

The Apiary.

Comb Foundation.

BY WILL ELLIS.

All modern or practical bee-keepers use comb foundation. Scientific men claim that it requires the consumption of five or more pounds of honey to produce one pound of wax. Comb foundation is made by heating bees-wax in a large boiler; after it is all melted a board is dipped in the melted wax, which adheres to each side of the board. When it is cool the wax peels off and is run through between rollers, so cut that they form the base of the honey comb. A sheet of this is fastened (the full size of the frame) by means of melted wax or pressure, to the top bar or comb guide of frame, in which is a saw cut one-eighth of an inch in depth. I wire all of my frames (the Langstroth) and pierce four holes in the top end and bottom bar and thread through, from top to bottom, wire No. 30. Cut a board so that it will just fill the frame inside and exactly one-half the width of the frame; lay your sheet of foundation on this board, and by means of a button-hook grooved on the back with a small file, imbed the wires in the wax. I usually take a small paint brush, and with a small pan of wax I fasten it a little besides. If you do not wish to use wire the brush is the best thing to use when fastening with wax. When working for comb honey a piece of the foundation is fastened in each section by pressure or melted wax. The foundation used in sections is made from the brightest and nicest wax that can be procured; is generally used from eight to ten square feet to the pound. (Many may wonder why it is used who are not practical apiarists). A frame of comb foundation can be placed in a strong colony of bees in the evening when honey is coming in plentifully, and by the next morning you will find it drawn out to a beautiful white comb. This last season a vagrant swarm came to my apiary and wished to make their home with the rest of the bees; of course I was perfectly satisfied they should do so. This was on Sunday. I gave them one frame of comb containing unsealed wood to entice them to stay in the hive and not to abscond after being hived. With this frame of comb I placed nine frames of comb foundation, and by the following Thursday they had every sheet down and filled with honey.

In twelve days they had drawn fourteen sheets of foundation. Of course, I took away the frames of comb, and placed foundations in their place. This was in the latter part of the honey season. Under the top bar of the frame is a thin strip of wood so sawed that it fits tight in the groove, called the comb guide; some use them and some do not. I think it is better to use them if you do not wish to use comb foundation. The bees will generally commence to build their combs on the comb guide, thus getting the combs built in the frames, and not crosswise. I should have said that by using comb foundations there was no drone comb built, thus preventing the rearing of a large number of worthless drones.

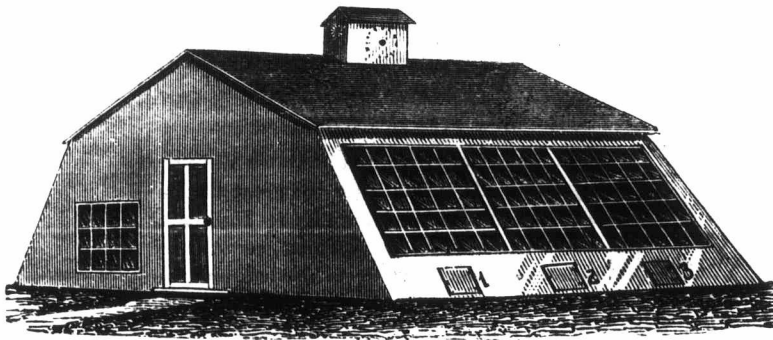
Poultry.

A Model Hennerly.

The accompanying cut represents a cheap and convenient hennerly. There is nothing which adds more to the health of fowls than plenty of light. Poultry cooped up in dark, small houses, never thrive, and invariably become diseased. In the sketch it will be seen that nearly the whole of the side facing the south is one large window, thus giving the fowls the benefit of the winter's sun. If the windows are placed near the ground it will be necessary to cover the lower panes with wire. The roosts are placed along the north side.

"Satisfaction Guaranteed."

It should be the desire and the effort of all breeders and dealers to make their customers satisfied, though we well know that it is, in some cases, almost an utter impossibility to do so. There are some who buy a lot of poultry from a breeder at a dollar a head, and when the birds are received, the purchaser growls because the birds do not score well up in the nineties. Another purchaser pays five dollars (an immense sum, in his eyes) for a trio of fine



A MODEL HENNERLY.

fowls, and when they fail to take "First" at a poultry show, he is dissatisfied. There are still others who beat down, in price and patience, a breeder for his birds, and then growl about the birds not being better than they are, one of the greatest troubles which the breeders have to contend with being the ignorance of their customers. On the other hand, there are some breeders who offer extra stock at low prices, and it is seldom the purchaser gets more than he pays for, though he has reason to expect better from the description. When a purchaser pays the price asked for a first-class (everyway) lot of birds, he has a right to expect stock fully up to the description, and if the stock fails to please, any honorable breeder will do all reasonable things to make him so, even though he (the breeder) may feel that he is doing much more for his customer than he is legally or morally bound to do.—[Poultry Monthly.]

Increase the feed as winter advances.

A pint of "gumption" is worth more on the farm than a bushel of science.

Good sheathing paper, nailed on the inside of stables, fowl-houses, etc., will save a deal of cold and feed, in buildings that are a little the worse for wear.

Stock.

Shropshire Sheep.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The breeders of Shropshires have thought it due time they had a flock book of this high class of sheep. Twelve months back most of the breeders met, and formed what we call the Shropshire Sheep Breeders' Association and Flock Book Society; and now we have the first volume printed, and no trouble has been spared by the council and secretaries in having everything correct, and working up the pedigree of the first rams that were exhibited at the Royal Show. Not only shall we find this book of great value to ourselves, but it will be of great assistance to our Canadian friends when they come over for a little flock of sheep, in having them pure bred.

In establishing a flock book, the breeders require no lengthened statement of the history or merits of the breed in general, or of individual flocks in particular. Their object is to secure in the future absolute purity of lineage to any flocks or animals that are called Shropshires. Much has been written respecting the Shropshires, and their celebrity for wool and mutton adverted to by various writers of times long passed. They seem to have been a class of sheep that had very little attention till the last forty years; but are believed to have existed in Shropshire in the fourteenth century. Smith, in his History of Wool and Woollen Manufactures, quotes the price of English wools in 1341 as follows: Shropshire county, one dollar and twenty-five for the stone of 14 lbs., while no other county came up to the average of more than one dollar and four cents per stone. Plymley, writing on the agricul-

ture of Shropshire in 1803, ascribes the Longmynd as the habitat of the ancient Shropshire. While Professor Wilson, in his essay on the various breeds of sheep in Great Britain, speaks of Marpe Common, near Bridgnorth, as being a large tract of land occupied by this hardy and indigenous race of sheep.

The originality of the breed as one of great value is therefore abundantly proven, and there is no reason to doubt that it was spread generally over the hilly ranges and uplands of Shropshire, and, though not absolutely identical, a very similar, well known and equally valuable race, upon which many of the Staffordshire flocks have been established, ranged the unenclosed pastures of Cannock Chase in that county. Generally speaking, no attempt was made to keep accurate flock books until the first recognition of the breed in the show yard of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at Gloucester, in 1853, which was due to the instrumentality of Mr. W. G. Preece, of Shrewsbury, and the Hon. Robert Henry Clive, M. P., the latter of whom there offered special prizes for Shropshires. Founded on natural characteristics, it is to the good judgment in selection on the part of the majority of the breeders, that the Shropshires have obtained their present well known notoriety for hardihood, fecundity, excellence of quality,