West Hempfield, reported the crops in their neighborhood about the same as those of the gentleman referred to above.

H. M. ENGLE, of East Donegal, said that the grass and wheat on the southern slope of the Susquehanna river looks very well; hardly a poor wheat field could be seen. On the heavier soils, the winter wheat looked poorer. The young grass on loamy soil at first looked poor, but now it is looking well. He advised the members present not to plow the grass fields up so soon for Hungarian grass, but let it have a little time, and he thought it would yet turn out to be a good crop. The prospect of fruit looked promising. He did not think it was injured by the late cold snap. If the cold should continue, he did not think it would hurt anything beyond peaches and cherries. The apples could not be hurt by the cold now.

LEVI S. REIST had some Lawrence pear trees, planted on high ground, some of the blossoms of which were frozen one week ago. It was a hardy tree, exposed from all sides, and it was regarded as singular that only a part of the tree was affected.

A bill of Jacob Heline's for $4.50, for putting up a stove and taking care of the room, was ordered to be paid.

Our Lawns and How to Keep Them.

H. M. ENGLE being called upon to give his experience in the making of lawns, arose with the remark that he had had little experience in making lawns, and was not prepared to say much upon the subject. One thing he knew, however, and that was, no lawn could be kept in good condition without the aid of fertilizers. Wood ashes or manure were regarded the best fertilizers. The proper time to apply them would be in the fall, and in the spring rake them off. To some persons, to whom this kind of fertilizer would seem offensive, he would recommend the use of liquid manure, which is generally easy to get. The grass should not be let grow too much. Cut it as often as you can, and leave it lay. If left lay to decay, it becomes the best kind of fertilizer, and will keep the lawn in good condition without resorting to any other. This can easily be done, for when grass is cut with a lawn mower, it is spread evenly over the surface, and is hardly noticed.

EPHRAIM HOOVER would like to know what was the best way to prepare a new yard. Would it be best to sow it in grass seed or sod it?

H. M. ENGLE had experimented a little in this respect. When he built, he prepared his ground for a lawn and sowed lawn or green grass, with clover and a little rye in it, but the season was so dry the winds blew most of the seed away with the dust. If the season was favorable he would sow seed, as it was the cheapest; but to make sure, sodding was the best method.

LEVI S. REIST had success in sowing seed for a lawn, but it required a great deal of attention. After speaking of his place, he referred to an incident which happened some thirty years ago. A wealthy gentleman lived in the neighborhood of Mount Joy, and around his mansion he had a beautiful lawn, which was regarded in that day as a very foolish and expensive luxury. A few years after the gentleman prepared this lawn, he failed, and he distinctly remembered that it was a common remark that "no wonder he failed; he had a lawn." Mr. Reist was in favor of lawns, and in keeping them up and beautifying them.

PETER S. REIST did not think grass sown on fresh cellar ground would ever amount to anything without a manure dressing was put on it. The best and surest way to make a lawn on a new piece of ground was to sod it at once. In referring to the way in which lawns should be laid out, Mr. Reist said that fruit trees should be extensively planted, in preference to ornamental, and closed by ridiculing the making of rockeries. Rockeries were regarded by this gentleman as a great nuisance.

H. M. ENGLE: What appears beautiful and ornamental to one does not appear so to another. This was no doubt the case with Mr. Reist. He was an advocate of rockeries, and he ventured to say that in a few years Mr. Reist would also admire and advocate them.

MARTIN KENDIG was in favor of rockeries, and hoped the day would soon come when more of them would be put up in the country. The expense and labor in preparing them is not great, and is well paid by the pleasure derived from them. In the front part of his lawn he would plant ornamental and fruit trees, while near the door he would have shrubbery. The best fertilizer he knew of for lawns was tobacco stems. Their fertilizing elements are very rich, and are very easily removed in the spring. They are also a good fertilizer if applied to shrubbery.

