

The Apiary.**Encouragement to Bee-Keepers.**

BY A. C. ATTWOOD, ED.

The past may be ranked as having been a poor season for bees. The spring was cold and backward; the white clover was late in making its appearance, and then only in limited amounts; the whole summer has been exceedingly cool, and in fact, a large portion of it may be put down as cold. We have had frost every month this summer, and it is not to be wondered at if bees have not done well. But my bee-keeping friends must not be discouraged. We have had good seasons for bees, and we shall have good ones again. As we can grow potatoes in spite of all difficulties, so we will succeed with bees if we make the care of them a part of our business. To the care of bees a certain portion of the master's time must be given. He cannot sit down in his cushioned office and give orders to others, expecting every little detail so inseparable to bee-keeping to be properly attended to by hired help who understand nothing about it. There are certain things that he must himself attend to if he wishes or expects to succeed. It is scarcely necessary to say that a person who considers bees beneath his notice, and the care of them unbecoming, will never succeed.

No book or treatise can be substituted for that real thorough knowledge of bees that is absolutely necessary to success, and which can be obtained only through experience. Books, when they give expression to the experience of others, are as such really valuable and will render assistance in connection with practical experience, but will not without it.

This summer has proved the superiority of the Italian bees over the common black bees, for while the former have in most cases given a surplus and have plenty left, the latter are in almost all cases short of stores. Stocks that are light should be broken up by putting two or three together, with all the honey; others that are better may be fed up, if done immediately. A small hole should be made through the centre of every card for a winter passage; this is important, and when winter comes on have everything in readiness so they can be put away comfortably into winter quarters where it will not freeze, and is dry, dark and quiet.

Any questions with regard to bee-keeping will be cheerfully answered by addressing—Editor of Bee Department, FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Poultry Yard.**Sulphur for Poultry.**

There is no remedy and assistant so easily and cheaply obtained, so harmless to the fowls, nor so satisfactory in its results as sulphur. It being in the system of animals to a small degree, there is a greater affinity for it than there otherwise would be. It can be administered to the fowls by having it in a small box, so that they can help themselves, or by mixing it with their food once a week, or as often as there are indications of vermin. Penetrating, as it does, to every part of the system, all parasites are quickly and surely destroyed. Also, gapes are said to be prevented in chickens by its use.

Fowls need it more than most animals, their feathers containing between four and five per cent. of sulphur. Their eggs also have a small quantity, which is noticed by the discoloring of a silver spoon when it comes in contact with a boiled egg. Applied externally to the fowls when on the nest, to the nest itself, or mixed with the soil in the dusting box, it is equally efficacious in destroying vermin. To be used as a fumigator of buildings, it is necessary to remove the fowls, close the room or house, mix a little saltpetre with the sulphur in an iron vessel, and apply a match to the mixture. This should be done in the morning, and the doors and windows opened in the afternoon for a thorough ventilation.

Lard mixed with sulphur in proper proportions and applied as often as is necessary to the feathers on the neck and back of young and old turkeys, is a very good safeguard against the ravages of foxes.

For our own profit, and the comfort of the fowls, let us then use sulphur, or remedies of a like nature.—W. D., in *Poultry World*.

Poultry for Farmers.

Mr. W. A. Burpee writes as follows in the American Fancier's Gazette:—

It has generally been believed by farmers, and the belief is still prevalent, that it is ridiculous to expect to make poultry pay such enormous profits as are claimed for them; they laugh at the idea of 200 per cent. profit, yet even more than that can be obtained by poultry breeding. It would, no doubt, be preposterous to say so, unless proof endorsed the statement, but facts substantiate it, and some of the largest and best breeders of this country show, year after year, that these present results can be obtained. What would some of our farmers say if they were told that poultry pay as much as 500 per cent.? The French have reached to a greater knowledge of successful poultry raising than any other nation, and they claim this immense profit, and there is not the slightest doubt but that their large profit is no exaggerated statement, but a reality.

In this country it is known that poultry can be made to pay at least 200 per cent., and we dare say that even larger results may be obtained. Now, farmers, what do you say to this? Is there not some inducement to pay greater attention to this hitherto comparatively neglected branch of rural industry? We are confident that you can realize more profits from poultry raising, provided you attend to them properly, than from anything else on your farm.

Caponizing is mostly practised in this country in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Its effect upon the fowls is that they grow one-third beyond their otherwise natural size, fatten more easily and rapidly on less food, and their flesh is of finer quality, the price they command in market being 50 per cent. higher than that of ordinary fowls of the same age. As an illustration of their superiority, we quote from an exchange of recent date the statement that "a man in New Jersey has just sold a lot of 258 capons, averaging ten and three-fifths pounds each, the heaviest pair weighing twenty-eight pounds. The price obtained was 38c. per lb., making over \$4 a head for the fowls."

Horticulture.

