

Good Honey.

The quality of honey differs quite as much as that of butter, and the article is quite as susceptible to deterioration in keeping as butter; and when we consider the carelessness and ignorance displayed by bee-keepers in this matter it opens up to us many reasons why honey is not growing more rapidly in favor amongst the masses, and why so much of it is a drug upon the market. Honey costs more per pound than sugar. To offset this we must give them an article either more palatable, more wholesome, more pleasing to the eye or more economical. Honey in its proper condition, at least from our leading sources of honey, clover, thistle and linden (basswood), combine all these four points. It has a rich color, a flavor which is peculiarly and pleasingly its own, and which cannot be imitated—a food which can entirely be assimilated by the digestive system, leaving no residue, and wholesome beyond dispute, it having already undergone the first stages of digestion and having been prepared for assimilation by the system. Such an article, carefully preserved, need never beg for a market; and in the next number the best way to secure this will be given.

Keeping Wax-Moths from the Honey.

Picking up a bee-paper lately, I read in it the following:—"As fast as the honey is sealed it is removed from the hive, and all openings in the boxes pasted over with paper, so that the moth cannot get within to deposit its eggs." This was given as the true plan for keeping the larvae of the wax-moth from comb honey. I was very much surprised that any writer of recent date should advocate such a doctrine as this, at this day and age of the world, for Quinby proved the fallacy of such a course as long ago as 1865. In his "Mysteries of Bee-Keeping Explained," published in 1865, but written some time previous to that, he says:—

"I have taken off glass jars, and watched them till the bees were all out, and was certain the moth did not come near them; then immediately sealed them up, absolutely preventing any access, and felt quite sure I should have no trouble with the worms. But I was sadly mistaken. In a few days I could see a little white dust, like the sides of the combs, and bottom of the jar. As the worms grew larger this dust was coarser. By looking closer at the combs, a small, white, thread-like line could be perceived, enlarging as the worm progressed."

He then continues:—"The reader would like to know how these worms come in the jars, when to all appearance it was a physical impossibility." To this he says he cannot give a positive answer, but thinks the bees carry them among the combs on their feet, where they are left to hatch.

That all should know that combs taken from the hive in the summer are liable to the attack of the larvae of the wax moth, and should be looked after as often as once a week, is the object of my noticing this point here.—[G. M. Doolittle, in Bee-Keepers' Journal.]

Look for the first brood of currant worms. They are hidden on the under side of the lower leaves, and first usually on gooseberry bushes, beginning their devastation there just as fruit trees come into bloom. A syringing of the leaves with an infusion of fresh white hellebore, one ounce to a gallon of water, will poison them in time to save the bushes and their crop.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the ADVOCATE, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Correspondents wanting reliable information relating to diseases of stock must not only give the symptoms as fully as possible, but also how the animal has been fed and otherwise treated or managed. In case of suspicion of hereditary diseases, it is necessary also to state whether or not the ancestors of the affected animal have had the disease or any predisposition to it.

In asking questions relating to manures, it is necessary to describe the nature of the soil on which the intended manures are to be applied; also the nature of the crop.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

Painting Roofs.—It would be to my interest, as well as many other farmers, if you could let us know through your next number of the ADVOCATE, what you think is the best plan to adopt to add to the durability of our sawed shingles; whether paint, coal tar, lime, or some other application is the best? and in what way is it applied, before or after they are on the barn roof? (for it is a barn I am going to enlarge and reshingle). Are pine or cedar shingles the more durable? Our shingles are all sawed, not split, as formerly; consequently, they last a short time unless something is done to preserve them.—S. N., Salina, Ont.

[There are a large number of preparations used for painting roofs, chief amongst which is a tar paint. An ordinary cheap oil paint, made of fish oil and mineral paint, is frequently used by painters, and claimed to be superior to the tar for this purpose. Laying shingles in mortar not only adds to their durability, but also lessens the risks from fire, and is a practice to be highly recommended. For this purpose the roof is sheeted closely, and from a quarter to a half inch of mortar spread on it, and then shingled as usual. Cedar shingles stand the weather better than any other, and, if laid in mortar, will last a long time. One cause of rotten shingles is to have the roofs too flat. See "A Cheap Country Paint," page 135.]

"A Uniform Standard."—I notice an article by Mr. Sharman in your April issue, on the above subject, in which he suggests a meeting of the officers of the different Associations, to discuss and unite upon a uniform standard suitable to all. Is such a meeting possible? Would the D. S. H. A., with an "imported" standard, be likely to discuss a uniform standard with, say, the C. Clydesdale Association, with a "four-cross" standard? Even if such a meeting were possible, and a uniform standard of a certain number of crosses was agreed upon by the officers of these associations, would the D. S. H. A. be likely to conform to it, from their past record, or would the C. C. A. be justified in assenting to any standard that would disfranchise (if I may use the term), any animal now registered by it. Although I do not believe it can be attained by this means, some such standard firmly fixed by Government legislation is sadly needed. As it is at present these associations are controlled by the large importers and breeders; so it is difficult to get small breeders to attend the meetings, and are carried on in the interest of these men largely at public expense. The farmers of Canada want to protect themselves against such combinations, and can do so, as Mr. Sharman points out, by legislation; and, after having discussed and come to an understanding as to what such standard should be, let them petition the Dominion Government to establish such a Record. It is in the interests of the breeders of Canada that such standard should be as high as the standard in the country from which these animals come, but not higher, e. g., it is unjust to Canadian breeders, so long as the English or Foreign breeder can register the fourth cross from registered bulls, on whatever foundation, to deny the same privilege to him. It is in the interests of the farmers of Canada that they should be able to secure recorded animals for the improvement of their herds and flocks having a sufficient number of crosses to insure their purity as such, without discrimination as to whether such