JOHNSON MILLER thought more benefit would be derived if fruit trees were planted instead of lawns.

H. M. ENGLE scouted the idea of turning every available inch of space into dollars and cents. If lawns are satisfactory to the persons who have them, it pays well enough. Shade as well as fruit trees should be planted. At one time apples, pears and peaches were the only fruit trees grown. Now a farmer is not satisfied unless he has all the varieties in the market planted on his place. So it will be with lawns. Ornamentation has a great deal to do with refinement.

MR. COOPER, the President, was glad to hear the difference of opinion expressed. In his opinion, there was nothing more beautiful than a nice lawn dotted over with trees. Such places are always attractive. Some people have their buildings, garden and orchard all enclosed with one fence. He regarded this a good idea, as a great deal of labor was saved, besides it looked neat and attractive. In a place like this he would have curved walks.

EPHRAIM HOOVER, with one exception, agreed with Mr. Cooper's remarks, and that was, in a place where there were no dividing fences the chickens and cattle would be sure to get in and destroy much that would be valuable as well as beautiful.

Best Varieties of Apples.

LEVI S. REIST said that Hubbardston Nonesuch did not keep as well for him as the Baldwin apple.

H. M. ENGLE: It is a very difficult task to say which are the proper kinds to plant, as there were so many good varieties. In this respect people generally look to the nurserymen for information. On account of so much uncertainty, the different tastes of people, the variety of soils and situation, he was unable to say or recommend which were the best varieties to plant.

MARTIN KENDIG recommended and spoke very highly of the Mellinger apple. The apple originated on the farm of Mr. Mellinger, near Safe Harbor, about twenty years ago. For years it has been known in this locality as being productive and a good keeper. It resembles the Smokehouse in some respects, can be used for sauce in early harvest time, and will keep until the holidays. The Smith's cider was also recommended. It was a very popular winter apple, and had been grown with good results by him.

The difference between Bucks county and Berks county Smith's cider was explained by Mr. Cooper.

LEVI S. REIST presented the Society with a sample of the Northern Spy and a few varieties of the Pippin apple to taste.

MARTIN KENDIG thought that the amount of rainfall in the different parts of the county should be reported for the benefit of the members.

After the subject was thoroughly discussed, it was moved that a committee of five be appointed to report each month through the chairman, Johnson Miller.

ISRAEL F. LANDIS wanted to know what had become of the resolution in reference to having the Society represented at the Centennial.

President COOPER said the matter looked very dark and gloomy. At a meeting of the Fruit Growers at Doylestown it was resolved to do nothing unless an appropriation could be received. An appropriation of $3,000 was asked; it was brought before the Legislature, and placed upon the calendar by a two-thirds vote, but he did not think it would amount to anything, as it could not be reached in time to be of any benefit. In view of these facts, the Society would not be represented, but he hoped this would not keep any of the members from exhibiting.

JOHNSON MILLER asked that the committee appointed to represent the Society at the Centennial be discharged. Granted.

C. L. HUNSECKER was requested to prepare an essay on rain for the next meeting.

"How can we best improve the appearance of our farms?" and "What is the best method of taking care of our boys and girls on the farm, so as to make them happy and contented?" are the subjects that will be discussed at the next meeting. Adjourned.

OUR BEE-KEEPERS IN COUNCIL.

Proceedings of the Lancaster County Bee-Keepers' Society.

The second meeting of the Lancaster County Bee-Keepers' Society was held at Kauffman's Black Horse Hotel, at 10 o'clock on Monday, the 1st inst., Peter S. Reist in the chair. The attendance was large.

