

What *stupidity* it is to maintain a lot of useless "examiners" to approve of inventions, the practical workings of which they know nothing about!

What *dishonesty* it is to grant patents, over and over again, to different persons on precisely the same thing!

What *robbery* it is to take the money of the credulous inventor and render no equivalent for it!

In this case the patentee has sold one-half of the "invention" in advance to secure the money to get a patent, which, for practical purposes, is not worth the paper it is printed upon! Bah!

--*American Bee Journal*.

Epilobium, or Great Willow Herb.

FROM my front door, looking over the valley of the Jordan River, I see 100 acres a solid purple sea of the beautiful Indian pink, purple fire-weed, or, correctly speaking, *Epilobium angustifolium*, or great willow herb. It is not only a feast of beauty to the eye, but a flow of honey to the greedy bees, who neglect even the loaded linden bloom for the delicious white nectar of this grand honey-producer. Happy indeed is the apiarist who lives in the land where this plant reigns supreme among weeds.—*Rural New-Yorker*.

Mich. State Bee Keepers' Ass'n.

THE twenty-sixth annual meeting of this association will be held in Grand Rapids, Dec. 31st, 1891 and Jan. 1st, 1892. Reduced rates of \$1.25 per day have been secured at the Eagle Hotel. A nice room to meet in under the same roof, and everything indicates one of the best meetings ever held in the State. There will be reduced rates on all railroads. A goodly number of ladies have promised to be present.

The following is the program.

Morning session, Dec. 31st, 1891, 10 o'clock. Secretary report of last meeting. Appointing of committees. Reception of members. Adjournment.

Afternoon session, Dec. 31st, 1891, 2 o'clock. Annual address, Pres. R. L. Taylor. The best all purpose brood frame, J. H. Larabee, Agr'l College, Mich. The Bicycle vs. The horse for out apiary trips, E. R. Root, Medina, Ohio. Question box. Reception of members. Adjournment.

Evening session, Dec. 31st, 1891, 7 o'clock. Bees, poultry and fruit, J. A. Pearce, Grand Rapids, Mich. "Trying new things." W. Z.

Hutchison, Flint, Mich. Question box. Adjournment.

Morning session, Jan. 1st, 1892, 9 o'clock. Cellar vs. out-of-door wintering, A. J. Acker, Martiney, Mich. What business can be profitably combined with bee keeping? Wm. E. Gould, Fremont, Mich. Cause and cure for foul brood, Dr. A. B. Mason, Auburndale, Ohio. Question box. Reception of Members. Adjournment.

Afternoon session, Jan. 1st, 1892, 2 o'clock. The uses and abuses of Foundation, W. H. Hunt, Bell Branch, Mich. Carniolan bees, H. D. Cutting, Clinton, Mich. Deciding next place of meeting. Election of officers. Report of committees. Financial report of secretary. Miscellaneous business. Adjournment.

Out-Door Wintering of Bees.

W. Z. HUTCHISON.

IF bees can enjoy frequent flights, out-of-doors is the place to winter them. If deprived of these flights a temperature of about 45° enables them to bear a much longer confinement than does a temperature below freezing. In the South frequent flights are assured; in the North no dependence can be placed upon the matter. Some Winters are "open," or there are January thaws, allowing the bees to enjoy cleansing flights, while other Winters hold them close prisoners for four or five months.

It is this element of uncertainty attending the wintering of bees in the open air that has driven so many bee-keepers to the adoption of cellar wintering. Still, there are some bee-keepers who, from some peculiarity of location, winter their bees in the open air with quite uniform success; others are compelled, for the present at least, to winter their bees out-of-doors; in short, a large proportion of the bees, even in the North, are wintered in the open air, and probably will be for a long time to come, and while my preference is for the cellar, I have no desire to ignore the out-door method.

PROTECTION AND WINTER FLIGHTS.

It does not seem as though the question of whether bees should be protected in the North, need receive any consideration whatever, yet it has been objected to on the grounds that the packing becomes damp; that it deprives the bees of the warmth of the sun, and that they sometimes fail to fly in the Winter (because the outside warmth is so slow in reaching them) when bees in single-walled hives may be in full flight.