

# ...The Canadian Bee Journal

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BRANTFORD, ONT., APRIL, 1901.

WHOLE No  
484

## Annual Meeting

Twenty-First Annual Meeting Bee-Keepers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT  
NIAGARA FALLS,  
DEC. 4, 5, 6, 1900.

### QUESTION BOX

Opened by Mr. John Newton, Thamesford.

What are we going to do for bee pasture?

Mr. Fixture: The attack began this year again by the caterpillar, but there is a parasite that is killing so that our trees came out all right this year.

Mr. Darling: There are two classes of worms destroying our basswoods. We had a terrible pest in our section a year ago this summer, in the nature of what is called the forest tree tent caterpillar." It made our basswoods look as if they had been riddled by hail.

Mr. Post: That is what is called tentless; They do not build in nests.

Mr. Darling: Instead of building nests in the fork of the trees they make their web right along the limb, and are found in clusters of trees, never in forests. I presume it is for this reason the term tent caterpillar has been applied.

Brown: Two years ago this tent caterpillar was very destructive

on nearly all kinds of green foliage, but this last season very few of them could be found.

Mr. Darling: There was a parasite around our section; I don't know whether others are troubled with it or not; it was a little larger than the one referred to by Mr. Fisher.

A year ago this last fall, just when the tent caterpillars were in the helpless state of the cocoon, we had a large flock of blackbirds visit us for about a half day; they made a terrible chatter, but they hunted in every nook and corner and destroyed every cocoon they could find. They are what is termed the crow black bird.

Question No. 2. Which kind of bees are the best?

Mr. Newton: That is a pretty hard question to answer. I suppose we all think we have got the best kind of bees. For my own part, I have had the cross between the Italian and Black and they seem to be satisfactory to me.

Mr. Post: That wouldnt answer in my case. I want the Carniolans crossed with the Italians, and a very small proportion of Italian at that. In my experience this season with two apiaries one having 110 Carniolans and the other 108 Italians, the Carniolans through the whole season doubled the amount of honey gathered by the Italians. Besides, I got no

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increase from the Italians and I got 65 from from the Carniolans.

Mr. Hutchison : How about the locality ?

Mr. Post : I couldn't see any difference. They were five miles apart. When they were taken to the Murray Canal for Golden Rod and Buckwheat there was no difference at all, I am sure, because they were within a distance that they could reach one another.

Mr. Hutchison : You prefer the pure ?

Mr. Post : No, I like them crossed, I began with pure queens and I let them cross with the Italians first, then I raised queens from these and they would mate with what we call pure carniolan drones.

Mr. Hutchison : There would be a preponderance of Carniolan.

Mr. Post : Yes. I got the first six about July, and on the buckwheat I could see a difference between them and the Italians ; there was no comparison between them. And ever since they have wintered better and have built up better in the spring. That is my experience since 1897.

Mr. Gemmel : There is a great difference in Carniolan blood. I find there is a great difference in the working qualities of bees from different Carniolan queens, just as there is from different Italians queens. Mr. Hall would tell you the same thing if he were here. He was at first greatly tickled with the Carniolans and I don't think he cares anything about them now.

Mr. Post : I could see no difference.

Mr. Gemmel : You probably got a good strain first.

Mr. Hutchison : Where did you get yours, if it is a fair question ?

Mr. Post : From Mr. R. F. Holterman. He was visiting at my place and we went out hunting one day,

the wind blew very hard and we were disappointed, he told me if I would send him a little string of game some day he would make me a present of half a dozen Carniolan queens. I sent him along some ducks, and he wrote me the next summer, about the middle of June, asking if I was ready for the queens and I told him yes, I was : he sent them along and I introduced them. I don't know where they came from. I have kept bees as a specialty since before the organization of this Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association and I have tested all kinds of bees and they are the only bees for me to-day.

Mr. Morley Pettit : Do you find any difficulty in hiving the swarms ?

Mr. Post : We don't have any swarms to hive. When the basswood is in bloom or about half over I make two frame nuclei and give each a young queen ; then I move them to buckwheat, after they are moved I go through these and give them two more combs from the old colony and just let them go, and they make the very best colonies that I know of.

Mr. Hutchison : Carniolans have been called great swarmers.

Mr. Post : I don't find them swarm the way you are talking about. It was a case of superseding queens that caused any swarms I had.

Mr. Gemmel : I don't think there is another man here who could handle the bees Mr. Post does and I think I have so few swarms.

Mr. Post : My neighbors do it.

Mr. Hutchison : What is your surplus from ?

Mr. Post : Clover, basswood and buckwheat.

Mr. Craig : As most of you are aware I have been connected with the same bee yards as Mr. Holtermann and I perhaps know a little of the Carniolans referred to. We had the same breeds in our

yards some Post' local mana that t line o We u hive e Mr. any g stroth Mr. point Mr. venti Mr. lowed queens ducing that is done ir Quee best six Mr. Cr Langs larger. question run an are the Mr. F going to would b Mr. I which is and I thi Mr. S hives. would b would w satisfact Mr. ide a the is Mr. Co any ten out fra gstrc

yards and yet our experience is somewhat different from that of Mr. Post. It is strange. It may be locality or it may be in the line of management; my own opinion is that there is more, perhaps, in the line of management than in locality. We use the eight frame Langstroth hive exclusively, Mr. Post does not.

Mr. Post: I don't think there is any good in the eight frame Langstroth, mine is a larger hive.

Mr. Craig: There might be a point here worth considering.

Mr. Post: I give them plenty of ventilization.

Mr. Newton: I have always followed Mr. Hall's practice in breeding queens. I breed from honey producing stock; when I find a good queen I keep her and breed from her; that is the way I think it should be done in every yard.

Question No. 3. Which is the best size for hives, 8, 9 or 10 frame?

Mr. Newton: I have just heard Mr. Craig say that his is eight frame "Langstroth" and Mr. Post that his are larger. Like the answers of the last question; we all run our favorite. I run an eight frame and I think mine are the best.

Mr. Post: I use a nine. If I were going to change to a different kind I could have a ten frame.

Mr. Dickenson: I run a nine which is between an eight and a ten, I think I must be right.