After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, the chairman read an essay on

"Will Bee-keeping Pay?"

on which he said that the subject of the essay ought to be the main question of the society, as it would result in much benefit to it. There are about 800,000 stands of bees in the United States, which produce about 15,000,000 pounds of honey, the value of which was estimated at $3,000,000. The number of bee-stands in this State are about 40,000, which produce 800,000 pounds of honey, valued at $160,000; but of this large number, Lancaster county represents 3,000 stands, which produce 60,000 pounds of honey, at a value of $12,000. This the essayist thought a low estimate, and believed it could be increased 300 per cent. He also thought that bees were decreasing in this State, on account of their keepers not knowing how to handle them. North Carolina contains the most bees, next to which are Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee. The number of bee keepers in this county was estimated at 70,000. In regard to the improvement of hives, Mr. Reist said that the greatest was made some twenty years ago, by a Mr. Langstroth, who made the frame boxes which facilitate the handling of bees, together with the art of making artificial swarms, the introduction of which has been very beneficial. In referring to the introduction of the Italian bee, he said a man named Julius Smith, of this county, claimed the honor of introducing it in this country from Germany. The proper place to have a hive was between the house and barn, so that it could be watched without any extra care or time. After referring to a number of books treating on bees, which he advised the members to read, he closed by saying that the members should meet to discuss different questions on bee culture and adopt the best methods. By this means all will be able to derive more benefit by attending the meetings.

A constitution directing that the society meet four times a year in this city, and that each member pay an initiation fee of 25 cents, was read and adopted.

ADAM B. HERR, the Secretary, read an essay on bee hives. The essay was a lengthy one, and advocated the use of double-story hives, which had given the gentleman great satisfaction as well as profit. From one of these hives the essayist said he took 129 pounds of honey, for which he received thirty-five cents a pound.

After the reading of the essay, one of the hives in question was produced and examined by the members.

A discussion on the merits of hives in general then ensued.

MR. REIST wanted to know what was the cause of honey granulating.

HENRY HUBER, of Martic, thought it was caused by age.

J. F. HERSHEY, of Mount Joy, did not think it was caused by age, but by the temperature. If honey is put in a cool place it will soon become granulated.

Several other members agreed in regard to Mr. Hershey's theory, one of them saying that he knew of honey, which was kept in a proper temperature, that was forty years old, and it never became granulated.

JOHN HUBER, of Pequea, was elected treasurer of the society, and HENRY MYERS, of Mount Joy, assistant secretary.

After the members present signed the constitution, the society adjourned to meet in the Athenæum rooms, in the afternoon at one o'clock.

The Society met promptly at 1 o'clock. The constitution, which was adopted at the morning meeting, was read over again, after which the following persons signed it:

Peter S. Reist, Oregon; J. F. Hershey, Mount Joy; A. B. Herr, Columbia; H. H. Meyers, Spring Garden; John Huber, Marticville; J. Kepperling, Safe Harbor; A. H. Shock, Safe Harbor; Abram Wright, Safe Harbor; L. Fleckenstein, Creswell; Daniel Kreider, Lancaster; A. B. Nissley, Marietta; E. Hershey, Leaman Place; D. H. Lintner, Lancaster; J. R. Stock, Smithville; H. R. Maskey, Millersville; L. R. Nissley, Maytown; C. B. Nissley, Mount Joy; John Snavely, Rothville; John Z. Taylor, Strasburg; L. S. Reist, Oregon; David E. Mayer, Strasburg; H. Huber, Marticville.

Reports from different sections being now in order, the following were made:

HENRY MYERS, of Mount Joy, reported all of his bees in good condition. He had a neighbor who lost only one swarm out of sixty-eight swarms that were wintered.

J. F. HERSHEY, out of sixty-two swarms wintered, lost two swarms.

A. H. SHOCK stated that he had taken two swarms from one bee and three from another, which wintered well and are now in good condition.

PETER S. REIST reported blossoms plenty, and in consequence the bees were very busy.

LEONARD FLECKENSTEIN said that his bees were in good condition. He wintered his bees on a summer stand, and out of twenty-one swarms thus wintered he lost only two.

ELIAS HERSHEY wintered thirty-two colonies of bees on a summer stand, and lost none. The bees are now in good condition.

