

The Apiary.

Hints to Bee Keepers.

I wish to answer some questions through your valuable paper, which I think I can answer best by relating my own experience:—

1. As to which is the best honey-bee. One year ago I bought a colony of Italians (have since found that they were hybrids, but not till I had hybridized some thirty colonies), that filled seventy Langstroth frames with combs, honey, and brood for me last season, and gave off four swarms besides, while many of my black bees did not swarm, and none swarmed more than once, and did not gather stores enough for winter. I was amused to read our friend's advice in the *Field and Factory*—"Not to run off after Italian bees, but to put our home bees in a box-hive with glass honey-box in the top," when I was then taking honey and brood every week from my Italians to feed my blacks. I do not know that they will do so well every time, but this experience has made me hopeful, and also spend my money freely for pure queens for further trial.

2. At what price can queens be sold? That depends on one's skill, location from black drones, and convenience for shipping. If you have no better luck than I had last year with nucleei hives, you would say none for sale. I had at one time thirty young queens in nucleei hives, and twenty-eight followed their queens off on their bridal tour, and I lost one of the remaining two in introducing. I have lost about one-half in introducing; others have been more successful, and I hope to be so in future.

I have made several blunders. One was in not giving the nucleei hives brood to keep the bees nursing till the queen came back. Another was in waiting till May to transfer, after I had gotten a full crop of drones hatched for the bees to carry through the season. I think the best time to transfer bees as far South as Jackson, Miss., is in March or first of April. In a late spring my best success in Italianizing has been to give the colony brood and let them rear their own queen. The drawback to this plan is that you keep the colony so long without a laying queen, that it checks their progress for the season if in the spring; if in the fall, there are too many black drones for pure fertilization.

I have ordered a fifty-four queen cage nursery, and will report when I have tried it for rearing queens. Don't jump into bee keeping thinking to get a world of honey, and make no mistakes as I have done. Go slow.—W. F. STANDEFER, in *Farmers' Vindicator*.

P.S.—I thought bee quilts useless in this climate, but on seeing so many dead bees after the first hard cold, I looked and found the inside wet with condensed moisture and many dead bees still on the combs on the outside of the cluster. I hastened to cut up old quilts and blankets in pieces to lay over them. On examining them after sleet of 6th of January found no dead bees. Bees all dry and nice, only the quilt was very damp, and the under side of the top was quite wet with condensed moisture from the bees. You can learn but little about bees without a hive easily inspected and looked at often.

W. F. S.

Some Facts about Bees.

I was caused the other day at a gentleman when I informed him that a working bee did not live more than two or three months. "Why, I thought they lived all the time, as I never see no dead bees around. I guess you don't know what you are talking about. You'll tell me next there ain't no king, either. I believe you are lying, for my father knew all about bees, and that's what he told me." I suppose there are many more like him, who think they know all about bees, and do not know anything after all.

The queen lives from three to four years. The drone's life is very uncertain. If honey is plenty, they tolerate them in the hive; should honey be scarce they kill them quickly, as they want no idlers when in adversity. The workers live from sixty to ninety days during the summer, and from three to five months during the winter.

A good swarm will consist of about 30,000 bees, the queen laying from 2,000 to 3,000 eggs a day, the worker hatching out in about 21 days; so it is easily understood why a colony keeps itself up, and throws off swarms.

The drones hatch out in 24 days. They do nothing and are only brought into the world to impregnate the queen. After that duty is performed they have nothing to do, at least it has never been found out what they did, except to eat honey.

After swarms have been hived, place boxes on top for extra honey. It is better to be too soon than too late. If you are late putting the boxes on, you may not get any extra honey, for when the bees are filled they become lazy, and hang about the entrance in clusters.

In a frame hive you can extract the honey and keep them at work, as they will try to keep the hive full. Knowing this we take advantage of them, and extract 300 or 400 pounds in one season—not honey in the comb, but strained honey.—*Cor. Rural South-erner*.

Hints from Bee-keepers.

If several days of rainy weather should succeed a warm coming off, they may die of famine, if timely relief of honey is not given to them.—*Widman*.

Queens are not equally fruitful. While some breed slowly or not at all, others will speedily increase in prodigious numbers.—*Keys*.

No true lover of bees, I am persuaded, ever lighted the fatal match that was to destroy his little innocents with livid flames and a smoke that strikes them dead with its intolerable stench, without much concern and uneasiness.—*White*.

It is commonly the practice to rub the inside of the hive with aromatic herbs, or solution of salt, or other substance. But the most experienced bee master deems this altogether unnecessary, as it can be attended with no advantage whatever.—*Hacker*.

Always have the cheerful rays of the morning sun all upon your hives; but contrive to throw a shade upon their front for a few hours in the middle of the day, when the weather is very hot. Such a shade will be grateful to your bees.—*Nutt*.

Bees express not more love to their keepers than strangers, but they (their keepers,) being used to them, with greater countenance venture among them, which some (more fearful) beholding, fancy that the bees respect and love them more than strangers.—*Purchase*.

Workers alone have the property of secreting wax. Scales of it ranged in pairs are contained in minute receptacles under the lower segments of the abdomen. This substance is produced by a particular organ, after the manner of other secretions.—*Huber*.

Veterinary Department.

Prolapsus Uteri in a Cow.