Mr. Smith: We have nine frame hives. I think a ten frame hive would be heavier than most of us would want to handle. I find mine satisfactory.

Mr. Newton: I believe that I made a mistake; I said an eight. There is a nine frame hive.

Mr. Coggs shall: Mine are principally ten frame hives. I have some eight frame but I prefer a ten frame Langstroth for extracting honey. I

have got "Kidders" and there are some eight frame hives that are equal to a ten frame; mostly all of them are.

Mr. Newton: I remember working in a yard where I think there were somewhat about ten different sized frames, and I think there are a good many that way.

Mr. Holmes: Before that question is dropped would it not be helpful if the house were divided for a show of hands so that we might really know which hive was received with the greatest amount of favor, the 8, 9 or 10 frame?

Mr. Couse: That is a difficult matter to decide. When you mention a hive, what hive do you mean? I venture to say that there are three or four here who use the "Richardson", which is the best hive to be used, of course. (Laughter)

Mr. Evans: Most bee-keepers think they have the best. I am an exception. I have the nine frame Langstroth hive and I don't like them at all, and, only for the expense, I would change. It is all right for the summer time. I have had a little experience with few of the old Jones' hives last season and they wintered the best last winter, and I had the most surplus honey out of them of any hive I had.

Mr. Fixture: We have been trying to test and prove which is the best, the eight frame, or the old Jones and two other hives. Of course, the past two seasons have been so very poor we have not drawn any conclusion. So far the Jones' frame gives us as good results as any.

Mr. Newton: I am afraid if our friend Hall were here he would be apt to get up and say "Quinby."

Mr. Gemmell: Or Hedden.

Mr. Heise: I will take Mr. Hall's place. (Laughter)

Mr. Newton: If the members wish to take a vote on the question

I am perfectly willing but I don't think it would do any good.

Mr. Heise: This is a question that has been discussed in the journals and at meetings all over. It is a matter that will have to be decided by every bee-keeper according to the locality in which he lives and according to his particular management.

Mr. Holmes: I will then withdraw my request for fear of getting further and further in the haze. (Laughter)

Question No. 4. Are Propolis Quilts an Advantage or Disadvantage on either Supers for Section or Extracting Frames?

Mr. Newton: I think the question might be answered yes and no.

Mr. Gemmell: It is a disadvantage all around.

Mr. Newton: I don't know that there is any particular disadvantage in them when it comes to extracting honey, but in the case of comb honey they spoil the sections and makes them unsaleable.

I read an account in one of the journals not long ago where propolis was becoming in great demand. If so we will have to try and get it on our quilts and scrape it off and sell it to our doctors.

Mr. Darling: I thought the question would be quilt or no quilt.

Mr. Gemmell: I should say no quilt at all.

Mr. Smith: Would you use a cover instead of a quilt?

Mr. Gemmell: Yes, every time. What is the use of the quilt? You can't use it on top of the sections; it is of no use except to soil the sections.

Mr. Smith: Not Necessarily. If you use a proper bee space you will not get propolis on it at all. Use an oil cloth.

Mr. Newton: That is a quilt all the same.

Mr. Post: I think a quilt is a perfect nuisance for either extracted or comb honey—a doobby, messy thing. A honey board is away ahead of that. In using the quilt for extracted honey the bees will build up propolis right along the edge of the top bar to the quilt if it does not lie down perfectly and when you go to put the frame in the extractor there is a great lot of propolis to scrape off. It is always in the way, mussing up everything. Whereas, our top bars will be perfectly clean without a quilt. I never use a quilt and I really think, from what I have seen of them in other yards they are a great nuisance. There is one-sixteenth of an inch space between the honey boards and the top of the frames.

Mr. Darling: You don't live in my section.

Mr. Smith: We use the quilt that gives that proper space, too, without having my propolis on it, and if the quilt is made, as we make them, with half inch bevelled slats, and the cloth glued upon them and then painted, it will last for many years. It gives the proper bee space and we have no surplus propolis at all where the space is right. I would be afraid in a location where it was not shady that it might be too hot without a quilt. The slats afford a certain amount of ventilation.

Mr. Post: It is quite cool too, in cold weather. I should think the board would be the best, take it all round.

Mr. Gemmell: I never have had any comb melt down on account of the heat. A shade board is laid on top of my cover.

Mr. Smith: We don't find anything of that kind necessary. We use a quilt instead of a shade board.

Mr. Gemmell: I want a shade

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board every time unless I am under trees.

Mr. Coggshall tells me he uses oilcloth. Does he use it on sections?

Mr. Coggshall: Yes, on top of the sections and then a Brussels carpet on top of that.

Mr. Smith: Don't you find a cer-

neath, you have got to put your knife in and break open the whole top when you have the board. With the quilt you have simply to double it back and peek in and then there is that great cracking sound with the board.

Mr. Gemmell: It is not necessary



THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS AT NIAGARA FALLS

[From photo by  
W. Z. Hutchinson,  
Flint, Mich.]

ain amount of propolis along the edge of the sections?

Mr. Coggshall: Yes, some.

Mr. Newton: I feel sure myself that the proper way is to have quilts

Mr. Smith mentions. I find a great advantage in using a quilt.

For instance, take it in the fall or in the spring when you want to

look to see how full they are under

to have any cracking sound at all.

Mr. Darling: Mr. Hall one time said he had a strain of bees that gathered no propolis and he very kindly gave me a queen. I thought that the strain of bees or the locality might have something to do with it. The queen however didn't do any better than my own although she was a fine bird and her bees put in pro-

polis as well as any others.

Mr. Newton: Mr. Post uses a quilt in the shape of a honey board, Mr. Smith and I a board and yet there is cotton under it and can be easily rolled up and easily laid down, every section is perfectly clean without any scraping. The same in extracting super, the frames are just as clean as the sections are on top.

Mr. Heise: Another advantage of the quilt in examining a hive is that you can loosen a quilt all but one corner and you can put a little smoke in there and drive it right down to the brood chamber, but you can't do that with a board.

Mr. Newton: We will ask those in favor of quilts to rise to their feet. [Seventeen rose.]

Mr. Newton: All in favor of no quilt rise. [Twelve rose.]

Mr. Newton: I was on the opposite side; that made eighteen.

