

tend to kill off the horn worm with which the second growth is apt to be infested.

Mr. FRANTZ said he thought it would. He had already plowed down fourteen acres of tobacco stalks and seeded the ground in rye, which he would again plow down next spring. Nearly all the rest of his tobacco land he had already plowed down.

#### Business for next Meeting.

The following questions were proposed:  
 "What proportion or per cent. of a farm can be planted with tobacco and keep the farm in good condition of fertility?" Referred to President Kendig.

"Into how many grades should tobacco be stripped to make it most marketable?" For general discussion.

#### Subscription to Newspapers.

On motion the society renewed its subscription to the *U. S. Tobacco Journal* and the *Tobacco Leaf*.

#### Thanks to Brother Kurtz.

On motion a vote of thanks was tendered to Henry Kurtz, of Mount Joy, for the beautiful specimens of leaf tobacco exhibited by him before the society.

On motion, adjourned.

### THE BEE-KEEPERS' SOCIETY.

[Although the Bee-Keepers' Society has thirty-eight names on the roll, no more than six were present at the meeting. We are unable to account for this. The study of the busy workers is certainly as interesting as that of tobacco-growing or curing, yet scores of members attend the latter while not more than a corporal's guard can be got together at the former. The subject is certainly not beneath their notice, for it requires a far higher degree of intelligence to understand the nature and process of bee culture than to grow ten acres of "the curse," as our friend H. M. Engle once called the narcotic weed. Perhaps the matter may be explained by the fact that there is not quite so much money in bees as in tobacco, and that we suspect is the true secret of the slim attendance at the meeting. We hope when the society next meets that some of the old time interest may be shown in the proceedings by there being a better attendance of the members.—REP.]

The semi-annual meeting of the Lancaster County Bee-Keepers' Society met in the Athenæum rooms at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, October 8.

The following members were present: E. Hershey, W. B. Detweiler, J. F. Hershey, H. H. Myers, P. S. Reist, I. G. Martin.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Peter S. Reist.

The minutes of the previous meeting in May were read by the secretary, H. H. Myers, and, on motion, approved and adopted.

Reports on the success of bee keepers during the season were then called for.

J. F. HERSHEY said his bees did well during the spring. They did not come out of the winter strong, but he made some sixteen artificial swarms, and got about five hundred pounds of honey. If the swarms had been stronger in the spring, he would have got one thousand or fifteen hundred pounds of honey. When they did get strong, the honey season was over.

ELIAS HERSHEY stated that his bees were strong in the spring. They swarmed freely, but the season was too dry to make much honey. He tried the comb foundation, and thinks it is a success. The combs will be filled in about half the usual time when the foundation is used.

W. B. DETWEILER said he wintered eighty hives, but was quite unfortunate. About twenty-five died, and he was also badly troubled with the miller moth. He only got about two hundred pounds of honey. He has about seventy-five swarms now. He also thinks the patent foundation good.

ISAAC G. MARTIN reported that his hives were weak in the spring; he had eight, and now has fifteen, all by natural swarming but one, which he raised by artificial swarming. They made about eighty pounds of comb honey and two hundred and forty pounds of extracted honey. The bees still have about twenty-five pounds per swarm to winter on. He has prepared his hives for winter; he did so by making boxes larger than the regular hive, then placed the hives in the outside boxes, filling the space between the two with chaff. This will keep them warm and dry. He has been quite successful with this plan.

P. S. REIST said he lost about 20 per cent. last spring; his hives were not very strong then but they are now; he got about three hundred pounds of honey from his forty hives. They have ample provision for the winter. Perhaps he could take still more from them and still leave them enough to winter on.

H. H. MYERS wintered eleven colonies, but lost three, and now has fourteen. He is trying to winter a queen in a small colony. Some of his hives have too much honey he thinks; he got eighty pounds from one colony, and that one swarmed. He will pack his hives away in outside boxes and chaff. The bees are in good condition for winter.

W. B. DETWEILER thinks if the bee-keepers are not careful they will lose many swarms by this method of wintering. He wintered fifty swarms one year in that way; for a while they did well, but at last it got too warm; they began to sweat and the hives began

to mould. If kept too warm they will leave their hives. Corn husks were better than wheat chaff; they admitted more air and there was better ventilation.

H. H. MYERS said that one hive packed in chaff last year, was his boss hive this spring; they did very well; they remained in the hive more closely than the rest; he made arrangements for ventilation and there was no sweating.

