

There is also another consideration which I think worth notice, and that is, if bees are better for having a cleansing flight through the winter, if packed in hives instead of the beehouse, and left on the summer stand, they will not require to become acquainted with a changed position, as there is no change made; whereas, if put into a beehouse, every change made necessitates a new acquaintance; and as we may expect that, if they turn out well in the spring, there will be a good many of the old bees living who had obtained a knowledge of the summer stand, although we may expect quite a number to be dead. I see that in the prize essay it is stated that "after having remained in winter quarters four or five months, they will have forgotten their former localities." Is Mr. H. Couse quite certain of that? However, it may not make much difference whether or not, as they will soon obtain an acquaintance with the stand.

Can the temperature of hives be regulated, as directed by those apiarists upon whom we, who have had less experience, may depend? If not, of course there is an important advantage in the beehouse, where it can be regulated.

Can anyone inform us what thickness of dry sawdust, frost, such as we are subject to in Canada, will penetrate, or what thickness it will not penetrate? If a few inches is sufficient for packing hives, I cannot see why two feet is necessary for a beehouse; or, if that thickness is necessary for the house, then I do not understand how a few inches will do to pack hives.

I do not write of these things as one who knows much, but I write, being desirous to learn; and here I give another suggestion: Would there not be, or is there really not an advantage, either in beehouse or hive, in forming a dead air space? My idea with respect to it is that, if securely constructed, either damp or frost is checked when it comes to the cavity in the center, if it should get so far; and to any one, or any number who can afford it, and have time to devote to it, I think it would be a good thing to test hive or beehouse or anything else that may be tested in the same way, which may be done without risking the loss of bees, by packing different thicknesses, and setting a thermometer inside the hive, or whatever is desired to be tested, and noting at what extreme point of cold the inside is affected by the entrance of frost. Of course this would require both patience and perseverance, but certainly it would pay well for all the trouble taken. I am not aware, nor do I suppose, that all the instructions given on this subject have ever been thoroughly tested. It is given merely as opinions. Whatever knowledge is gained by the test named can be given as sufficient, and nothing short of the test is sufficient.

Sawdust, being a non-conductor, would not heat the hive, but would merely keep out both cold and heat. I cannot say that chaff is as good in this respect, neither do I think it is as good an absorbent, although most beekeepers who write on this subject speak more of chaff than sawdust; but in the prize essay given in the CANADIAN FARMER of Oct. 4 sawdust is spoken of and chaff is not named. I do not think that chaff is as good a non-conductor as sawdust. Most writers on packing for winter omit to state how thick it is necessary to pack, and thereby leave the less informed quite in obscurity as to whether it should be two inches or two feet, and we wish to learn all we can from those who are able to instruct us on this important subject, for we should remember that it is really an important one, and should on that account be stated plainly and definitely.

EDWARD MOORE.

## BEES AND HONEY SHOWS AT FAIRS.

Hagerstown, a picturesque, thriving town situated at the head of the Cumberland Valley, has been the scene of considerable excitement, occasioned by the Agricultural Fair; and the second meeting of the Union Bee Keepers' Convention. The exhibits at the fair were unusually large and fine, and the number of visitors in excess of any previous year. As your readers are most interested in bee matters we will omit a description of mammoth pumpkins, &c., and devote our time to a description of apiarian exhibits.

Mrs. L. Valentine had on exhibition at the main hall several fine specimens of honey in the comb; also specimens of comb foundation.

Dr. Herman also showed several pounds of choice comb honey; both exhibitors receiving premiums.

The largest and most extensive, however, was that of "Sunnyside Apiary," Baltimore, Md., C. H. Lake, manager, and deserves special mention. Mr. L. made his exhibit in a large tent, profusely decorated with flags, while the word "Apiary," in large letters stretched upon the side, caught the eye of the visitors as they entered the fair grounds. Tables were constructed around the sides of the tent, laden with every conceivable appliance required in a first-class apiary. A magnificent display of bees, in variety, were shown in glass hives of unique construction, finished in ebony and maple, where every movement of the bees could be seen—the queens depositing their eggs, brood hatching, bees nursing, queen cells in all stages of development, &c.

Among the different varieties we noticed the new Holy Land or Syrian bee, the Cyprian and the Bellazona, claimed by the gentleman in charge to be the largest bee known in America. Also imported Italians, producing the so-called Albinos; Holy land hybrids, also producing the same bee; Golden Italians and improved American strains of Italian and other bees.

A full colony of the most docile of any bees that ever came under my notice was that of a daughter of an imported queen of this season, were handled in public, without smoke or protection of any kind, and all the bees flying as if in their own home, upon our first visit to the tent. Later, we found them all confined, owing to the annoyance they gave the proprietors of the confectionery stands.

In the center of the tent, upon a raised base, was a pyramid of 220 pounds of comb honey—the production of one colony of bees in about six weeks. This was shown in a case, constructed with full glass sides, and erected with great taste. Upon the top stood a counter-boy and shipping crate combined, filled with the most luscious nectar. The whole was crowned with a French glass shade containing eighteen sections of eleven and a half pounds each, of the choicest and clearest honey ever seen in these parts, perfect in every particular and white as snow. On either side of the case was a photographic view of the apiary—the hives in full working order, showing the honey in the hives.

We noticed, in a conspicuous place, a photograph of an old friend and pioneer in bee culture, Richard Colvin.

Among the hives we saw the "Old Reliable," an air chamber hive, said to winter and summer the bee satisfactorily.

Among the new features were the Automatic self-spacing frame of tin or wood, that causes the frames always to fall into position upon the rabbit, and cannot be glued together by the bees.

The "Boss" feeder, on the principle of "Root's" Tea-kettle Feeder, deserves attention. A grass-knife for cutting around the hives and adjustable to any level, were also noticed as

being shown at this fair for the first time.

We came away, highly pleased with our visit and with the information gained through the popular manager of Sunnyside Apiary, who deserves much credit for his zeal and energy in the cause of bee culture, and the courteous attention given to the many visitors who examined that fine display.

—S. Hanson, in the American Bee Journal.

The man who cheats his landlord is open to the charge of ignominy.

## A NOTED BUT UNTITLED WOMAN.

(From the Boston Globe.)



Messrs. Editors:—

The above is a good likeness of Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., who above all other human beings may be truthfully called the "Dear Friend of Woman," as some of her correspondents love to call her. She is zealously devoted to her work, which is the outcome of a life-study, and is obliged to keep six lady assistants, to help her answer the large correspondence which daily pours in upon her, each bearing its special burden of suffering, or joy at release from it. Her Vegetable Compound is a medicine for good and not evil purposes. I have personally investigated it and am satisfied of the truth of this.

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