

SOME ADVICE TO BEGINNERS.

Indexed James Sackville.

Some little time ago I told you I might some time send you a little contribution for your journal, and encouraged by your friendly invitation, I now sit down to the pleasant task.

It is about thirty-five years since I commenced bee-keeping. My father paid \$5 for a "Thomas Hive," and the right to make them; and he did make quite a number, frames and all, by hand. This five dollar hive would now be thrown on the bon-fire pile.

I have been reading bee books and journals for many years; and feel that I owe a debt of gratitude to the many writers who have helped us with a little of their maturer experience, and friendly hints; and it would be a pleasure to me could I drop a word that would be an encouragement or help, to some who are just beginning to grope their way amid the mazes and mysteries of bee-keeping. So I will just touch upon a few, of what appear to me to be the most important points in my experience, and perhaps a few of the most disastrous mistakes, and blunders to be avoided.

A beginner should try and find out what kind of a hive will suit him best, and then have them all alike, unless he wishes to experiment with some other kind—as for example the Danzenbaker hive for comb honey. With a large number of colonies, so that you can have a dozen or 20 hives with frames of the same dimensions together, it is not so bad. The brood frame is the all essential thing to have alike. You may have 8 frame, 9 frame or ten frame without any inconvenience; but to have a variety of brood frames, (or extracting either), that are not interchangeable, is a great nuisance, and often a vexation. I like the Danzenbaker for comb honey, (only you must have extra combs of honey reserved for winter; because they

store nearly all above); but for extracting I rather agree with Friend Hutchinson in giving a place to the old standard Langstroth hand-spacer.

To have a lot of unnecessary drone comb is a great waste of bee-energy, and a corresponding loss in honey. To avoid this use full sheets of foundation, and when D. C. has been built in brood combs, cut it out with a thin sharp knife, and fit neatly in its place worker brood. First cut out drone comb, then lay the comb on the piece to be fitted in, and mark and cut exactly, and the bees will often finish up the job so nicely that you can scarcely discern the joining.

Now, for a few of the mistakes or blunders; but first I will give you the root or cause, and then some of the fruit, or effects following.

First cause—Neglecting to do the right thing at the right time.

Second cause—Want of care, and thoroughness, in doing the necessary things.

Effects—Poor colonies allowed to remain that should have been doubled up or re-queened.

Queenless colonies allowed to remain till laying workers begin operations.

Queen cells hatching out, and valuable queens killed or absconding with swarms.

A lot of unnecessary drones hatching out consuming a lot of valuable honey, and deteriorating the stock in the yard.

Covers with cracks, letting the rain in, that ought to be rain-proof.

Supers full of honey, and bees idle, or preparing to swarm.

Valuable queens killed in introducing—with many other items, which I will leave for my brother and sister bee-keepers to fill in.

I like the Italians; as a rule they are quiet, and gentle to handle, good workers and contented in the cellar, (of course there is a great difference in col-

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onies); but some (some say the draper), are well brats"; and "cro" scription of their are great honey good robbers; and know of when the chance, is to nip off introduce a more

There is something about the bee in "fever" smites you cover till you see then, often, the sp more firmly.

Dr. Miller says of monotony in (after nearly 50 years studying me did more than to think that here is men and women, question: What occupation? would attention to. S country are the wheat fields, and with plants, and yielding trees of the precious nectar, as seen," and "wasting the midnight air," skill and care of the or her attendant gather what would then again to disgorge" in the horde" bringing an increase and happiness, and good share of the

And if it is no business, there are fully known only often swelling the much as some of more laborious or there is a pleasure other, when the