Question No. 5. Is Golden Rod a Good Honey Plant.?

Mr. Newton: All the experience I have had in connection with moving bees to fall pasture in late years was to swamps where there was Golden Rod. I know that that is the plant that gave me the greatest yields of the season and I can only say from my experience that I think it is a good honey plant.

Question No. 7. How to run "Out Yards" for Section Honey without an attendant?

Mr. Newton: This is a difficult question, I have no doubt that would be a puzzle to everyone of us present, I feel myself that an out yard for section honey cannot be run to advantage without having someone in attendance, especially in the fore part of the season. I believe one might be there during the swarming

season and attend to the swarming, or if the queens are clipped take note till the apiarist comes on the following day; but I don't believe it is an advantage to run an out yard for comb honey without an attendant.

Question No. 7. Does Any Person Present Know if There is Much or any of the Disease Known as Black Brood Anywhere in the Province?

Mr. McEvoy: There has been more or less of that in this Province for over ten years.

#### Simcoe County Bee-Keepers' Association.

The first annual meeting of the Simcoe County Bee-Keepers' Association was held in the Council Chamber, Barrie, on Saturday, February 16th, 1901. A number of leading bee-keepers were present and a very pleasant and profitable time was spent. Quite a number, through sickness and snow blockades, were prevented from attending.

The following members took part in the program:—Mr. A. A. Bell, Oro Station; Mr. J. C. Morrison, Painswick; Mr. S. Spillett, Nantyr; Mr. J. E. Holt, Newton Robinson; Mr. Dennis Nolan, Newton Robinson.

The following officers were elected for the present year:

President, J. L. Warnica, Painswick  
Vice President, Jas. Elrick, Fergusonvale.

Secretary-Treasurer, Dennis Nolan, Newton Robinson.

Auditors, J. E. Holt, Newton Robinson, and Hy. Couse, Cookstown.

The next meeting will be held in Barrie on Saturday, October 19th, 1901.

DENNIS NOLAN,  
Sec'y-Treas.

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## OUT APIARIES.

By G. A. Deadman, Brussels Ont.

In dealing with this subject I can only do so from my own experience. I would very much like to see some articles on it from those who have had more experience than myself. I would explain also that what I may say refers to an out apiary where there is no natural swarming and not to one where the bees are allowed to swarm as in a home apiary, because the management would be practically the same. What we want discussed is an out apiary where there is no watching for swarms or loss because of them. There must be no guess work about it either, as the loss of swarms means humiliation to their owner and a serious lessening of his profit. In dealing with this subject there should be many things of interest to those who may never have any intention of establishing an out apiary of their own. I would invite discussion, Mr. Editor, so that we may all be benefited thereby, and I to have one or more out apiaries? We would propose that criticisms and suggestions be made quickly while it is fresh in our minds. The first question that confronts us is, Does it pay to have one or more out apiaries. We are all agreed that it does not pay unless you have more bees in the home yard than are required to gather the honey there, and this brings us to the question of overstocking or how many colonies can be kept to advantage in one apiary. Of course localities differ, but it is a noteworthy fact that the bee-keeper with a large number of colonies, as a rule, does not get as much honey per colony as one with a smaller number when managed as well; and as his

stock increases his average decreases. I have for a long time tried to solve this problem as far as myself was concerned and after twenty years I have come to the conclusion that I have been keeping too many in one place. When the white clover is in full bloom it would seem hardly possible to over-stock it, but if we limit our observation to this particular time we will make a grand mistake. In my opinion it is at fruit bloom time that the greatest mistake comes from having too many bees in one place. I used to look very indifferently on the honey from this source, but I have changed my views entirely. We do not want any of it in our surplus apartments but the more we can get of it in the hive proper the better the queen will lay, and I was going to say better still, there will be no empty cells for the white clover to follow and it is then taken direct to the surplus apartment. It makes a great difference to the white clover surplus when the hive below is filled with honey, brood and bees at the beginning of this our almost only source of surplus honey. Previous to last year I have had from 150 to 200 colonies in the home apiary with often not enough honey gathered to carry them over from fruit bloom to white clover. Last year just before fruit bloom I shipped 100 colonies to Owen Sound and lo! the difference, we never had so much honey in the hives at the beginning of white clover bloom, never had so large a surplus and never so little feeding to do except one year when the white clover continued to yield honey during August even after the queen had slackened up her laying. Now it may have been due to the season, but I feel safer in attributing it to the fewer bees. When the white clover is in full bloom one has to wait for a long time to see a blossom

of it revisited by a bee. Not so, however in fruit bloom, in some cases the same blossom is frequently visited which must be a loss of time. For this locality I want no more than 100 colonies in one place and believe that 75 is better still. Unless the locality is a poor one I do not think it would pay to have an out apiary where one has less than this number. Whether it would pay you to increase your number of colonies and have two or more apiaries one can only decide for themselves. I would say, however, do not attempt too much. If it is going to overwork you don't do it. It never pays to do all one can. It is much better to keep some strength in reserve. You will live longer and should therefore accomplish more and will undoubtedly enjoy life more. I have seen a comparison made between an American and a German, whether true or not, it pictured the former worn out at fifty while the latter was ready to begin, having both energy and experience to help him; certain it is if we have a stock of reserve energy we should be in a position to accomplish so much more as our experiences increases. If we have decided to establish an out apiary, the question is, where and how far away shall it be? If I had my choice it would be between  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and 4 miles but this will have to depend on circumstances. If by going a little further I can have them at a friend's place, one who is a lover and advocate of the little bees, there I would not hesitate in going. No matter how good the location may be I would never take them to a place where the owner is not in sympathy with us and our bees or who is afraid of them, as there will surely be trouble later on.

TO BE CONTINUED

### About Foul Brood.

Johan Forssell, Kalback Sweden

An article in the Canadian Bee Journal entitled "McEvoy's Foul Brood Treatment in Australia" says: "McEvoy's treatment of foul brood is very safe and sure, but I have not known a case that did not yield to simple re-hiving the bees on starters of comb foundation. I do not consider it necessary to remove these starters and supply another set of starters as Mr. McEvoy recommends. Perhaps the conditions in colder climates render it necessary, and, seeing foul brood is mostly had in cooler climates the disease may be of a much more severe form than that in the warm climate in which most of my experience has been."

