

When the weather is warm, all dead bees and filth should be cleaned from the hives. See that there are no clusters of dead bees wedged between the combs, if there are remove them. See that all have food enough to last till the apple trees blossom. If necessary feed at the top of the hive at sunset, the bees will store it through the night so that it will not induce robbing. I have found the saucers of flower-pots with pieces of comb about an inch in diameter broken into them to prevent the bees from getting drowned, to be simple, cheap and handy for feeding. The bees take the feed more readily from among fragments of comb. Strengthen very weak stocks by exchanging with strong stocks after the first days flight; but first see that the weak stock is not Queenless, if it be, add the bees to any stock that may need them. The bees may be supplied with unbolted rye flour as a substitute for pollen. I discovered last year that they would work better still on wheat flour if mixed with one third oatmeal. Place it in shallow dishes out of the wind, and drop among it small pieces of comb wet with honey or molasses to induce the bees to commence taking it. It is beneficial to promote early breeding and checks the propensity to rob, for idleness is the forerunner of mischief among bees as well as among the human family.

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#### THE SPARROW.

The German ornithologists are at the present time engaged in an interesting discussion on the merits and demerits of the sparrow. A Hanoverian superintendent, named Overdeick, having charged the sparrow with being a most destructive enemy to agriculture, Professor Giebel, of Halle, one of the most eminent representatives of that branch of natural history, took opposite ground, and triumphantly vindicated the usefulness of the sparrow. Dr. Giebel, of course, does not deny that the sparrow has a fondness for lucious cherries and other good things. "We cannot expect that the bird shall work for us during the day, confining its energies exclusively to the destruction of insects, and reject the tempting cherries or corn, from a pure feeling of duty. The merry day-thief wants a change of diet as much as we do, and we must admit that he is in the right when he will neither be an exclusive vegetarian nor a meat eater, but writes upon his standard 'meat and vegetables.'" A fact recently told by the *Danzig Zeitung*, proves that the sparrow does not confine himself to fruit, even when he can get as much as he wishes. Frederick II., of Prussia, walking one day along the terrace of Sans Souci, noticed that the sparrows were busy at work among the beautiful grapes, which were large, of great excellence, and in large quantities. Enraged at the impudent birds he offered a price for their heads, and within a few weeks not a single sparrow was to be seen in the royal gardens. In the following year, however, not a single grape ripened. After the destruction of the sparrows, the grubs, caterpillars, and snails could carry on their depredations as they pleased, and the King soon saw that although the sparrows were great thieves (which nobody denies) their useful qualities far more than counterbalanced their bad ones. Frederick quickly repealed his edict against the sparrows, and since that time there have been both fat sparrows and beautiful grapes in Sans Souci.

#### THE BACHELOR AND THE BEES.

A bachelor laird who resides in the *locale* of the Lomond Hille, in Fifeshire, having been presented with a jar of honey from a neighbouring cultivator of the soil and a bee-keeper to boot, became so attracted by the nectarious liquid that he resolved upon becoming an apiarian instantaneously. After considerable higgling he became possessed of a swarm of honey-gatherers and had them borne to his homestead, but owing to the severity of the frost at the time, he, through a feeling of pity towards the insects, had them placed over night in his bed room and in front of a blazing fire. The bee-master turned into bed to dream of flowery meads and ambrosial sweets, but towards midnight a drumming singing sound, as if a congregation of pigmies were at psalm-singing, aroused him from his repose. The entrance of the straw skep containing the colony had not been properly closed, and the swarm, thousands strong, were in activity around him! His loud cries for aid brought prompt assistance, but not without suffering keenly from the darts of the insects was he allowed to leave the room. Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the bees returned to their former quarters, and the laird, having had enough of bee-keeping, has resolved never again to be so tempted by "sweets."

—*North British Daily Mail.*

#### A KNOWING DUCK.

About a year ago, Mr. Wm. Brow brought from Woodstock, Ontario, a fine large Muscovite drake. The bird was kept for a few days, and on Christmas morning suddenly disappeared. A few days since Mr. Brow was at Woodstock, and spoke to the man of whom he had purchased the duck, relating its loss. The Canadian informed Mr. B. that the duck was there, and had been there nearly a year, and soon hunted up the bird, proving its identity by a mark on the foot. Upon comparing notes, it was ascertained that the duck arrived there on the evening of the 27th of December, having been not quite two days and two nights in flying back to its former home, a distance of 246 miles. It was brought here by express, in a box, and must have journeyed by instinct. Mr. Brow brought the bird back from Canada.—*Jackson (Mich.) Citizen.*

NOVEL APPLICATION OF COWS' TAILS.—No little consternation was caused on a farm in the neighborhood of Kinglassie, in Fifeshire, lately, owing to a number of the cows belonging to the farmer being shorn of the hair that adorned their tails. The farmer was much perplexed about the affair, for he had strange and strong surmisings that the disfiguration performed on his "crummies" was the doing of some one who had no good feeling of friendship; yet on looking round him, he could not point the finger of impeachment to one. The matter grieved him sorely, and not a few council meetings were held by him and his good dame on the matter, yet without any fruitful issue, until his better half picked up a chignon on the maid servant's dressing-table, and which was owned by a servant girl who had entered on the duties of dairy-maid at the Martinmas term last, when lo! it was clearly demonstrated that said chignon had been manufactured out of the husbandman's cows' tails. Its owner now made no secret of the affair, but stated that she had supplied numbers of her fair friends with similar head adorn-