



APIARY.

OFFICERS OF THE ONTARIO BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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BEAT.

There is something troubles my bee hives at night, and tries to get in the front. I find the entrance blocks removed in the morning, and the dirt around the front of the hive wallowed down amazingly, and a large number of bees not entirely dead, and some dead wallowed in the dirt. You would think there had been a desperate battle before the hive. I find tracks in the dirt too long for cats too small for dogs. I took my little dog and tried him but he had not pluck enough to fight one bee. I suspect skunk, but can't find his card which I think would be left if it was one. Can't some of our friends give me their opinion or put me on track of the intruder. C. R. TENCH.

APIARIAN EXHIBITS AT FAIRS

Considering how little has been done in the way of exhibiting apiaries, implements, products, &c., at fairs, the Michigan State Agricultural Society offers quite liberal premiums in the apiarian department. In regard to the premiums offered in this department by other State agricultural societies, I have no positive knowledge; I do know, however, that some beekeepers have complained in regard to the meagre premiums offered by the agricultural societies of their respective States; but if larger and better apiarian exhibits were made, it is more than probable that larger premiums would be offered, and the list extended. The dealer in apiarian implements, the bee-keeper who rears for sale improved strains of bees and queens, and the producer of large quantities of honey, all find an excellent advertisement in a carefully prepared, tastefully arranged, and appropriate exhibition of their wares at a State fair. The well-known Canadian apiarist, D. A. Jones, sold several thousand pounds of extracted honey last fall, at a fair in Canada. The honey was put up in small tin pails and tin cans, and neatly labeled. The smallest package contained only two ounces of honey, and sold for five cents.

One great difficulty in exhibiting bees at fairs is that, if allowed to fly, they visit candy and fruit stands, and cider mills, causing so much annoyance that their exhibitor is soon told that he must either shut them up or remove them from the grounds. Perhaps the majority of the bees causing the trouble are from some neighboring apiary, but, as long as an exhibitor's bees are flying, the whole blame will be attached to them. To keep them confined during the journey to the fair, while it is in progress, and then on the homeward journey, is pretty hard on the bees; they become uneasy

and many of them die. The only remedy is to carry the bees out each day, after the crowd has departed and the candy and fruit stands are closed, and allow them to fly. Here arises another difficulty; unless the bee-keeper waits until dark before closing the hive, the bees will not all have returned, while if he waits until the next morning before closing the hive, unless he is on hand "at the break of day," the bees will be out at work. There are two ways out of this difficulty; one is to get some accommodating watchman to close the hive after the bees have ceased flying, and the other is to carry a tent, bedding and provisions, pitch the tent upon the fair ground, and eat and sleep in it during the fair. By so doing, the exhibitor is always on hand to attend to his bees.

For the convenience and economy, many exhibitors whose almost constant attendance is required by their exhibits, prefer to live in a tent upon the grounds during the fair. An observatory hive—that is, one with glass sides—is necessary in exhibiting bees at fairs. In order that visitors may be gratified with the sight of a queen bee, it is well to have a single-frame observatory hive; that is, one just large enough to receive a single comb covered with bees. Of course, from one side or the other, the queen will always be visible, and sometimes may be seen depositing her eggs. The British Bee Journal for January contains a description of an excellent observatory hive for use at fairs. The hive is twice as long as an ordinary hive, and as it is only half filled with frames, there is space to move them apart inside the hive, and show the interior of the brood nest, the queen, &c. The frames are moved about by taking hold of narrow strips of heavy, folded tin that are attached to the ends of the top bars of the frames, and project through long narrow slots that extended the whole length of the upper, side-bars of the wooden frame-work of the hive.

In a late number of the American Bee Journal are some excellent suggestions in regard to the manipulation of bees at fairs. Among other things it tells how a small space in one corner of a building or room may be divided off by means of a mosquito bar partition, and bees handled and exhibited, and the secrets of the hive disclosed behind the mosquito bar partition, while the crowd outside looks on without fear. The entrances to the hive are through the sides of the building. The only objection that I see to this plan is that, if allowed to fly, the bees trouble the candy and cider makers. Comb honey for exhibition may be stored in section boxes of different sizes. The largest size should hold, perhaps, two pounds, the next size smaller, one pound, while the smallest has only one-fourth of a pound. To give the honey a "gilt edge" appearance, the outside of each section may be covered with gilt paper, and then the sections can be piled up in the form of a pyramid, with the largest section at the bottom and the smallest at the top, or they may be piled up into the form of a church, castle or whatever shape the taste of the exhibitor may dictate. In order to show how honey is sent to market, it would also be well to have at least one nicely finished shipping crate filled with sections of honey. By partly filling section boxes with properly shaped pieces of wood, so as to leave spaces in the shape of stars, hearts, letters, &c., and giving them to the bees during a bounteous flow of honey, the bees can be induced to build comb in the fanci-

fully shaped spaces and fill it with honey. Such devices as these attract considerable attention at fairs.

