

**ADVANCED BEE
CULTURE, ITS METHODS
AND MANAGEMENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649038152

Advanced Bee Culture, Its Methods and Management by W. Z. Hutchinson

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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*Dept. of Economic Entomology.
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Advanced Bee Culture

Its Methods and
Management

By
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Editor Bee-Keeper's Review
Flint, Mich.

The A. I. Root Company
Medina, Ohio
Fourth Edition—1911

Dedication

To those who are getting their bread and
butter by raising honey to spread upon the bread
and butter of others, this book is dedicated by
The Author.

Author's Introduction to the 1911 Edition

During the last four or five years I have been having quite a bit of experience in establishing out-apiaries, and in the production of honey upon a somewhat extensive scale. I have also visited a number of prominent bee-keepers, and photographed and described the methods whereby they made money.

Of course, all of this has appeared in the Review and in Gleanings, but in a more or less scattered fashion; and, for a year or more, I have had in mind the gathering together of this matter, in consecutive order, in a new edition of *Advanced Bee Culture*. There are several reasons why I have been unable to accomplish this, chief of which has been the lack of health and strength to do the work.

A few months ago a correspondence over the matter sprang up between Mr. E. R. Root and myself, with the result that, under my guidance and sanction, he revised the book, adding the new matter. All of the new matter is something that I have written, but the work of fitting in with the old, so as to make a smooth, continuous story, is that of my friend Root.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

Introduction to the 1905 Edition

This book is intended for the professional bee-keeper; hence it is taken for granted that the reader is fairly well acquainted with bees and their management.

No space is devoted to the natural history, anatomy, and physiology of the bee, because my experience has been along commercial instead of scientific lines.

The history of this book, how and why it came to be written and published, would read something as follows: Twenty or more years ago, while making my living in the apiary, I learned that, with my management, it was more profitable to use starters only in the brood-nest when hiving swarms. My experiments and methods were described in print; others tried my plans; discussions followed; and finally it became apparent that the system was really more complex than it appeared on

the surface; also, that short articles scattered through different bee journals did not present the subject in the best possible manner, and, as a result, I published a little book in which I described in detail my method of comb-honey production.

One of the criticisms brought against the book was its small size; and I was repeatedly urged to write a larger book, giving my experience and views more in detail, and upon other points. Flattering as all of this may have been, I doubt if I should have yielded to these entreaties had it not been that, by the time the last copy of the little book was sold, I had been editor of the Bee-keepers' Review for nearly four years, and had the benefit of reading, and studying over, special discussions, by the most practical men, of the most important questions connected with our pursuit. As it was, I went to work and classified, arranged, and condensed, and gave what I considered the cream of the special-topic discussions that had appeared in the Review. So many new subjects were taken up that the old title, "The Production of Comb Honey," was no longer appropriate; and as I was giving what seemed to me the best and most advanced methods I called the new book *ADVANCED BEE CULTURE*. Two years ago, the first edition having been exhausted, I rewrote and revised everything necessary to bring it up to date, and got out a second edition, which has since been sold. The present edition has been largely rewritten, many engravings, much new matter, and a more substantial binding, being added, thus bringing the book more nearly up to the ideal that I have for several years had in mind.

ADVANCED BEE CULTURE is really the summing-up of the best that has appeared in the Bee-keepers' Review during the eighteen years of its existence; that is, from a most careful examination of the views of the most progressive men, and a thorough consideration of the same in the light of my experience as a bee-keeper, I have described in plain and simple language what I believe to be the most advanced methods of managing bees *for profit*, from the beginning of the season throughout the entire year.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.



The Author Telling Stories to His Grandchildren.

Bee-keeping as a Business

In reply to the query, "What will best mix with bee-keeping?" I have always replied, "Some more bees." When the conditions are favorable I am decidedly in favor of bee-keeping as a specialty—of dropping all other hampering pursuits, and turning the whole capital, time, and energies into bee-keeping. If bee-keeping can not be made profitable as a specialty, then it is unprofitable as a subsidiary pursuit. If bee-keeping must be propped up with some other pursuit, then we had better throw away bee-keeping and *keep the prop*.

General farming is very poorly adapted for combining with bee-keeping, yet the attempt is probably made oftener than with any other pursuit. There are critical times in bee-keeping that will brook no delay; when three or four days' or a week's neglect may mean the loss of a crop; and these times come right in the height of the season, when the farmer is the busiest. Leaving the team and reaper standing idle in the back field while the farmer goes to the house to hive bees is neither pleasant nor profitable. Drawing in a field of hay while the bees lie idle because the honey has not been extracted to give them store room is another illustration of the conditions with which the farmer bee-keeper has to contend. The serious part of it is that the honey thus lost may be worth nearly or quite as much as the hay that is saved. Some special lines of rural pursuits, like winter dairying or the raising of grapes or winter apples, unite with bee-keeping to much better advantage than general farming; but when bee-keeping is capable of absorbing all of the capital, time, and energy that a man can put into it, why divide these resources with some other pursuit? It has been said that bee-keeping is a precarious pursuit; that it can not be depended upon alone to furnish a livelihood, and for this reason it should be joined with some business of a more stable character. It is true that there are many localities where there is often a season in which little or no honey is secured, and, in the Northern States, winter losses are sometimes very heavy, hence it would be risky to depend entirely for a living upon keeping bees, in a *limited* way, in such localities; but if the average profit from bee-keeping, one year with another, is not the equal of other rural pursuits, why keep bees? The truth of the matter is, it is greater; and if bee-keepers would only drop everything else and adopt methods that would enable them to branch out and keep hundreds of colonies where they now have dozens,