crossing was begun in Canada or elsewhere. A sea voyage may be a very good thing for purifying the blood; but, sir, I believe, and I think your readers will agree with me, that a few more known crosses from known sires is a much better and more lasting purifier. It is in the interests of the farmers of Canada that they should be encouraged to improve their herds and flocks by the use of pure-bred sires, and, having attained a sufficient number of crosses, to record the same if they believed such animal individually merited such record. If the cost of record was put sufficiently high to cover all expense of registration, it would be the most effectual safeguard against inferior animals individually being recorded. A scale of points would not be found practicable, and would lead to favoritism. Before I close, Mr. Editor, let me ask this question: What right, legally or morally, have the present B. H. Association, or any individual, to designate as grades, and endeavor to reduce to that level those animals and their progeny which have been recorded in the old Herd Book, but have been excluded from the present one—not from any lack of purity, but in the selfish interest of the members of that Association? These animals are second only in numbers and importance of all the breeds of pure-bred stocks in Canada to those now registered by that Association, and though their owners may be dissatisfied, I believe the time will come when their detractors will be brought to justice.—R. J. FARR, Appleton, Moosemin, N. W. T.

Sulky Plows.—Are there any sulky plows made in Ontario, that you can recommend?—R. G., Komoka, Ont.

[The Cockshutt Plow Co., of Brantford, Ont., are building the J. G. C. Sulky Plow, either single or double furrow. These plows run easy for the amount of work done, and do it in a first-class manner. They will plow the hardest land and make a good job, reducing the price of cultivation about one-half.]

Composting Fish, Bones, and Meat.—Would you please inform me how to transform fish, bones, and meat into a fertilizer. I have a large quantity of fish that I want to use on the land?—G. O., Shemogue, N. B.

[These substances are not easily reduced when mixed. The bones are made available by breaking them into pieces, putting them with alternate layers of ashes on a floor, wetting them and shoveling them over occasionally. See page 81 in this year's March issue of the ADVOCATE. The fish and meat are best reduced in a common compost heap. They contain much nitrogenous matter which would largely be lost if mixed with ashes. If any smell arises from the compost heap, cover it with muck or earth, or sow gypsum over it.]

Ayrshire Herd Book Controversy.—I do not propose to occupy much of your valuable space or time by following in detail the erroneous representations found in Mr. Wade's lengthy communication, so put and calculated as to mislead and divert the attention of readers from the simple facts of the case. The Canada Ayrshire Herd Record was commenced in Montreal in 1870 by Ayrshire importers and breeders from both Provinces. It is the only work in Canada devoted to pure bred Ayrshires. It is not a sectional or party work in any sense. Among its sixty members we find the different parties, nationalities and religions. Its meetings are most cordial, and devoted purely to Ayrshire business. It was not till September, 1888, that a few in Toronto met to organize the Dominion Association, when Mr. D. Nicol was the first to approach me on the subject of rules, &c., for its management. I then expressed the opinion, one I still hold, that our Association and our Canadian Ayrshire Herd Record were the best, and that one would suffice for all Canada. This he admitted. We were willing to have them join with us and revise their work. It was agreed that our book be taken as the "nucleus" for future work, to be carried on as our organization of Ayrshire breeders, the work of revision to be carried on here, under my supervision till it was complete, and for that purpose the books and the entries were to come here. This arrangement was prematurely disturbed by the unfair means adopted by Mr. Wade and others without notice, in the absence of all but five of our members, who relied upon the honorable observance of the agreement till revision was complete. This had the effect of hindering further amalgamated progress as an independent Ayrshire Breeders' Association. The breach of faith committed cannot be justified by mere subterfuge, saying that a rule "aiming at importations on the side of sire and dam" having with it a condition to use, as a "nucleus," our book, limiting entries in it to pure-bred Ayrshires, could be considered as authorizing the entry in it of mixed breeds and grades. The inconsistency of that course is now evidenced by the fact that the same parties now admit that future work on the Dominion Book must be divided into two classes:—First, the pure breeds; second, all others; and in those others it is proposed to put the very ones they would willingly break up amalgamation rather than let them be excluded from the list of pure-bred Ayrshires. Would it not have been as well to have respected the amalgamation arrangement, let the Dominion Book continue the work under way of entering all