

tinue this process. As fast as these become cows, dispose of the older and poorer ones of your herd, by fattening them for market.

The dairy will in this way become replenished with a choice lot of young and healthy native cows which are decidedly the best. First, you can rear them to your liking; by kind and gentle treatment they become docile and tractable, easily handled and kind to the milker, free from bad habits of jumping or kicking, which they will hardly ever have unless they are taught by a mean and unkind temper, in the person who has the first management of young cows. Then again, you can rear your cows to be orderly and always in the lot where you put them. They are more hardy, will stand the winters better, and as you have raised them you know the requirements of their natures. Some are more tender than others, require a little more care, or different feeding at different seasons of the year, and you are prepared to act according to the requirements of the case.

Then, by raising his own cows, the farmer stands credited by the value of the cows, which will prove quite as remunerative, in point of dollars and cents, as to look for the whole income from the amount of surplus butter and cheese sold. Judging from the later tendency of prices on the last commodity, it could be made more profitable to raise and sell a few choice young native cows than to pursue the opposite course of buying Canada and Western cows. In so doing you often run great risk of getting animals gargety, foot rotten and diseased in many other ways, which often infect the balance of the then healthy cows that you have on hand.

You also bring unruly cows to your farm, which teach the others their bad habits by letting the whole herd into your meadows and grain fields.

What is true of ourselves is in many cases true of other people. If we have any cows to sell, they are commonly and almost invariably our poorer ones. So most of the cows found at the cattle yards are the diseased, the unruly, the hard milkers, those that leak their milk, the kickers, and bad to milk generally. More than all this, they are abominably poor cows, and as they were not worth keeping, so they have been sold, and can be bought in the open market by any one who is verdant enough to want them, or from necessity is compelled to purchase cows. This may not apply in all cases, for there are almost always exceptions to the general rule, but there can be but little doubt that the above is true in a majority of cases, as the bitter experience of many who read this can testify.

There is but one safe course in the matter and that is to adopt measures for raising a choice dairy of young cows.

Bad luck is simply a man with his hands in his pockets and pipe in his mouth, looking on to see how it will come out. Good luck is a man of pluck, with his sleeves rolled up, and working to make it come out right.

Apiary.

Bees and Honey in France.

Honey and wax are harvested twice a year in France. The earlier occurs according to location, from the latter part of May to the middle of July. This is called the summer harvest, and is usually better both in quantity and quality than the fall harvest. The honey is finer, better flavored, more aromatic and more easily drained from the wax. It is a pure nectar, collected from a great variety of flowers, and is little contaminated with pollen, particularly if gathered in supers.

At the beginning of July the honey harvest is usually at an end in Gatinais, while it is then just beginning in Picardy and at Troyes. In some of the southern departments the harvest commences a few weeks earlier than in the northern.

In the departments of Eure and Loire, they general estimate that the product of a good stock of bees is five per cent on the capital invested. The yield of honey and wax in the four departments, Gironde, Landes, Lot et Garonne, and Dordogne amounted to about two millions of pounds in the year 1866. In 1867, the summer harvest of honey in Gatinais, amounted 900,000 lbs., which was regarded as a fair average yield.

The fall harvest begins about the 15th of September, and continues till the end of December, according to the greater or less abundance of the yield, and the state of the weather.

At the summer harvest only a portion of the honey and wax is taken, a sufficient supply being always left in the hives to ensure the safety of the colonies in the event of an unfavorable season or a deficiency of pasturage. The largest portion of the honey harvested in the fall, is derived from buckwheat, heather and late blossoming plants; and is much inferior to the summer honey in quality and flavor. It is also darker in color, and very soon crystallizes. It does not drain so readily from the wax, commonly requiring heat and pressure to effect a separation, thus deteriorating the product.

The honey is stored in large vessels or barrels, and care is always taken that the place where it is deposited is dry and warm. Watery honey deposited in a damp place soon spoils, and even the best honey will in time be injured, if exposed to dampness.

Let the harvest be good or bad, the beekeepers always keep honey enough on hand to carry their bees safely through the longest winter.

Bee-hunting in Australia.

The wild bee of Australia differs little in size or appearance from our common house fly, and is stingless. Most of the trees in that country are hollow, and it is in the cav-

ities of the branches that the bees deposit their honey, at a considerable distance from the ground. It is of an aromatic taste, and chiefly gathered from the leaves and blossoms of the different trees that clothe the whole country, from the summits of the mountains to the sea-shore, with the exception of occasional plains, which are of rare occurrence. By the Aborigines of Australia this honey is regarded as a great luxury, and it is very interesting to note with what sagacity they contrive to indulge their taste for it—searching it out with infallible eyesight, and with amazing delicacy of touch. Their method of finding these natural hives, which are not numerous, is curious, not only from the fact that the most minute observation and the most delicate manipulations must have been required to enable the inventor of it to succeed, but also because it displays a knowledge of the natural history of the insect, such as I can venture to say a large portion of the civilized world does not possess.

From the absence in many parts of the bush of Australia of flowers, the little native bee may be seen busily working on the bark of the trees, and unlike the bee of this country, which is ever on the move from flower to flower, it seems to be unconscious of danger. This may arise from the vastness of the solitude in Australia, which are seldom or ever disturbed, except by a passing tribe, or by its own wild denizens, which are far from numerous. The bee is therefore easily approached and the bright, clear atmosphere of the climate is peculiarly favorable to the pursuit.

A party of two or three natives, armed with a tomahawk, sally forth into the bush, having previously provided themselves with the soft white down from the breast of some bird, which is very light in texture, and at the same time very bluffly. With that wonderful quickness of sight which practice has rendered perfect, they descry the little brownish, leaden colored insect on the bark, and rolling up an end of the down feather to the finest possible point between their fingers, they dip it in the gummy substance, which a peculiar sort of herb exudes when the stem is broken, they cautiously approach the bee, and with great delicacy of touch, place the gummed point under the hind legs of the bee. It at once adheres. Then comes the result for which all this preparation had been made. The bee feeling the additional weight, fancies he has done his task and is laden with honey, and flies off from the tree on his homeward journey, at not a great distance from the ground. The small white feather is now all that can be discerned, and the hunt at once commences. Ruining on a foot amid broken branches and stony ground, requires, one would think, the aid of one's eyesight; but with the native Australians it is not so. Without for a moment taking their eyes off the object, they follow it, sometimes the distance of half a