

"1. Can I sell a colony of bees in the Thomas hive to a person who has not a right to manufacture and use the hive? If not—

2. Can I sell to one who has?

3. Can I move a colony of bees out of one set of frames into another? If so—

4. What is the best method?

5. Which is the best season, before honey harvest or after?

6. It is held by parties in this neighborhood that the outward appearance of the Thomas hive is not covered by patent, and because they use a different kind of frame, do not use revolving bands nor robber stop, though the cover and outward appearance of their hive in other respects is the same as that of the Thomas hive, they hold that they are not infringing on the Thomas patent. Is this correct?

#### REPLY.

1 and 2. You can sell a colony of bees in the Thomas Hive to any person. If the party who purchases has no "right," he can use only the hive or hives he buys with the bees in; if he desire to make any hives he must buy the right of Thomas or his agent.

3, 4 and 5. A colony of bees may be moved from one set of frames to another at any time by simply taking out the frames and shaking the bees off, or brushing them off with a strong feather or wing, on to the frames of another hive; but if this is done in the breeding season there will be a large quantity of larva and young brood in the comb that would perish. Hence it is better to do it in the Spring early, or late in the Fall, when there is but little brood in the hive.

6 The mere outward appearance of the Thomas hive is not patented, but rather the peculiar construction.

#### WHITE LEGHORNS.

To our American cousins is due the credit of having introduced certain admirable breeds of poultry. The Brahmas are undoubtedly second to none as useful fowls, being unsurpassed for size, hardihood and fertility amongst the incubating breeds. Another race which is equally popular in the United States, as being at once most useful and ornamental, is that known as the white Leghorn. These fowls are hardly, if at all, known in this country; but having tested their merits for two seasons, I can report most favourably of them, and fully endorse all that has been said in their favour on the other side of the Atlantic.

White Leghorns are birds of the Spanish type, but with white in place of black plumage. Their legs are bright yellow, and perfectly free from feathering on the shanks, the faces are red, the ear lobes only being white. The comb in the cock is thin, erect, and evenly serrated. In the hen it falls over like that of a Spanish hen. The tail in the cock is exceedingly well furnished with side sickle feathers, and in both sexes is carried particularly erect. The birds are active, good foragers, and have a sprightly and handsome carriage.

I find them to be abundant layers of full-sized eggs, the hens rarely showing any inclination to sit, but laying the whole year round, except during the time of the annual moult. The chickens are very hardy. I have not lost one by death this season.

Unlike those of the Spanish, they feather quickly, and mature rapidly.

I regard these fowls as an exceedingly useful as well as ornamental addition to our stock of poultry. Whatever competitive shows may have done for other breeds, they have certainly materially lessened the value of Spanish as useful fowls. In the place of the large prolific hardy breed which was formerly known under that name, we have a smaller race, very leggy, and feathering with such slowness that chickens are very often seen in prize pens that have not produced their tail feathers. In fact the useful qualities of the race have been neglected in breeding for face and ear lobe.

The Leghorn possesses the advantages of the Spanish without their drawbacks, and I have no doubt they will become as great favourites in this country as they are in America.—W. B. Tegetmeier, in *London Field*.

#### THE AYRSHIRES AS MILKERS.

Howard S. Collins, of Collinsville, Conn., furnishes the *Practical Farmer* an interesting account as to how he came to select the Ayrshires as milkers. In 1856 he commenced farming on a poor, neglected hillside farm, of 150 acres, that, at the time, supported six head of stock. He began by keeping six head, soiling them in Summer, and steaming food for them in Winter, and every year taking up some poor land to be thoroughly cleared, manured and seeded down again. The editor of the *Duchess Farmer* states that he has visited his farm, and though beautifully situated, has rarely seen a more unpromising field for testing the merits of high farming. There are few men who have studied agriculture more thoroughly than Mr. Collins, or who have carried to the task of renovating, we might almost say creating, a farm, greater skill, system, energy, perseverance, and science, and he deserves his success. On this farm he now keeps fifty head of cattle and three horses. He has tried the "Natives," grade Devons, grade Ayrshires, and has finally decided that for his purpose, (selling milk the year round), properly selected, thoroughbred Ayrshires are the most profitable for him to keep. Mr. Collins is a very careful and systematic man, keeping an exact account of the produce of every cow on the farm, and his statement is of great weight.

#### A YOUNG BEE-KEEPER.

"On the 12th of August, 1869, I gave my little boy (8 years old) a swarm of Italian bees, on condition that he would study and learn how to manage them: the proceeds to be kept together till he became twenty-one years old. Last year they gave him a good swarm and ninety pounds of box honey, which would readily bring \$33 00."

We give the above extract, from a private letter, with a hope that other bee-keepers may be induced to follow our friend's example and thus excite an intelligent interest in the subject in the minds of their children. This boy will have a snug little property when he is of age—and better still, he will acquire habits of thought and investigation, that will be invaluable to him whatever occupation in life he may choose.—*Iowa Homestead*.