

Two Methods of Bee-Keeping.

"Necessity is the Mother of Invention."

We think all can see the necessity for invention in one of the methods of bee-keeping illustrated in the engraving, yet thousands and tens of thousands of bee-keepers over our land, "brimstone" their light stocks in the Fall, and occasionally a heavy one for a supply of honey. Many of this class of bee-keepers will not sell a swarm lest they should offend their deity who controls their luck, and yet they see no necessity for improvement in their method of managing bees. We will endeavor to explain and enforce some of the points brought out in the engraving, and hope thereby to induce many to see the necessity for improvement, and learn the better way. When reproved they will acknowledge the cruelty of thus murdering the busy little workers by the million; but they say they must have honey

hive be too full, the honey-emptying machine will extract the surplus without removing the bee-bread or injuring the combs. By confining a swarm of bees in a movable comb hive, and feeding them on liquid sweet, from which to secrete wax, it has been found that they consume from twenty to thirty pounds of honey in producing one pound of comb. Although it only requires from two to four pounds of comb to fill a hive, still the honey consumed in its construction with the amount that the bees would have gathered during the time lost in comb-building, in the midst of the honey-harvest, give us some idea of the waste in allowing weak swarms to issue and construct comb to be melted, and a few pounds of wax sold for forty or fifty cents per pound. By examining the statistics, it will be found that thousands of pounds of wax are exported from our Western States, and especially from Cuba, but a comparatively light product of honey. If the improved method

very aptly calls "the pest of careless bee-keepers;" for the young queen flying out from the parent stock on her bridal tour, upon her return is liable to enter another hive and be destroyed, leaving the old stock without a queen, eggs, or young larvae from which to rear one, hence the bees soon dwindle away until their numbers are not sufficient to cover the combs, and the millers eggs are permitted to hatch, and the moths eat up the combs. In such cases the millers are said to be the cause of another colony lost, and perhaps the moths are left to hatch, and furnish an army of millers to cause the destruction of weak colonies that are not queenless. Let the friends of improvement awake, and give this class of bee-keepers no rest, until they become readers of our JOURNAL, and our favorite pursuit no longer remains behind other branches of agriculture.

—H. A. K.

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to eat, and the light stocks would die of starvation before Spring if left undisturbed. This is true of every kind of farm stock, except bees properly managed, and they are neglected because they work for nothing and find themselves. But light colonies may be fed, or two or more put together, even in box hives, and two that would have starved, will, when united, have an abundance of honey for sustenance through the winter.

With movable comb hives, two stocks can be easily united, or overswarming may be prevented, and instead of having a number of weak swarms, a few pounds of wax and a little honey mixed with bee-bread, you have a good number of strong stocks with a large surplus of beautiful honey stored in glass boxes. Should the combs in the body of the

of bee-keeping could be everywhere adopted where a few hundred weight of wax and honey is now the only profit, tons of honey would be sold. We refer to the two and a half tons sent last fall to this city, at one shipment, from the apiary of Messrs. Baldwin Bros., of Cattaraugus County, New York, or the three tons from Mr. Quinby's immediate neighborhood, and the twenty thousand pounds reported a few years since.

We often hear bee-keepers complain that "the moth millers are more destructive of late years; and we may well ask why?" and where? If bee-owners (not bee-keepers), will persist in keeping their bees in hives of the same color, setting close together, and often one tier above another, they will continue to be troubled with what Mrs. Tupper

Bee Keepers' Meeting—Ohio.—This association held its regular winter meeting at Cleveland a short time since, when the question of feeding bees was considered, and the comparative value of different articles for this purpose discussed. The prevalent opinion was that honey was the most natural food, and on the whole the cheapest. When honey is short, crushed sugar may be used with very fair success, though not equal to honey, which should be preferred when available. It was thought that very weak, late swarms had better be destroyed than go to the expense of feeding them through the winter. When feed is plenty and the stocks not too small, it is best to feed and save them all. Pains should be taken to get early swarms, as one in May was deemed to be worth four in July. The best plan of wintering was discussed, and the prevalent impression seemed to be in favor of leaving the hives on the stands, with such outside protection as may be necessary.