That bees can be cured on this principal in cooler climates I can testify, and I will say further that bees can be cured of this disease without transferring them to another hive and only the old combs taken away.

No one who has studied the disease can be sure that all spores of *Bacillus Alvei*—the very cause of foul brood—are excluded by transferring bees to another hive, or, indeed, after the starters have been removed; and so we must seek for another explanation for the success of the McEvoy method; this may be found in the natural hereditary law. Before a colony has been detected to have foul brood they probably have had the disease a good time, during which time many bees have been bred which have not had the disease. Every disease, even the most contagious, does not attack all and so these immune bees have worked as nurse bees and have transmitted of their healthy condition to the larvæ they have fed; after a time the disease disappears.

The hereditary law is very important

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tant in apiculture, one can use it to breed better bees, long-tongued bees, bees which swarm very little, bees which are hardy of good temper, etc., but its best use is undoubtedly to cure or to eradicate several kinds of disease. It seems to me, however, that a great many bee-keepers think only of the queen and drone in all these cases, but this is a mistake. The influence of the workers are very great, let a degenerate colony have eggs from a good colony and breed a queen and this queen will not be as good as she would have been had she been bred in a good strong colony. Let us remember that the queen and drone are not capable of collecting honey or pollen, building comb, cleaning the hive, etc., and that it is to a great extent they impart these qualities on their progeny.

#### A Bee Keeping Enterprise.

Miss Mills, a member of the Freshman class at Syracuse, N.Y., University, is paying her educational expenses by keeping bees. For two years she has cultivated the honey-makers, and has found it remunerative and interesting. She has eighty swarms, and takes entire care of them herself. They are kept in a vineyard on her father's farm near Syracuse, as they can be captured more easily on the vines than in the trees when they swarm.

When Miss Mills goes among the bees she wears brown clothing, as they are known to be less offended by that color than any other. To protect her head and face she puts on a broad-brimmed straw hat and a veil, tucked carefully in. She has never suffered any harm, and says that if one is gentle and self-possessed among the winged creatures they may be made quite good friends. She does all the carpenter work necessary to

keep the hives in repair,

The care of her bees does not require so much time as to interfere with her studies, even in the height of the season, and during the winter it is almost no trouble at all to take care of them. Miss Mills has secured regular customers who take all of her honey at good prices, because it is so uniformly excellent. Her specialty at college is music. She is literally turning honey into music.

#### Value of the Bee.

The value of the bee in the work for fertilizing plants by carrying pollen from one plant to another is greater than its use in producing honey. In fact, without the aid of bees many crops would be complete failures. Darwin found that in 100 heads of purple clover protected from the visitations of bees not a seed was produced, while 100 heads visited by bees produced nearly 3,000 seeds. When two varieties of certain plants are grown in the same neighborhood there is a liability of cross-fertilization as bees forage over a wide territory. It will, therefore, pay the farmer or fruit-grower to keep at least one hive of bees or encourage his neighbor to do so.

At the Oregon Experiment Station they forced a number of peach trees into bloom under glass last November, and introduced a colony of bees into the house, first protecting one tree so that the bees could not get to it. From that tree all the fruit dropped when the stones began to form. From the others not a fruit dropped, and the fruit was so abundant that it was necessary to thin out severely. This shows very clearly how much every orchardist is indebted to the bee-keeper for the success of his fruit crop, as without the bees there would not be insects enough to pollinate the blossoms.



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**BRANTFORD - CANADA**

Editor, W. J. Craig.

APRIL, 1901.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

We thank the friends who so promptly and kindly supplied us with the copies of the C.B.J. asked for in last issue.

Mr. McEvoy has, by special request, favored us in this number with a valuable article on his treatment of foul brood.

We present our readers with a picture of the Ontario Bee-Keepers and their friends standing in front of the Town Hall, Niagara Falls, after their morning session, Dec. 5th, 1900.

Reports from many quarters tell us that bees have come through the winter in good shape; it is yet early, however, to accept this as general, there is still a lot of snow in Northern Ontario and Quebec.

The Saturday Evening Post, published by the Curtis Publishing Co.,

Philadelphia, is rapidly increasing its circulation to great proportions. The reader of the Easter number will not be surprised at this for it is probably the best number yet issued. It will be difficult to produce a better dollar's worth than is given the readers of the Post in a year.

We understand that the O.B.K.A. Executive have decided not to place an exhibit at the Pan-American at the beginning of the exhibition at least, owing to the very limited supply of honey at their disposal. They are, however, considering the matter of making a display of the new season's crop in July. Mr. Converse, Superintendent of the department, is favorable to this arrangement. The Executive considers that the grant of \$300 would not be nearly sufficient to meet the expense, and that the proposal to place the exhibit in charge of the fruit commissioner would not be satisfactory to Ontario bee-keepers.

Our readers will note in our advertising columns the estate of the late D. W. Cummer, of Florence, who passed away to the great majority some months ago. Mr. Cummer began bee-keeping in 1884 and continued in the business more or less extensively until the time of his death, usually working from 75 to 100 colonies. He was intensely interested in bee-keeping, and often in his last illness remarked "I wonder what will become of my poor little bees." As a honey producer he was very successful, neat and orderly in his

management. He worked up a considerable trade shipping honey to the North West. In the fall of 1899 he was one of the Ontario bee-keepers who contributed 500 lbs to Canada's honey exhibit at the Paris Exhibition. He leaves a wife four sons and three daughters.

from the stove, shaken from the stove-shovel, will answer the purpose very well."

We would consider that the remedy would work successfully in apiaries where ants are troublesome.