MR. DETWEILER said compound hives are far better than the common ones. He thinks it is a great risk to winter hives in this way.

P. S. REIST said the nearer bees are kept to their methods while in a state of nature, the more successful the experiment will be.

H. H. MYERS remarked that small swarms sometimes do best as honey gatherers. His largest swarms sometimes do the poorest.

ELIAS HERSHEY said much depends on the queen; sometimes she is not very prolific and the swarm does no good. He winters his bees on the summer stand. He has tried the packing method, but not with much success. He believes in building bee houses; less honey is consumed—enough is saved in fact to pay for making the bee house. He described his underground bee house at some length.

W. B. DETWEILER said that even if hives have young, fertile queens in the spring, all will not be the same in the fall; some will be stronger than others; if the queen is prolific the swarm will grow strong, but not otherwise.

ELIAS HERSHEY did not think it all depended on the queen. Some bees were better honey gatherers than others.

J. F. HERSHEY raised queens from good workers, and found it to answer well.

H. H. MYERS tried an experiment of feeding a swarm with a young queen, all they would eat, and the result was very satisfactory. The queen proved very prolific and the swarm strong.

J. F. HERSHEY thought queens should always be raised from old queens. He tried to raise from young queens for a series of years and the bees gradually deteriorated—got smaller and weaker.

H. H. MYERS thought the drones are sometimes inferior and deteriorated; may not be the failure in the queen by attributed to these weak drones?

P. S. REIST said one of his colonies swarmed three times and all are doing well. He did not think there are by twenty-five per cent. so many bees in the United States to-day as four years ago.

H. H. MYERS said the patent hive men are to blame for the decrease of bees; they tell you they can winter bees on a quart or two of honey in their hives and in this way kill them off.

J. F. HERSHEY said if fed on honey they do better than when on sugar.

ELIAS HERSHEY fed some on cheap sugar for a while last year and then on good white sugar, and they did very well. He thinks too much stress is laid on feeding honey.

The question "What is the cause of dysentery in bees," was put by Elias Hershey and replied to by J. F. Hershey, who said that young swarms are more likely to take it than old ones.

J. F. HERSHEY said he fed sugar to bees for three months at a time, and none were attacked by dysentery.

There being no further business, the society adjourned until the second Monday in May, 1878.

I. G. MARTIN had on exhibition the patent comb foundations, and also such foundation twenty-four bours after it had been placed in the hive in a movable frame. During that brief period at least one-quarter of an inch had been added to the patent foundation on both sides. Their use saves both time and material, and gives the bees a longer period to gather honey. It is stated that as much as twenty-five pounds per hive additional can be produced in this way. It is certainly worthy of the attention of bee-keepers everywhere.

### THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

A stated meeting of the Linnæan society was held on Saturday, September 29, President J. S. Stahr in the chair; ten members present. After the minutes of the previous meeting and monthly dues were attended to, the

#### Donations to the Museum

were examined. Seven bottles, marked from A to H, and one No. 40, containing insects, larvæ, fruit, fungoids, etc., collected by or sent to Prof. S. S. Rathvon.

A number of minerals and fossils were donated by Rev. C. L. Houpt, from caves in the vicinity of Sinklug creek, Giles county, Virginia, per Rev. G. H. Trabert, such as crystalline and stalactitic formations of carbonate of lime, red oxide of iron, black oxide of manganese. Fossils of the cretaceous period—*Rhynchonellidæ*, *Lingulidæ*, &c. Mr. Houpt also had for inspection a series of very fine copies of medals of a number of the Popes, from the year 1566 to 1846; of Luther and other medals struck in commemoration of events and actors. Prof. Dubbs, Revs. Geisinger, Houpt and Stahr added desirable historical information in relation to the same. Rev. D. H. Geisinger donated various combinations of copper