D. H. LINTNER lost two swarms out of eight colonies which he had wintered. In his region the prospects are good.

H. K. NISSLEY was opposed to covering the hives with corn fodder and other protecting material. Out of seventeen swarms that he wintered on summer stands he did not lose any, and they are now all doing well. Bees belonging to his neighbors are also doing well.

H. B. NISSLEY protected his bees during the winter by putting corn fodder over the hives, but of thirty-four swarms wintered, he lost three. His bees are now gathering honey very fast.

A. H. Shock said he preferred to give his bees, in winter time, candy as a stimulant. In other seasons he gave them syrup.

J. F. HERSHEY gave his bees syrup in winter, which he placed in such a position that the bees were not exposed to the cold when they went to get it.

D. H. LINTNER fed his bees every day for breeding purposes until the blossoms appeared.

"What is the Best Mode of Artificial Swarming?"

was the next subject discussed.

J. F. HERSHEY said the best mode of artificial swarming was to let the swarm get strong in bees and wait till they cease storing honey. Then take out the queen bee and comb from one hive, and from another hive take four or five combs without bees. Change the stands, and give a new queen to the old swarm. In other words, take combs from No. 1, bees from No. 2, and put all in No. 3.

JOHN Z. TAYLOR believed that straight combs could be built by all bees without handling. If the bees commence to build crooked, just incline the hive. The bee will then always build a comb straight with the hive.

JOHN KEPPERLING thought the safest and surest way was to first get a fertile queen. He did not believe in artificial swarming.

LEONARD FLECKENSTEIN preferred a fertile queen for a new hive.

At this point a lengthy discussion and description of the various ways in which bees were hived was entered into by most of the members present.

J. F. HERSHEY had reason to believe that bees flew away on account of the sun shining on the hives and heating them too highly.

LEONARD FECKENSTEIN thought that artificial swarming would prevent the absconding of bees.

Several modes were given how to raise new queens. The principal theory advanced was to place them in a nursery, and another to let them raise themselves.

J. F. HERSHEY said the best mode of introducing queens was to place them in a small wire cage, one end of which should be closed up with a piece of comb. This small cage should be placed in the hive, when the queen will work itself out of the cage by eating or boring through the comb. The queen will thus be introduced into the hive. Various other modes were spoken of, such as sprinkling the queen with peppermint or assafœtida.

J. F. HERSHEY also thought the best way of producing box honey was to first place a small box in the hive and coax the bees into it; then place a larger box over this one, and so on until you get as high as twenty pounds of honey in one box. In this way he had got as high as 140 pounds of honey from a single hive, for which he generally received thirty-five cents a pound.

The idea advanced by Mr. Hershey appeared to be the general opinion of the rest of the members.

ELIAS HERSHEY thought the best size of frames were 12x12 inches.

HENRY HUBER was of the opinion that frames should not be over seven or eight inches square.

J. Z. TAYLOR preferred a frame about twelve inches high. In such hives the bees would not freeze so readily.

PETER S. REIST said his frames were about ten by eighteen or twenty inches.

J. F. HERSHEY said bees made more honey in a small frame than they did in a large one. He thought the proper size of a frame should be 12x12 inches.

LEONARD FLECKENSTEIN preferred a frame 13 by 11 inches. More honey is made in a shallow frame than in a high one.

HENRY HUBER said in an experience of forty years he never had a bee to freeze as long as there was some honey in the hive. He preferred small frames. He did not believe bees wanted much air. He put bees in a surplus box and covered it with wire, thus giving the bees plenty of air. In a short while the bees had closed up every crevice, not giving much chance for any air to get in.

At the conclusion of the above remarks, Mr. HUBER said he would like to know the reason a person could hear the queen making a peculiar noise when the bees were going to swarm the second time, and not the first time.

