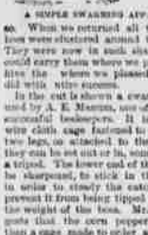
WHEN THE BEES SWARM.

Two Simple Catchers That Have Been Successfully Used by Bee-Keeping Apiarists.

In gleanings in Bee Culture attention is called to the fact that a wire corn popper makes one of the best swarm catchers ever devised. Mr. Root writes as follows concerning it:

One morning the bees in the home apiary got the swarming mania in earnest. Two had already come out and been hived and three more were in the air. Fortunately they element separately. Two of them were hived by the old way. The third was secured by means of a large corn popper, such as cost twenty-five cents at the stores. The lid of the popper was thrown back and the popper itself was crowded up gently against the lower end of the cluster. The bees were rolled over and over each other until the popper was level full of them. The wire-cloth top was thrown over and snapped shut. We did not know whether we had secured the queen or not. It did not matter much, for half or two-thirds of the cluster was confined in the popper, and the queen, if outside, together with the remaining bees, would cluster around their captive companions. We turned the handle down into the soft dirt near where the bees were flying quite thick, and the popper was then supported a couple of feet from the ground, where the bees could get at them. We then left them for an hour or



A SIMPLE SWARMING APPARATUS.

so. When we returned all the outside bees were clustered around the popper. They were now in such shape that we could carry them where we pleased, and hive the bees we pleased, which we did with wire success.

In the cut is shown a swarm catcher used by A. E. Manum, one of Vermont's successful beekeepers. It is simply a wire cloth cage fastened to a pole with two legs, so attached to the pole that they can be set out or in, something like a tripod. The lower end of the pole may be sharpened, to stick in the ground, in order to steady the catcher and to prevent it from being tipped forward by the weight of the bees. Mr. Root suggests that the corn popper is cheaper than a cage made to order and just as effective. The cut is given to show the mode of placing the catcher.

In it are also illustrated a few of the Cuban honey plants.

Just here occur two ideas worth bringing up. The first is that if the queens are not clipped the queen herself will usually be found on the outside of the cluster, or near the bottom end, for, it is said, bees will never hang to the queen. If, therefore, the corn popper cage or other receptacle be pushed gently against the lower end of the swarm you are likely to secure not only the larger portion of the bees, but the queen also; and in this event your swarming is practically done. The other idea is this: After those wirecloth cages have been used a few times for catching swarms they will acquire the scent of the layin queen and of former swarms. The catcher will in consequence be more readily accepted for clustering by succeeding swarms. In time these cages will have little bits of wax adhering to them, and these also form no small part of the attraction.

Three Profitable Breeds of Poultry.

Mr. W. J. Salter, the former superintendent of the large Dunbarton poultry farm and now manager of the Hill poultry yards, tells that the white Wyandottes always ranked highest as layers at both places. The Farmer's Journal says the own superiority has been very favorable with white Wyandottes as layers, but the silver laced have surpassed them in numbers and size of eggs laid. However, it is glory enough for America to have produced two such magnificent breeders as the Plymouth Rock and Wyandotte. Both are broad winners. The value of these two breeds does not consist alone in the number of eggs they lay during the winter, but in the fact that the dressed carcasses are exceedingly fine and heavy. The cost to produce six or seven pound roasters is no more than the cost to produce three or four pound chickens of the Spanish breeds. The light Brahma judiciously handled is another very profitable fowl. Mr. Rankin considers it the most profitable of all for market poultry.

Try It.

We want a large number of our readers to try the experiment of sowing winter rye in their cornfields just after the last going through with the cultivator and report next spring what they think of it. It is no experiment with a number of leading dairymen that we know. They claim that it pays a big profit on the investment, as it gives fresh pasturage the most in the fall and the earliest in the spring. One party informed us the other day that during the high price of butter in April he got enough out of his early rye to more than twice pay the expense of sowing it. Try it, advises Board's Dairyman.

Turn Up the Soil.

Turn up the soil in the poultry yards and runs with either the spade or the plow. This operation should be faithfully performed at regular periods, after the fowls' excrements that accumulate where the birds are confined in small inclosures are removed, advises The Poultry World. Poultry will be much more healthy when this plan is followed, and the grounds can thus be kept more cleanly, while the process of turning the soil over affords the birds so confined a chance for fresh gravel and loam, as well as a temporary supply of various larvæ, etc., that come to the surface through this means. In places where the fowls are limited to narrow quarters, or—as is often the case—to their houses only, the floors should be similarly treated frequently, and the benefits attainable will more than compensate the trouble occasioned by this process.