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**Homemade Vinegar.**

**HOMEMADE VINEGAR.** The following recipe for making excellent vinegar was given me by my German neighbor, who, happening to come during pickling season, heard me lament the impossibility of finding a good quality of that article at the village store. "Why don't you make your own vinegar?" she inquired. On learning my ignorance in that branch of cookery, she kindly initiated me into her method, which is, I think, original, and which proved so simple and inexpensive that I have since used no vinegar but that of my own make. Pour into a jar tea that has been sweated with honey. Cover the jar with a muslin cloth to keep out flies, and set away in a sunny spot. Each day pour into the jar any tea that is left over at meal time, while still hot, until you have the desired amount of vinegar. Stir in more honey, according to the amount of tea added. After a few days' exposure to the sun, the liquid will become sour, and for about three weeks will continue to ferment. Allow it to remain in the warm sunshine until the foam has all subsided and the vinegar is clear. It is then ready for use. Strain, bottle, and set away in a cool place. When made during the hot summer months, vinegar is ready for use sooner than when made in winter. Vinegar prepared in this way is both wholesome and economical, as often tea is used that would otherwise be wasted.—Ellen Battersby in Farm and Home.

A copy of the 1900 edition of the ABC of Bee Culture, published by the A. I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio, is in my hand. This edition marks the eighth thousand. We cannot speak too highly of the excellence of the work on bee culture or recommend it too strongly to either veterans or beginners. The last edition of 5000 copies issued Oct., 1899, was exhausted in the short space of one year. The 1900 edition, besides being more thoroughly revised than any previous one, has received larger additions of new matter and now contains 500 double-column pages. I would corroborate the statement of the publishers that "this work will save any one who keeps even a few bees ten times its cost in a single year." We have ordered a consignment of these books and will be pleased to supply them at the publishers price, \$1.20, post free.

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**To Drive Ants From the Lawn.**

The April Ladies' Home Journal says: Fine coal ashes sprinkled about the burrows of ants will cause them to leave. Ashes may be used on the lawn without injury to the grass. Coal ashes are best, but those fresh

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THE O.B.K.A. DIRECTORS AND THE  
 HONEY CROP REPORTS.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—Some years ago I was asked the question, "What is the object of the government in giving grants of money annually to the fruit growers, bee-keepers and other associations?" At that time I scarcely knew what answer to make, for, aside from attendance at the annual convention, the report of which is published by the government and the "Canadian Bee Journal," I did not know of any duties that the officers and directors were called upon to perform. As I understand it, the object of the government in making these grants is to promote and encourage these different industries, by dividing the province up into districts with a representation from each who should meet from time to time and give reports as to the state of the industry in his district. I do not know what other societies have done, but I am not aware that any reports has been made by the district representatives with regard to bee culture, with the exception of those made by the different affiliated societies. As the affiliated societies are comparatively few in number and do not represent the whole province, I think, Mr. Editor, your suggestion in the March number of the C.B.J. is timely, that the directors of the O.B.K.A. be requested to make a report of the state of bee-keeping and honey crops in their respective districts. While it may be difficult to get as full or complete reports in this way as we could wish, still at present we are almost completely in the dark with regard to knowing the state of the

honey crop, and if a report from each district could be published in the C.B.J. showing where honey was plentiful or scarce, it might be the means of honey being more equally distributed.

Yours very truly,

St. Thomas, Ont. \_\_\_\_\_ R. H. Smith

LONG-TONGUED BEES AND RED CLOVER.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—I notice a lot of discussion in the U.S. bee papers about long tongued bees and red clover with short corollas, but I am afraid the end sought will never be attained in the way proposed, namely, by breeding bees with long-tongues and selecting particular heads of clover to raise plants from.

I think what we want is a clover that will yield as well as the alsike and have the good qualities of the red clover as to pasture and the growth of a second crop after it is cut for hay. In this locality farmers will not sow alsike because it fails to grow a second crop, and some claim that it makes bitter milk and other say the hay from it does not sell well in Toronto markets.

Now, as alsike is simply a cross between the wild white clover and the ordinary red, why not get agricultural colleges and experimental farm officials to work making more crosses? Why not try the same cross again; it might produce a different clover, and also why not try a cross between the red and alsike? A variety of crosses should be tried. We pay our professors and farm managers for just such work.

One thing strikes me as strange that bees do not produce any cross fertilization in clovers, for red, alsike and Dutch never seems to mix, but always remains entirely distinct. Perhaps some of our wise men can tell why.

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Editor C.  
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Just a word about the Buffalo exhibition. The Minister of Agriculture for Ontario only offers the association \$300 toward making an exhibit, and proposed that a fruit man should look after it when on exhibition. We could not accept those terms.

Yours truly,

J. D. Evans,  
Vice-Pres. O.B.A.

Washington, March 16, 1901.

#### THE PAN-AMERICAN AND SOME OTHER THINGS.

Editor C. B. J. :—

Dear Sir, After reading the last issue of the C. B. J. and noting what is said regarding the Pan-American, also what is said regarding the coming exhibition at Glasgow, I thought I might offer a few suggestions on the matter. I am sure we are all interested in making this preferential trade with our mother country a success, and would not knowingly do the first thing to hinder its accomplishment in the shortest possible time. We are also interested in doing the best we can for ourselves, and I believe the accomplishment of the first would help us wonderfully in succeeding in the last. Then what about the exhibitions? Just this: By all means exhibit at Glasgow, provided we can exhibit at both places. If not, then Pan-American first. Why? Because we are not afraid to place our products on the same side of our competitors. No better place for them to win the purchaser's preference, provided we give the best. It would appear to our advantage far better than to send our honey across the ocean to Glasgow and ignore a chance of competing with our rivals at our own door. Of course the reasons why we were "afraid" to exhibit would never be published, they would only be sur-

In former years our Canadian Cheese was good but unknown and a good quantity of it found its way to New York and was shipped as "American Cheese." How is it to-day? I believe the tide has set very strongly in the very opposite direction, and that because Canadian Cheese is known. We have not as yet destroyed our reputation for delivering honest goods, in some lines at least. Let us place our honey where it can "speak for itself." I believe it is quite able to do so.

I would like to make a correction in the report of our Annual Meeting as published in the C. B. J. On page 199, March number, I am made to say, "By taking the cushion off and putting the board on you allow the moisture to get away." What I did say, or tried to say was, "By taking the board off and putting the cushion on you allow the moisture to escape;" and I must have been so understood or some of the wise ones would have brought me to time.