I would feel obliged by your opinion as to the following case of prolapsus uteri:—The cow calved about two weeks ago. It was a case wherein the fore legs came all right, but the head could not be got at being far down in the pelvis. Being a big, roomy cow it was thought advisable to extract the calf as it lay. This was done, although not without much force. The cow did not seem much the worse for a day or two, but afterwards the calf-bed came partially down and has been more or less so ever since. The treatment has been to stitch the vulva and bandage; but, unfortunately, the cow strains so much that the stitches rarely hold more than a day. She has also been blistered across the loins, and had a few doses of laudanum. She seems to be pretty well otherwise. What further treatment would you suggest? I suppose she will be of no use to breed with again?—A. B. C.

It is a pity that the calf was forcibly extracted. In a big, roomy cow, with a little time and patience, by putting cords round the fore fetlocks, and then returning the calf into the womb, the head is generally got readily enough into a natural position, and delivery is easily effected. A large proportion of the difficult labors and casualties of calving depend either upon the attendants being in too great a hurry and desirous unduly to precipitate the event, or upon their ignorantly and carelessly neglecting to examine the position of the calf in the first stage of parturition so soon as the water bag bursts, while the fetus has yet made small advance towards the outward passages, and when an unusual or faulty position can with comparative ease be put to rights. Many of these cases of straining after calving and prolapsus uteri are difficult to remove. Sometimes there is bruising and laceration of the walls of the vagina, with much irritation, discharge, and swelling of external parts. The fitting treatment in such cases consists in fomentations externally, and the injection daily of a very mild astringent solution, with which tincture of belladonna should be united if there is much disposition to straining. A retained portion of

placenta, a clot entangled in the contracting womb, or some portions of chaff or other foreign body which got returned with the prolapsed uterus, prove common causes of straining amongst recently calved cows. Relief is generally obtained in such cases by injecting tepid water into the uterus. If there is any bad smell, as from a dead calf or retained after birth, a little Condy's fluid may be mixed with the water injected. Endeavor, if possible, to find out the particular condition on which the irritation and consequent straining depend. Restrict the animal to a tolerably concentrated mash diet. Bulky roots and indigestible fodder mechanically force the womb backwards, or by exciting indigestion develop reflex mischief. An abundance of short litter have the patient's hind parts well propped up. Straining is often greatly abated by moistening the external organs of generation with Madonna extract, rubbing in the same down the inside of the thighs, and injecting, besides, a few drachms dissolved in half a pint of tepid water, if straining still continues, give every two hours, or when it becomes troublesome, eight minims aconite tincture, and half an ounce belladonna extract, mixed in a pint of tepid linseed or other gruel. You will probably have to continue the stitches and bandage. As the patient has already survived her calving fully for a fortnight, she is likely eventually to recover; but her present troubles increase the risk of her again breeding safely, and suggest the desirability of her being fattened for the butcher.—*N. B. Agriculturist*.

Treatment of Cows.

Never turn your cattle on wet clover for the first time; or on dry clover for more than fifteen minutes or so the first day; they will probably eat enough to hurt them, if allowed. Before turning out every morning and every evening, give each cow a bushel of cut hay, moistened and mixed with four quarts of middlings (wheat bran 23 lbs. to the bushel,) keep an account of the product, and if it will pay to feed one peck of bran at a feed always mixed with the moistened cut hay, do so: remember that you get \$15 worth of manure from every ton of bran you feed. There are several kinds of bran; get the right kind. Cut your hay two inches long, to make animals eat it well and to prevent short pieces from injuring their gums.

Sow three bushels of oats and one of peas per acre mixed, early, on good ground for helping out the pasture in June; drill some corn—3 bushels per acre, the latter part of May—every few days,—to feed the cattle during August and September. Three good acres thus managed will, with a very little grass to run to, keep 15 cows till cold weather; if you have never tried it you have no reason to doubt it: try it.

Make one acre rich and plant mangold-wurzel on it for winter feeding; put it for 1,000 bushels per acre and in the fall build a good cellar to keep them in; and make butter all winter when you can get the best price for it: we make a mistake when we stop making butter in the winter; more work but more pay.—*Maryland Farmer*.

COLIC IN HORSES.—A "sure remedy," it is asserted, is to take a single handful of salt and rub it on the back right over the kidneys—rubbing briskly until the salt dissolves, and longer, if necessary.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS.—There is abundance of testimony to the effect that a small quantity—half to a teaspoonful—of finely powdered charcoal mixed in a bottle of water and given to a bloated animal will afford speedy relief. Let it be remembered.

KIDNEY WORM PARALYSIS.—A correspondent of the *Western Rural* says:—The most effectual cure that I have ever seen tried is the simple plan of taking a piece of light board, about six inches wide, striking the hog across the small of the back a few strokes several times a day. I have seen it tried in numerous cases where hogs had been down for weeks, and have never known of a failure. It is worth a trial.

COUGH IN SWINE.—A Hamilton Co. (Iowa) correspondent of the *Rural World* says: "If the shoats are not doing well, and the hair or bristles do not lie smoothly—the shoats having been fed principally on corn, and they go coughing around—we come to the conclusion that they have got worms, and a teaspoonful of turpentine is then given to each, in the form of a drench. If the coughing does not cease in the course of a week, give another spoonful; usually the first dose will be sufficient. If lugs are fed plenty of salt and ashes, the worms hardly ever get the advantage of them. Sulphur and stone coal and charcoal are good preventives of diseases in swine. Hogs are very fond of charcoal, and also of salt."