ELIAS HERSHEY said he had read, that on second swarming the old queen made the peculiar noise referred to when she was trying to get at the young queen in the cell, in order to destroy it. When she found she could not get at the young queen she would start off and leave the hive, the bees following in a swarm.

J. R. STOKE wanted to know if the moths would kill a strong and healthy swarm.

ELIAS HERSHEY never heard of a healthy swarm being killed by the moth. Bees are often killed by moth, but it is always the fault of the box. Never allow a place in a box where a miller can go in that a bee cannot follow.

J. F. HERSHEY thought the best mode to keep away ants was to put wood ashes around the posts. The next thing was to use good lumber in the making of the boxes.

"How to Prevent Robbing"

was the next question discussed.

J. F. HERSHEY believed the best method to prevent robbery was to put soft hay in front of the entrance of the hive which was being robbed. In this way the bees that were in the hive were allowed air, and had a better chance to get at the robbers. In another sense, if the entrance was not protected with hay, the robbers would flock about it and make it too hot for the bees that were in the inside. When it would become too hot for them they would all rush out, thus leaving the robbers the master of the hive. Another way to prevent robbers, Mr. Hershey said, was to change the position of the hives, when the bees would get bothered and the fighting would stop.

HENRY HUBER said the way he prevented robbery, was to first find out the robbers. When this was done, he would go to that hive, raise it, and knock the comb all to pieces with a stick. This, the speaker said, would give the robbers plenty of work to do at home, and by the time they have their hive fixed up again, they will have forgotten all about the robbery at the other hive.

A. B. HERR was of the belief that when all other remedies failed, the robbers should be taught and destroyed.

PETER S. REIST, the chairman, asked what was the best remedy to prevent swelling when stung by a bee.

ELIAS HERSHEY recommended hartshorn.

HENRY HUBER said the best way was to get stung as often as you could. After that the system will get used to it, and the sting will not cause swelling.

A. H. Shock, Henry H. Myers and Daniel Lintner were appointed by the chair as a committee to prepare questions for discussion at the next meeting, and to appoint an essayist.

The second Monday in August was named as the time for the next meeting, the place of meeting being Kauffman's Black Horse Hotel.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the society adjourned.

GENERAL MISCELLANY.

Lawns—How to Make and Keep Them.

One of the most beautiful features about a country residence is a well cultivated and well kept lawn. It is also the most difficult spot about a place to keep in order, unless one has the facilities for keeping it irrigated; for the very time of the year when it is most desired that it should look the freshest is, in most parts of our northern and western regions, the driest period of the season. We present herewith some suggestions for the laying out, seeding, and care of a lawn, the result of our own experience and that of others, which we believe will be interesting and useful to a great number of our readers.

In preparing ground for lawns, where the expense is not of so much consequence as the good results, a good subsoiling is preferable, because in such soils the roots go down deep, and in this way get moisture when the weather is dry. Very good lawns can, however, be had by ordinary plowing, as for any good crop. It is best, however, to have the ground plowed up and leveled a year before the grass is sown, or it will sink in places, and then the surface becomes uneven. Where the lawn has been made in this way, and inequalities of the surface exist, earth may be brought in the spring, and spread smoothly over the lawn, and rolled down firm. The grass will grow through this, and make a solid, even lawn.

As soon as the frost is gone, and before the ground is hard, the lawn should be rolled. From various causes there is generally left an inequality of surface after the winter is over, and this the rolling is to remedy. In spite of all the care to keep weeds out of lawns, they will often get in, especially on lawns that are newly made. The best thing is to have the lawn hand-weeded for the first few years. Early in the season the lawn mower should be set going, but experience is against setting the knives too low. Close cutting we have found to be an injury to the grass. It leaves the roots exposed, and the sun is apt to dry and kill the grass.