A. PONTREY EDITOR.

It may possibly be striking some of our readers, now as the season for fall plowing has set in, that they will plow up the orchard. To such we would say, Stop and consider a while before doing so. The past severe winter has taught us some useful lessons, and the question of keeping an orchard in grass, or planting root crops in it, and thereby making it arable and clean. We must confess to an entire change of opinion since visiting the extensive orchard grounds of Mr. W. Saunders, of this city. That gentleman, in connection with other experiments, conceived the idea, some year or two ago, of trying the difference, in his orchard of 70 acres, filled with apples, pears, plums, cherries and small fruits generally, between seeding a portion of it down to clover, and keeping a portion of it thoroughly cultivated and clean.

He divides the ground in such a manner that the rows of trees of any variety were about equally standing in grass and on clean land, and the result of this summer's observation on the different kinds of trees, as well as on the different varieties of each kind of tree, has convinced him that the mulching afforded by the clover, and consequent protection to the roots, is of immense value; in short, upon this vexed question, whatever other growers' opinions may be, Mr. Saunders, at any rate, is a staunch advocate now of seeding an orchard down.

Fully two-thirds of the trees, which the past winter, or perhaps the late frosts which our readers will remember as being very severe, killed, stand upon the clean land; rows of some varieties of pears, which, among the clover, are only touched here and there, are, upon the arable land, none entirely.

This may not, probably, be the result of the protection afforded during winter by the covering of clover, but we think it is to be attributed to the fact that the trees so protected began to show signs of vitality later on in the spring than those not so covered, and consequently they were in a better condition to withstand the late frosts than their neighbors differently situated. We are aware

that this is a subject upon which eminent fruit growers vary very much indeed in their opinions, but that the facts exist as here stated cannot be denied, and, from our knowledge of Mr. Saunders, we know that he will only be too pleased to show them to any one wishing to profit by his experience. Noticeable, particularly among his pear trees, is the one sent out some years since by the Fruit Growers' Association, "Clapp's Favorite." It stands pre-eminent as a tree on his grounds, healthy, hardy and full of vigor, untouched to the very last variety a year ago when the slug made havoc among his pear trees. Grimes' Golden apple, also distributed to the members of the Fruit Growers' Association, bids fair, from its appearance with Mr. Saunders, to be a useful addition to the list of good apples. The tree carries a remarkably thrifty and healthy appearance, and also shows signs of being very prolific. The fruit is essentially dessert size, and the flavor, when ripe, is said to be fully up to the standard of that class. One other matter in connection with raising an orchard, and one which eventually must receive greater attention at the hands of our farmers, is acted upon by Mr. S.—we mean planting belts of trees for wind breaks. To the north and west of his grounds we noticed rows of silver maples and Norway spruce, the spruce planted in a separate row in advance of the maples and opposite to the openings in the maples. We should outstep the bounds of this article altogether were we to begin to say what can be advanced on this all-important subject—a subject which our neighbors in the Western States are already beginning to grapple with in a practical manner by holding out to purchasers of lands large inducements to plant at once. A case in point came within our own notice a year ago, when visiting Quebec. The country about is, to a large extent, devoid of timber, and we noticed several plantations of many acres in extent of maples planted by the occupants of the land for timber.

Should we not, while we have the material for plantations existing plentifully at our doors, begin to do some such thing, in view of the time coming when we shall be necessitated to do it.

All gardening operations not finished with last month, should be hurried along now as fast as possible. Beds of fall-planted bulbs should be covered with leaves and some evergreen brush to prevent their being scattered by the wind. Hybrid, perpetual and moss roses, together with all the half hardy varieties of shrubs, can be easily protected sufficiently by tying cedar brush about them, or, if in beds, covering them with the same material thick enough to cause the snow to gather. Hardy herbaceous plants even are benefited by care of this kind. The woods furnish this kind of protection naturally to the many pretty wild flowers which gladden our eyes in the early spring.

Roses, before covering, should be cut back well. The more young woods next season the more and finer blooms. Dahlias, tuberose, gladiolus, Madeira vines, &c., &c., must be taken up and packed away in some dry, frost-proof place, or they are lost.

Celery, if not already dug, should be got in at once, and packed on sloping shelves in the root house in layers of light earth or sand, so the moisture will not gather in the heart.

Strawberry beds, especially new plantations, should be covered with corn stalks or some other litter sufficiently thick to prevent heaving in the spring.

Manure and dig roughly the flower-beds intended for next spring's planting, and leave everything neat and tidy in the garden, removing all dead tops, rubbish &c. It will be both time and expense saved in the spring.

The New Postal Law.

Letter postage will continue the same, three cents per half ounce: the postage must be prepaid by stamp; if wholly unpaid, the letter will be sent to the dead letter office. Letters of more than one rate, and on which the postage of one rate has been paid, will be sent; and 6 cents per extra half ounce will be charged, to be collected at the office of delivery. Newspapers occasionally, as from friend to friend, will be one cent for every four ounces; when less than one-half ounce, one-half cent will be charged. No postage can be charged for newspapers on delivery. Packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions or grafts; packages of samples of goods or merchandise, when posted in Canada for any place in Canada, the rate of postage will be one cent per four ounces in weight.