

onies when others would be inclined to rob. The fasting plan, in our experience, is the quickest, safest, cheapest, and most perfect system that we have been able to find. If we can get a sure cure without too much trouble, that will do the work in a short time and without the destruction, as it were, of the combs, let us use it by all means. We have been giving the various cures a pretty thorough trial and we have yet to find a plan that works as perfectly as the fasting system.

BEE-HUNTING.

HOW A NATIVE AUSTRALIAN DOES IT.

THE editor of *Gleanings* is doubtless acquainted with the *Youths' Companion*, and probably he agrees with the writer in the conviction that it is a *charming companion*. Few papers for young people are so pure in character, so high in their aims, or contain so much of the pure gold of thought in their articles. *Gleanings* and the *Companion* make two excellent guests to entertain for a whole year, and the writer hopes that they will go together into a great many new homes this year. Sometimes the *Companion* wanders into the field of bee culture, and then its notes are very valuable. Looking over last year's bound *Companions* in a September number the writer ran across this odd bit of bee lore. Perhaps the readers of *Gleanings* will find it as interesting as she did.

BEE-HUNTING.

The native of Australia adopts a peculiar method for discovering wild honey. He knows that bees never wander far from home, seldom more than two miles; and he also knows that when a bee is laden with honey it makes as nearly as possible a straight line for home.

All that is necessary then is to find a bee that is well laden and follow it. But that is more easily said than done. Any boy who has tried to follow the big and gray colored bumble-bee to its nest knows how great a task it is. But that is a mere trifle to following the sober little honey bee which can be lost against a gray colored hill side. In order to be followed the bee must have a distinguishing mark that can be easily seen; and with such a badge the Australian provides it. He gums a small tuft of white cotton to the bees back and thus follows it with comparative ease.

But the question now comes up, how is the cotton to be put upon the bee's back? The gum is quickly found—it is on almost every tree; the cotton grows right at hand. The bee too is

found in almost any sweet flower, buried head-first in the dusty pollen, drinking in the nectar and showing quite plainly whether its honey-sack is full or empty. It moves a little in its eager haste to secure the delicious liquid, but perhaps a quick dab will fasten the cotton on its back. Do not try it. As the little boy told his mother the bee is a very "quick kicker." Watch the Australian—and he is a very stupid fellow too in most things. He fills his mouth with water, has his snowy tuft of cotton ready gummed, finds his bee, gently drenches it with water spurted from his mouth, picks it up while it is still indignantly shaking itself free from the water which clogs its wings, and with a dexterous touch he affixes in an instant the telltale cotton. Very much out of patience, no doubt, with the sudden and unexpected rainstorm the bee rubs off the tiny drops from its wings, tries them and away it goes unconsciously leading destruction to its happy home.

LYDIA STRAUN.

This reminds us very much of our younger days when our father used to take us out bee-hunting before we were old enough to practice it ourselves, but we never stuck on pieces of cotton to see where they would go. We first secured a box about the size of a cigar box and put some comb in it, filling the cells half full of diluted honey. We usually warmed the honey before putting it in, that the bees might be enabled to take it out more quickly and fill themselves more rapidly. We had a lid to the box with a handle to it. This box we used for catching bees in when on flowers. We would go the spot where we wished to try our luck and hunt until we found a bee gathering on some flower. We would then hold the box down partially tipped up edgewise to one side of the flower, then with the paddle in the other hand we would quickly tip the bee and flower into the box. The excitement would cause the bee to flutter in the box for a short time trying to get out, and usually in about half a minute he would stop buzzing and start to fill himself with the honey from the cells. Filling the cells half full of honey is a great advantage because the bee would have to poke its head down in the cell to get the food. By raising the lid slightly and seeing the bee had commenced filling itself we would then shove the lid off leaving the box open. The bee being down in the cell intent on its work pays