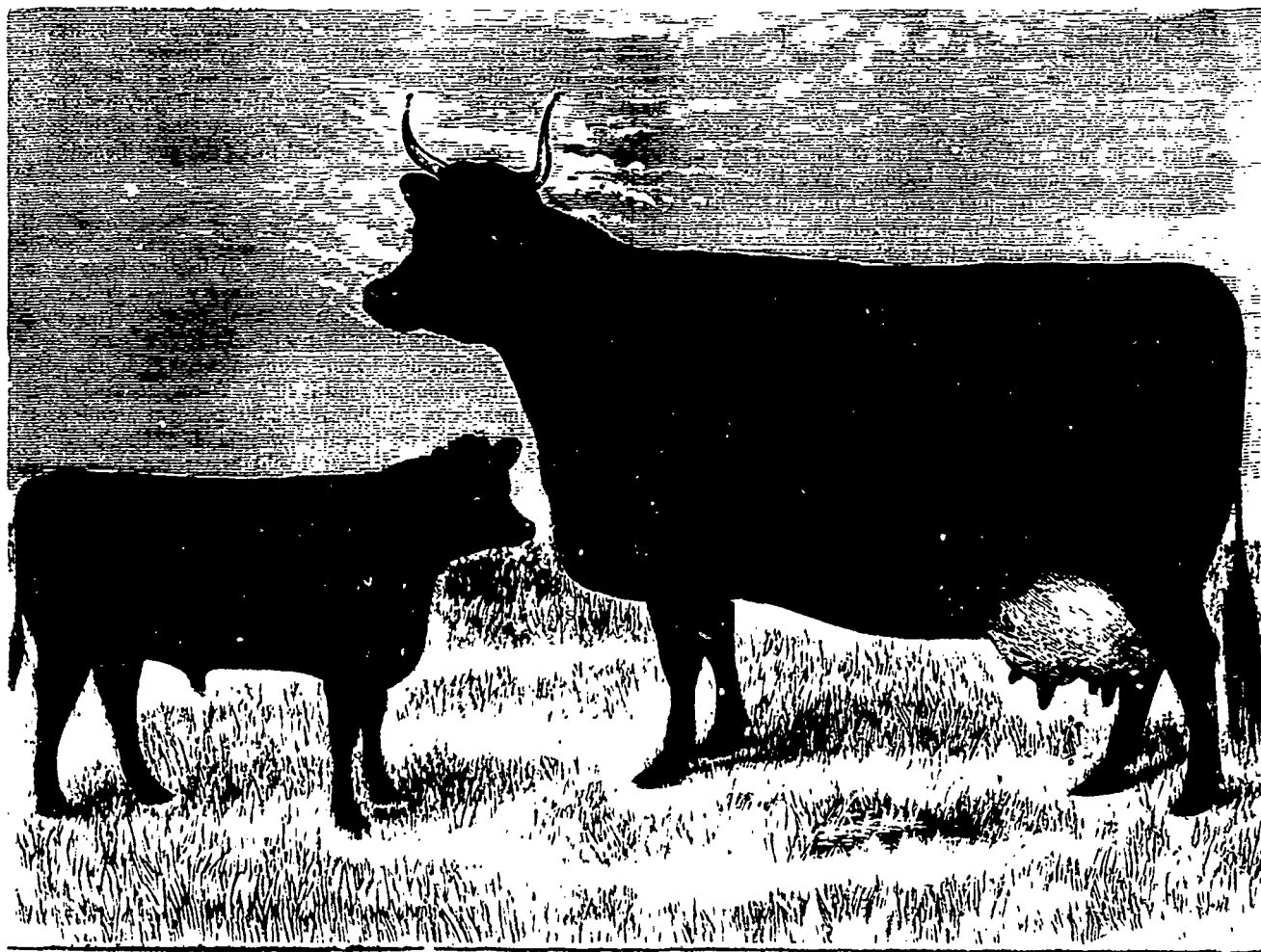


cellar, and fifteen left out-of-doors. Ten of those left out-of-doors were packed in boxes with sawdust and chaff, and five were left unprotected. Those in the cellar are in fine condition, as are those that were protected out-of-doors. Three of those left without protection are dead. I have for several years left a few colonies without protection, but in only one winter—a mild one—did they winter as well as those that had protection, and in that winter they wintered no better. I am in favor of protection, but that will not always save the bees; the character of the stores must be looked after as well.

One apiarian writes that he can go into the local market at any time and see section honey so nice that it retails at from

them. The source from which honey is gathered, and the variety of the bees that store it, determine the appearance. Black bees leave a space underneath the capping, which gives the honey a whiter appearance than that stored by Italians.

Another writes that he has heard it said that "the worker bees of the season do not live until another season; if so, why not destroy all of the bees that are in the honey boxes that are removed in the fall, unless they are needed to keep up the animal heat during the winter?" The bees that are hatched in the fall live all winter, and do some work in the spring, rearing the bees that become the workers of that season. I do not think there is any advantage in abnormally populous



DEVON COW, WISCONSIN BELLE, AND HER CALF.

30 to 45 cents a pound, and there is not a particle of wax stuck on the edges of the sections, and he wants me to tell him why his sections, "when taken from the hive, are waxed thick on the edges, and around the entrances from the main hive." All sections, when first taken from the hive, are more or less covered with propolis around the edges. The bees always put propolis where two surfaces meet. Before being put upon the market, all propolis should be carefully scraped from the sections, which was probably the case with those that so aroused the admiration of my correspondent. Some apiarians, myself included, use sections made from white poplar, a very white wood, which is quite hard, when seasoned. I know of no method of bleaching the combs; the fumes of burning sulphur would turn them to a greenish tinge, rather than whiten

colonies, and, if rightly managed, I do not think many colonies will become so. During the winter, the oldest bees die; if these could have been killed in the fall, there might be a slight gain, but it would be very slight indeed, as not much honey is consumed until breeding is commenced in the spring.

Putting section boxes on before swarming will retard, but seldom prevent it. I use lighter foundation for sections than for brood frames. In reply to an inquiry, I will state that I own and live upon a small farm, but do not work it myself, devoting my entire attention to bee culture; selling the honey almost entirely in my home market. I have never shipped honey to New-York, but could ship it there safely if necessary.

On page 215, current volume, W. D. A. asks if, "in order