Bees appear to be wintering nicely, very quiet, not many dead ones, no spotted hives. A colony becomes restless now and then but a handful of snow puts them to sleep again. No glass in the cellar windows and the sun often shines in on the cellar floor (clay) I may have to remedy that as spring advances, I was looking at them to-day, (March 29th) and they appeared so quiet and peaceful I thought I would like to know the temperature. I have not had a thermometer in the cellar all winter so I put one down and in about half an hour it stood at 43 degrees. Of course the air is pure and cellar dry; do not know as I ever had them in as satisfactory condition at this season of the year. Don't know about other bee-yards as I have heard nothing so far this spring. Cannot say how long it will

be before bees get out as there is plenty of snow yet, road fences nearly full. Have had good sleighing every day since Nov. 12. Will not be in a hurry to put the bees out if they keep quiet.

J. K. Darling.

Almonte, March 29, 1901.

CANADIAN BEE-KEEPERS AND THE  
PAN-AMERICAN.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—As a bee-keeper who is interested in the export of Canadian honey, I cannot see that it would be to our advantage to exhibit at the Pan-American. To exhibit at Glasgow would appear to me of considerable advantage to the Canadian bee-keeper.

Honey sent to Britain enters a country where prices are higher than they are here, and where there is no tariff on it. There is a tariff on honey sent to the U.S. and prices are much the same as our own.

Yours truly,

E. Dickenson, Jr.

P.S.—Moved my bees out of cellar on March 18th and found them in good condition. Out of 125 colonies I lost only two. E. D.

Editor C.B.J.,

Dear Sir,—Mr. Holmes' paper entitled "Queen's," read at the Bee-Keepers' Association meeting held at Niagara Falls, as reported in the C. B.J., is very interesting. It is true, as Mr. Holmes says, "the great centre on which success most largely depends, that centre at which no master bee-keeper can err, is in securing the good queen for every colony."

But, I agree with Mr. Hall in all that he says. Who has not had stocks of bees, apparently alike and some would store three times as much honey as others, yes, others that were even stronger in bees.

Now, I have read carefully all that was said on the subject at that association meeting, and I think that none hit the mark exactly. I have become thoroughly converted to the "long tongue" idea and believe that that explains it all; there if no mystery about it. It also explains what Mr. Post says on page 174. There will be more difference during clover honey because the long-tongued bees can work on red clover, especially mammoth or large red clover, "and when the buckwheat and golden rod honey come we will not see half of that difference." Why? Because hybrids or even black bees can work as well on buckwheat and golden rod, and it is the same early in the season on the wild red raspberry.

My son, E. L. Michener, living farther from the lake and nearer the marsh than I do, got about as much wild red raspberry honey as clover while I got very little, but when clover came our yields were about the same. He got twice as much honey from buckwheat and fall flowers for many bees had to go too far for it.

A part of our bees are Italian and Carniolan crossed, while they look like any hybrids, they are gentle and very good bees; we do not want all of the long-tongued Italians, for they will keep on working on red clover after it ceases to be profitable while the dark fellows will be filling up their combs with dark honey from different sources. Yet, if all our bees had been like our best red clover workers we would have got twice the amount of honey we did get, so I think we will do a lot of re-queening another summer, unless many of our colonies perish during this long continued cold weather coming after the mild weather we had in January.

Yours truly,

Ila Michener

Haldimand Co., Ont. March, 1901.

Half 2

In the January, editor of advises bees on s as a prett disease. I judge bee-keep great his had with his work that he n by hivin comb for The m made the on the fo 1st. O the bees combs w 2nd. V foul br and every the qu ceased given th not to b In the during r took a ceased mild co a sho failures word ev with th tony wood a hone cor on as de t' ed h al 1



**FOUL BROOD.**

**Half Treatment Results In Too Many Failures.**

In the Canadian Bee Journal for January, 1901, I see that Mr. Pender, editor of the Australian Bee Journal, advises the hiving of foul broody bees on starters of comb foundation as a pretty sure way of curing the disease.

I judge Mr. Pender to be a good bee-keeper and a man that would treat his colonies before they became bad with foul brood, and then doing his work so carefully and so well that he made a success of curing all by hiving the bees on starters of comb foundation.

The number of cures that can be made that way will depend entirely on the following conditions:—

1st. On how little diseased honey the bees find to take out of the old combs when they are being removed.

2nd. Where much of the honey in foul broody colony is badly diseased every thing will depend on whether any thing is to be placed above the queen excluder to catch the diseased honey after the bees are given the starters if the starters are not to be removed.

In the honey season of 1875, while during my own apiary of foul brood, I took all the combs out of several diseased colonies and left the bees to build combs on the bare frames and in a short time I had about as many failures as I had cures. This method cured every colony that was not bad with the disease, but failed on every colony that had been bad with foul brood and had a good deal of unsealed honey in the brood nest when the combs were removed. Just as soon as the bees had a little comb made they stored part of the old diseased honey in it and a little later on foul brood made its appearance

again. I then resorted to taking away all the new pieces of comb that the bees made during the first four days and let them keep what they made after that. This plan thoroughly cleansed the bees of all the old diseased honey and ended in perfect cures. I also cured many colonies that summer by the use of clean combs and the frequent use of the honey extractor, and in the fall of that year after brood rearing was all over, I cured quite a number of foul broody colonies by shaking the bees on to sound sealed stores. This plan left the bees no place to store the diseased honey and forced them to keep it until they consumed it and that ended the disease.

All of these plans and methods I studied out twenty five years ago last summer and fall when I had to treat 50 out of 60 colonies in my own apiary for foul brood.

When foul brood matter is drying down it glues itself fast to the lower side and bottom of the cells and there it will remain as long as the comb lasts, and during honey flows the bees store honey in many of these diseased cells and after that foul brood is spread through a colony in proportion to the amount of honey that is fed from the diseased cells to the sound larvæ. In the honey season when we are taking the combs out of the diseased colonies to cure them, the bees (finding the unsealed honey so handy with no uncapping to do) rush into the open cells and take all they can hold, and where many of the diseased cells are full of unsealed honey (as they usually are at such times) the bees will get pretty well filled up with diseased honey before all the combs are removed. To cleanse the bees of this honey I give them starters of comb foundation and in four days the bees make them into little pieces

Michener  
ch, 1901.

of comb and store the diseased honey in them. I then (in the evening) take away all the comb that the bees made in the four days and give them full sheets of comb foundation, and before this is worked out the cure will be complete. This is the safest and most practical method for all classes of bee-keepers to follow and one that never fails. It is one thing to cure an apiary of foul brood and quite another to do it and make more or less increase and have all colonies in grand condition when the season closes, and this can be done.