Study of the Bible.

No other study is so important nor fraught with such enlightenment, such inspiration, such wholesome influences for time and eternity as the study of the Bible. Our Lord prayed that his fullness might be manifest to God's flock and immediately added, "Thy word is truth." It is therefore the means of sanctification, of growing in holiness, godliness, truth, disinterested love, kindness and grace. "My words," said he again, "they are spirit, they are life. In them live our hope, our joy, our assurance, immortality and blessedness."

Think of the millions of sermons who give up their lives in order that they and others might have the divine word in all its freshness and fullness. How they prized it above all things, and what heroes it made of them! By what they suffered in order to possess it we may learn its preciousness and power. No man can fail of being and doing right who makes the Bible of God his daily companion. It makes one wise unto salvation not only, but wise for all the affairs of this life as well. It is the source of a contented mind, diffusing gratitude and love like an exhilarating atmosphere through the soul. And now, reader, do you yourself study the Bible enough?—Christian at Work.

A Strong Argument.

One of the mightiest arguments for the divine origin of the Scriptures—the Bible—is composed of the everyday conduct of those who profess to believe them. One of the chief effects of believers should be to walk worthily of their vocation, to live Christlike and Godlike lives. That kind of living has irritated indeed, and probably now would arouse antagonism in wicked men, but while it does not always captivate at sight, it has in the time conviction. And while personal demeanor is carefully conformed to the word of God, the healthiest work of the church should be maintained and it possible enlarged, with all possible energy. In this way the word of God can be commended and vindicated most effectively, and assaults of every sort be successfully withstood.—Christian Intelligencer.

Why the Eggs Wouldn't Hatch.

"Nice eggs, aren't they?" said a man at Wood River station, as he picked up a sample of "new fruit" from a pail that a fellow passenger carried. "Yes," responded the owner of the eggs. "They're pretty good looking." "Blooded chickens," he continued, "but as I only paid twenty-two cents a dozen for them I guess they wouldn't hatch." "Why, how's that?" said an ignorant city man who stood near. "Well, you see," replied the man with the eggs, "if these eggs were sold for hatching they would fetch something over a dollar a hundred dozen; being of blooded stock, but the supply being greater than the demand they were sold for eating purposes at the regular market rate of twenty-two cents. The farmer, though, to guard against their use for setting has run a fine needle through the butt end of each so as to just pierce the inner skin, a trick that does away effectually with all hope of hatching it."

This little scheme of the guileless farmer to keep up the price of hatching eggs in season was new to the city man, but his informant said it was a practice as old as the hills.—Providence Journal.

Deep Wells in Pennsylvania.

Some of the deepest wells in the United States are within the limits of the state of Pennsylvania, the deepest being that at "Homewood," the country seat of George Westinghouse, near Pittsburg, which on Dec. 1, 1887, had reached a depth of 4,618 feet, when the tools were lost and the drilling ceased. The Buchanan farm well, belonging to the Niagara Oil company, drilled by Fred Crocker, in Hopewell township, Washington county, is 4,593 feet deep. The Bird well, also belonging to the Niagara Oil company, in Washington county, was abandoned at 3,380 feet.

The "Watson Deep Well," on the Jonathan Watson place, near Titusville, is something over 3,500 feet. J. M. Godfrey & Co.'s well on the Walz farm at West Newton, Westmoreland county, Pa., is also 3,500 feet deep. The Isaac Willetts well at Sargent's mill, near Spanamoe, in Greene county, is 3,003 feet deep.—St. Louis Republic.

A Thought for Rising Poets.

Months ago, 180 college girls belonging to the Harvard annex gave Dr. Holmes a reception; with infinite pathos and feeling the poet read "Dorothy Q—" and "The Chambered Nautilus." Chatting pleasantly with one of the seniors afterward, he asked: "Miss H, do you ever write poetry?"

With a smile and a blush the bright young woman replied: "Oh, no, sir. I never indulge."

The aged poet smiled at the sage disclaimer, then thoughtfully stroke his gray head and said: "Perhaps it is best—perhaps it is best; real poetry is so hard to write. 'Sonnets are called, but few are chosen.' Yet if one wrote a thousand lines of doggerel and in it were found hidden two or three lines of real poetry, wouldn't the game be worth the candle?"—Rosily A. Thackeray in New York Epoch.

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