ore, such as sulphuret, blue and green carbonate dentifrie and efflorescent—if not misunderstood—from Swatara Gap, Lebanon county—unless that referred to the residence of Rev. C. H. Trabert. Rev. J. S. Stahr had a pressed specimen of the *Solanum rostratum*, found last August by Prof. J. W. Andrews, of Colerain, Lancaster county, on the farm of Mr. Albert Worth, in the southeast part of said township. A plant that, like the *S. heterodoxum*, which two, Dr. Gray says (in his late School and Field Book of Botany) grow wild west of the Mississippi; this also grows in Kansas and Colorado, and is said to be the original food of the potato beetle. The plant is a weed, perhaps not so bad as the "horse nettle," *Solanum Carolinense*, which is in the county, but just as prickly. We fancy, if introduced, the *doryphora-10-lineata*, of Say, or Colorado "potato-bug," would hardly leave the *Solanum tuberosa*, or "potato vine," for the stranger weed, which is not wanted, although curious as to how it came to Colerain. Mr. W. T. Bolton had a vine with a bean pod on it, supposed to be a *glicine*; true, it was the *glicine apiod* of Linnæus, now known as *Apios tuberosa*. It seems that he overlooked the string of tubers on the root. These are like small potatoes, and when sliced and roasted on a hot stove taste like potatoes, being evidently rich in starch, as the writer has tested. Why has no one yet tried to cultivate these tubers? Simply because the mere botanist pays no attention, and others who would do so are ignorant of the plant. Mrs. Zell also had on exhibition a well developed leaf of the side-saddle plant, hunter's cup or pitcher—the *Sarracenia purpurea*—with which species the leaf corresponds. It gets purple flowers; the *S. flava*, yellow flowers. This leaf was from plants raised by Dr. Davis, on Prince street, this city, he having prepared a pond to cultivate them in his yard. The proper pitcher plant is quite different, the *Nepenthes distillatoria*; but no more curious or interesting. The *Sarracenia purpurea* is found in a very few localities in our county, and is quite rare.

Two copies of THE LANCASTER FARMER, and sundry book notices and printed circulars, all that refers to the library.

#### Papers Read.

Rev. J. S. Stahr on the *Solanum rostratum*. J. Stauffer illustrated a strange growth in a certain peach tree, brought to him by Mr. Rathvon, who gave an account of it in his paper, No. 572. A miscellaneous record of all the articles deposited this day under subject matter A: *Amygdalus persica*, he says, an ordinary peach tree on the premises of Mrs. Miller, Reading, Pa., a branch of which with both kinds of fruit upon it was given to Mr. Rathvon by Mr. Bruce of this city. This tree blooms in spring like others, but develops two distinct kinds of fruit opposite each other on the same branchlet, as was the case in the sample; the one an ordinarily full grown peach, flesh and flavor fine, stone deeply pitted—the other a diminutive peach, no larger than a plum, gets ripe and mellow, but lacks in flavor. The stone is equally small, flatish, nearly smooth, and said to be abortive. What produces the annual differences of the fruit is a question we cannot now discuss, but simply record the fact.

Subject B describes a singular puff-ball, like fungus, from Mr. J. C. Maule, of Quarryville, in this county, found growing in an ice house. Mr. Rathvon, to avail himself of the numerous illustrations in London, and those collected and figured by Mr. Stauffer, failed to find any thing of the kind, when it was advised to forward the same to Dr. Farlow, the distinguished Fungologist of Boston, Mass.

Mr. Stauffer illustrated this fungus, and on a close inspection of the interior arrangement, when cut in two, found it more in appearance like that of a fruit with a central placenta, surrounded by seeds, and fleshy walls surrounding them, and having a jelly-like substance between the walls. He suggested the idea that he might be an undeveloped Phallus. Mr. H. L. Zahm found one in his garden, this city, October 6, 1876, which had a basal socket of a round form, with a jelly-like substance, and a singular stripe, with a head and gauze-like veil cover. A figure of this was sent to Dr. Farlow, who named it *Phallus incesciatus*. We hope to hear from Mr. Farlow. Our suggestion may be at fault, and yet many things thought species or even placed in a different genus, on subsequent research were found simply the young of quite another creature—changed as a "tad-pole does to a frog." Beat. C, described Lepidopterous Larvæ. D, *Bombus Americana*. E, different insects on the wing in the evening, captured in his study. F, on a *Gordius*, of a white color, "hair-snake," taken from a head of cabbage—from Mr. I. L. Landis. G, on the pupa of *Danias Archipipes*, from Prof. Baker, of Milleraville. H, on cattle ticks collected and described. Bot. No. 40, Sunday Spiders with notes on them under new business.

Rev. Jas. Y. Mitchell, pastor of the Presbyterian church was nominated and unanimously elected an active member of this society.

The committee appointed at the last meeting reported and recommended that a semi-monthly meeting should be held, say at 7½ o'clock on the second Friday evening of each month, to enable some of the members to meet whose business occupy their attention on Saturday afternoon and prevents their at-