When I am examining an apiary I mark each colony according to the condition I find it in. I put one pencil cross on the front of the hives that are strong in bees and have only a little of the disease, and two crosses on those that have less bees and more disease, and three crosses on those that are weak in bees and badly di-eased. In the evening in the honey season I pick out the weak colonies that have the three crosses on and shake the bees of every three into an empty hive, so as to make good big swarms to start with, and then give them the starters, which are to be removed in the evening of the fourth day, and full sheets of comb foundation put in their place. I take the hives next that have two crosses on and put the bees of every two of these into an empty hive and then treat them. I then remove the combs out of the hives that have one cross on and shake the bees right into the same hives and treat them.

Where I find only a few cells of the disease in colonies that have large quantities of nice sound brood, I save this brood with some bees on it and fill up two story hives with it. I then set these hives back a little distance from the others and when the most of this brood is hatched I go in the evening and shake the bees

into a single hive and treat them and give them a queen.

The increase of colonies that can be made by hatching out the best combs of brood during the honey season (which is the only safe time to do this) more than makes up for the old bees I united.

All curing and treating of diseased colonies should be done in the evenings, so as not to have any swarming out and mixing in with others, or bees returning to the old stands after they have been united with others.

This same method of curing can be carried on at any time from May to October when the bees are not gathering any honey by feeding plenty of sugar syrup in the evening to take the place of a honey flow.

All the old combs and pieces made in the four days should be made into wax by the Gemmil Press, which is by far the best in the world for getting the largest quantity of wax out of old combs and doing it in the shortest possible time.

WM. McEVROY

Woodburn March 8, 1901.

### Spring in the Apiary.

BY MORLEY PETTIT.

It is high time for the apiarist to plan for setting out bees if they are in the cellar. The first favorable day in April is the time. Let the day be bright and comparatively calm; the thermometer not below 50° F. in the shade. The stands should have been arranged last November, as soon as the bees were put in the cellar, but this has not been done, clear away the snow (if any remains) enough to level the stands on the ground. Be sure they are level from side to side and about one inch lower in front than behind. An inch block tacked

the end of the spirit level for this purpose is very convenient. The stands may be set on four bricks and adjusted with small blocks of wood. Some set the hives directly on the bricks. Examine the hives occasionally during early spring to see that the frost going out of the ground does not leave them tipped

Now, a word as to the arrangement of the apiary. Every hive should be as convenient to the extracting room as possible. In all our work we must avoid short cuts, in order to accomplish as much as possible in the limited time at our disposal. The hives should be on separate stands, on a single plank or bench. Bees are so sensitive to jars that one must be able to disturb one a little without disturbing the whole row. Then they must be far enough apart, either in rows or singly, to allow the operator to stand beside the hive while manipulating combs. To set them in straight rows ten or twelve feet apart, leaving equal spaces between hives in the row, is a very economical and convenient arrangement. A row that is too narrow, however, becomes confusing to returning bees. In the apiary of the present writer, the space allows for three rows to contain fourteen hives so spaced; but the tenth hive is omitted from each row, leaving a gap through the yard. To further break the monotony, two boxes are placed in the row between the third and fourth and the sixth and seventh, allowed to project beyond the other hives. Thus the workers and virgin queens have less difficulty in locating their homes; as far as possible, the hives face southward. They do better if the hives are shaded in summer; hence it is advantageous to locate the apiary in an orchard, where the limbs do not hang too low and the ground is not to be culti-

vated. The rows should be arranged with a view to giving the bees a clear way out between the tree-tops while working, and especially not across the public highway.

In removing them from the cellar, some of the leading speakers at the Ontario convention recommended setting out only a few hives daily, the reason given being that when a great many bees are liberated at once they are apt to become excited and "drift" to one part of the yard, nearly deserting many of the hives and overcrowding a few. That has not been the writer's experience; in fact, he sees strong reason why they should all be set out on the same day. On their first day the workers, engrossed with their cleansing flight and the novelty of their changed circumstances, give little thought to robbing or warding off robbers. The next morning, however, they are ready for business. Now set out more bees and they fall an easy prey to the first. But, if all have an equal start, all have guards posted on the second morning and the robbers have a poor chance.

Even then, some are weak, and some by nature defend themselves but poorly, and eternal vigilance must be exercised to ward off robbing, for "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Then, too, one should encourage breeding by sheltering the hives from cold winds, and providing clear water, containing a little salt (about a teaspoonful to ten or twelve quarts), in a sunny, sheltered spot in the apiary. This, by the way, if kept up all summer, will make the bees better natured, and also keep them away from where the cattle and horses are watered. A wooden pail and a ten or twelve foot piece of matched flooring will make the fountain and trough. In the side of the pail, close to the bottom, bore

a hole and insert a plug perforated longitudinally with a gimlet. A nail placed loosely in this hole will regulate the flow of water. Adjust the board edgewise, groove upward, with one end beneath this spout and the other slightly lower to cause the water to flow slowly down the groove after it drips from the spout of the "fountain." One who has never before tried this simple device will be surprised how the bees gather on the edge of the trough. Although the water always runs, the trough should be washed out each morning. Cover the pail with a board to keep out the sun.—Farmers' Advocate.

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#### ABOUT CLIPPING QUEENS.

##### A Good Record.

By Mrs. A. J. Barber.

I have noticed in several of the bee-papers lately, items about clipping queens' wings, and how to do it. I did not suppose there were so many ways of doing it, and I was surprised that, of all the different plans described, none used mine. Perhaps many are doing so; but as none of them have told about it [perhaps thinking it too simple to need description] I will tell how I have been doing it for the last five or six years. It seems so much easier and more satisfactory than any other way that I never think of trying any other method.

When I find the queen I rest the comb on the end of the hive and hold the upper end of it in such a way that the comb slants a little away from me. When I can get the queen near the centre of the comb I start her toward the upper end of it; and by following her with my scissors I slip the blade under her wings as she runs, and take it off smooth and clean in much less time than it

would take me to catch her in fingers. One soon gets used to following her motions with the hand and after a few trials the clipping can be done nicely without touching the queen except with scissors. I don't believe they know what has happened, or that anything has happened, judging by their actions. One needs a pair of embroidery scissors, and they should be keen and sharp.