Extracted honey presents a fine appearance put up in glass fruit jars. Different sized jars can be used, and then arranged in some attractive manner. If candied, the honey could be exhibited in tin pails of varying sizes, and adorned with bright labels. A placard should be attached explaining the difference between extracted and strained honey; it should also explain about candied honey, how it can be restored to a liquid state by the application of heat, &c. In making a display of beeswax, it might be caked in different sized vessels, and then piled up in the form of pyramid. The largest cake might be made in a large tin pail, while the smallest might be run in the chimney of a small night lamp. Sheets of comb foundation can be shown just as they come from the mill; other sheets partly drawn out, and others fully drawn out into a complete comb. A placard should explain about comb foundation; what it is, how it is used, its advantages, &c.

The large implement, used in the apiary, such as honey extractor, lamp nursery for hatching queens, bee hives, wax extractor and comb foundation machine, can stand by themselves upon the floor; while the smaller implements, like the honey knife, bee-veil, smokers and queen cages would appear to better advantage in a small show case. The display of bee-literature would also look well if appropriately arranged in a show case.—W. Z. HURCHINSON in Country Gentleman.

Our Young Folks.

DECANTER'S WAR CRY.

There was an old decanter, and its mouth was gaping wide: no rosy wine had ebbed away and left its crystal side; and the wind went humming, humming, humming; up & down the slides it flew; and through the throat-like hollow neck the wildest notes it blew. I placed it in the window, where the blast was blowing free, fancied that its pale mouth sang the queerest strains to me. "They tell me—punny conquerors!—the Plague has slain his ten, and War his hundred thousands of the very best of men, but I—'twas thus the bottle spoke—" but I have conquered more than all your famous conquerors, so famed and famed of yore. Then come, ye youths and maidens, come drink from out my cup, the beverage that dulls the brain and burns the spirits up, that puts to shame the conquerors that slay their scores below, for this has deluged millions with the lava tide of woe. Though in the path of battle, darkest waves of blood may roll; yet while I killed the body, I have damned the very soul. The cholera, the sword, such ruin never wrought, as I, in sin or malice, on the innocent have brought. And still I broutho upon them, and they shrink before my breath; and year by year my thousands tread the dismal road of death."

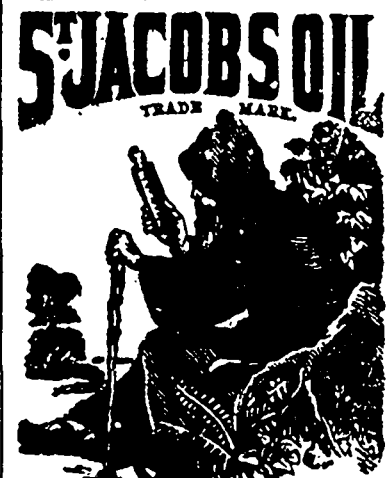
COMMUNICATIONS.

ED. YOUNG FOLKS.—I am glad to see that the hot weather has not prevented you from remembering us young people. I have been very busy since I quit school, which was about a month ago. I picked strawberries and got 1 cent a box. I earned \$3.00. I am helping pa in the harvest and have lots of fun with the hired men. We have not got very many cherries this year, and I don't think we will have many peaches. If I earn \$10 this year I am going to put it in the bank until next summer, when I

uncle says he will give me some more money, and I am going to buy a cow. Pa says if I take care of it myself he will buy the milk, and then I will make more money. I hope to see more letters in your column next week. ALBERT GOODMAN, Wentworth Co.

ED. YOUNG FOLKS.—I live in a little rail road town in the northern part of Middlesex Co. I have a black rabbit and a white one. Their names are Josse and Hossie. They are very cunning. I keep them in a little palod yard. They have a little house in the centre of the yard. I have a cat named Ed. When he wants to come in, he will shake the door until some one lets him in. When I roll a rock on the ground, he will run after it. I have seventeen chickens. I went fishing to-day, and caught fifty-one, but they were little fellows. ERNEST W. Middlesex Co.

TO PRESERVE EGGS.—A correspondent of the London Morning Post writes as follows: Place the eggs in a cabbage head, and dip them in a saucepan of boiling water for eight or ten seconds. For all culinary purposes they will keep almost indefinitely.



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