One day last spring I found I had clipped 31 queens before noon.

I have had but one accident, and that was several years ago when I was nervous, and a little afraid of bees. That time I cut both wings and legs.

I tried the pocket knife method but had to turn my queen loose from the comb, and clip her with the scissors after all.

I think it much easier and better to clip all the wings across straight about half their length. As I do not sell queens, nor keep them for exhibition purposes, I like to clip them close enough to insure their being found easily when a swarm comes out. I usually have a boy watch the hive and it doesn't pay to leave a queen with wings long enough so that she can make any use of them or the boy will not find her.

I don't see why so many are troubled with swarms clustering before returning to the hive to look for their queen. I don't remember ever having had them do so but usually they are coming back by the time the queen is caged and the hive put in place of the old one. Perhaps different strains of bees will have different habits. When they cluster I am always reasonably sure that they have met a young queen from some other place or hive, and treat them accordingly. — M. J. Burr, Colo., Gleanings.



## Questions and Answers

Questions to be answered in these columns should be sent to us not later than the 15th of each month in order to insure their answer appearing in the following issue. We wish to make this department as useful to our readers as possible and a reliable source of information. For the present at least, the replies are procured from various sources.]

**QUESTION.**—I would be much obliged to you if you would give me your opinion about using second-hand hives.

I have a chance of getting some at a very low figure but am afraid I might get some disease with them.

Should there be any danger if one cleaned them well, and how would you advise cleaning them?

Would it be safe to use the wax in the frames?

A. R. V., Ont.

**ANSWER.**—Second-hand hives that have been very neatly made and well fitted for and of the right size to suit would be the only kinds I would buy if they were selling cheap.

Disease cannot be spread by using second-hand hives and all the cleaning that a hive will ever need is a little scrubbing out sometimes, and for this purpose I have always used a piece of sandpaper saw plate about four inches square and kept it filed square on the back so that I could in a few seconds scrape out a hive until it would fairly shine.

Old combs, the wax made out of diseased combs will be perfectly safe to use. When they are old combs you won't get much wax unless you use a press.

Wm. McEvoy.

—Mansfield, March 15, 1901.

**QUESTION.**—Will the honey bee, inbred by continually allowing them to raise their own queens, degenerate in size or working qualities?

J. B., Bracebridge, Ont.

**ANSWER.**—Passing, for the present, unnoticed, the effect of inbreeding on the size of bees, I shall confine my remarks to inbreeding and its effects on their working qualities.

I am fully aware of the fact that it is peculiar ground towards which the querist so lovingly invites me and I fancy I hear a voice (although I cannot see the friendly intercessor) bidding me "be careful upon what I enter." I shall, however, precipitate the matter by very briefly saying YES, the continuous inbreeding of bees will have a deleterious effect on the working qualities of the same. In support of this seemingly bold statement I will simply refer to that which I, in common with other beekeepers of any considerable experience have repeatedly observed, viz.: the very favorable results obtained by the introduction of new blood into the apiary or the changing of colonies from one apiary to another, which is practically the same thing.

I may also be permitted to quote the words of a prominent author, who says, "I do not think that sufficient attention has been given this subject by the writers in the various bee-journals; it might well replace many subjects of minor importance. While for a time at least no apparent evils may result from in-and-in-breeding, yet I would advise that it be carefully avoided by every possible means."

M. B. Holmes.

Athens, March 20, 1901.

### Experimental Union Field Tests for 1901.

The members of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union



are pleased to state that for 1901 they are prepared to distribute into every Township of Ontario material for experiments with fertilizers, fodder crops, roots, grains, grasses and clovers. Upwards of three thousand Ontario farmers conducted the co-operative experiments upon their own farms last year.

List of Experiments for 1901:

1. Three varieties of Oats.
2. Three varieties of six-rowed Barley.
3. Two varieties of Hulless Barley
4. Spelt and two varieties of Spring Wheat.
5. Two varieties of Buckwheat.
6. Three varieties of Field Peas for Northern Ontario.
7. Two varieties of bug-proof Field Peas.
8. Cow Peas and two varieties of Soja or Japanese Beans.
9. Three varieties of Husking Corn.
10. Three varieties of Mangolds.
11. Two varieties of Sugar Beets for stock Feeding.
12. Three varieties of Swedish Turnips.
13. Kohl Rabi and two varieties of Fall Turnips.
14. Parsnips and two varieties of Carrots.
15. Three varieties of fodder or Silage Corn.
16. Three varieties of Millet.
17. Three varieties of Sorghum.
18. Grass Peas and two varieties of Vetches.
19. Dwarf Essex Rape and two varieties of Kale.
20. Three varieties of Clover.
21. Sainfoin, Lucerne and Burnet.
22. Five varieties of grasses.
23. Three varieties of Field Beans.
24. Three varieties of Sweet Corn.
25. Fertilizers with Corn.
26. Fertilizers with Mangolds.

27. Growing Potatoes on the level and in hills.

28. Planting Potatoes the same day and five days after being cut.

29. Planting Cut Potatoes which have and which have not been covered over with land Plaster.

30. Planting Corn in rows and squares (an excellent variety of early Corn will be used.)

Material for either number twenty-five or number twenty-six experiments will be sent by express, and for the others it will be forwarded by mail.

Each person in Ontario who wishes to conduct an experiment and is willing to use great care and accuracy in the work and report the results of the test as soon as possible after harvest, should select the exact experiment desired and apply for the same at an early date. The material will be forwarded in the order in which the applications are received until the limited supply is exhausted. It might be well for each applicant to make a second choice for fear the first could not be granted.

C. A. ZAVITZ,  
Agricultural College,  
Guelph,

Guelph, March 16th, 1901.

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A woman cries ten times wounded vanity where she cries out of really wounded feeling each one of the ten times doing good. Let your wounded vanity smart all that it will, for vanity is a kind of "proud flesh" of the soul that has to be treated with caustic every little while to prevent from becoming an excrescence which will disfigure the whole character. April Ladies' Home Journal.