A lawn requires an occasional top dressing of manure; but there is no necessity of applying it every year, and it should not be used too green. Well rotted stable manure, mixed with soil, makes an excellent dressing and should be spread over the lawn at least two or three inches in thickness, early in the spring. Some prefer putting it on in the fall, and leaving it to protect the roots through the winter. There is a diversity of opinion as to the use of manure for this purpose, from the fact of its liability to introduce seeds of weeds, which the use of artificial fertilizers obviates; but we have never experienced any ill effect from the use of the former.

The kind of seed to be sown, to make a lawn, depends upon the climate, condition of the land, and composition of the soil. In the Northern States the English mixed lawn grass seed, with an excess of white clover and red top, are considerably used; and in the Middle States the Kentucky blue grass does well. Red top does the best in clayey, and the others in lighter soils. Grasses and clovers are gross feeders, and demand good food, else they will not present a good appearance. The white daisy will often show itself in fields and lawns that are too poor to nourish grasses; and to get rid of this pest it is needful to make the soil richer. The truly practical man, says an agricultural writer, will dress his worn-out grounds with either superphosphate of lime or Peruvian guano, or some other good fertilizer. They will soon show that the grasses can drive out the daisies or mosses, if they are only properly fed.

A surface dressing of superphosphate of lime will also cause an abundant growth of clover, and often it will occur where the clover has not before been seen; and even nitrate of soda will give to the new growth a deep richness of color, and thicken the turf rapidly. The constant cutting and carrying away of the grass produces exhaustion of the soil, until at length it becomes so poor that the grasses die out in a great degree; and the daisies and mosses take their places, until fresh plant food is given, and their growth strengthened. There are some strong, deep soils upon which time seems to make little impression, and no manure is required; but they are only the exceptions.—*Scientific American.*

The Management of Lamps and Oil.

The lady of a house in which we are sometimes a guest, was in great trouble with her lamps, of which she had three or four different styles for burning kerosene. One lamp after another, a short time ago, began to burn poorly; new wicks were put in all around, but in a few hours they were as bad as before. Being taken into consultation, we suggested that she had poor oil; but the oil was Pratt's, and bought in the original packages, besides, there was the German student's lamp, in which the same oil burned splendidly. We became interested in the case, and made a careful *diagnosis*, as the physicians say. The oil was of a good kind, the wicks were new, the lamps, of different styles, each apparently perfect, and as good as ever; while all the lamps but one had been gradually growing bad, and were now nearly useless; this burned as well as ever, and as well as any lamp need to burn. A minute's thought given to the difference between the student's lamp and the others, gave us the clue to the trouble. Asking for a glass jar, an empty fruit jar was brought, and all the oil from one of the delinquent lamps, with a previous shaking, was turned into it. The appearance of the oil in the jar was such as to call forth an exclamation of surprise, as well it might, for it looked like muddy water. Here was the cause of all the trouble, an accumulation of dust and other impurities. The lamps had been filled month after month without emptying; the wicks took up the clear oil, leaving the particles of dust behind; the lamps being daily filled, this dirt gradually accumulated, until at last it was present in such quantities as to clog up the wicks and so destroy their porosity that they could not take up enough oil to give a proper light. Clean oil and new wicks being supplied, the lamps gave as good a light as ever. "But how did the students' lamp help you to guess what was the matter?" we were asked. Because we saw that the wick was not in the main body of the oil, but was fed by a tube which we noticed started from the oil reservoir at some distance above the bottom, so that the impurities could settle and not reach the wick. On emptying of the outer reservoir of this lamp the oil was found to be as bad as in the others, but the particles of dust did not get to the wick. The quantity of dirt in the oil induced us to go a step farther, and inquire where the main supply of oil was kept; we found that the can was in an open shed, and not far from where the coal ashes were sifted; the funnel used to fill the feeding can was kept close by. Here we had the whole story, the funnel, daily wet with oil, was where it could catch whatever dust might be floating in the air, with an extra supply when the coal was sifted. When the feeder was filled the dust from the funnel was washed into it, and from thence it went into the lamps, where it accumulated with the result we have stated. Of course this, the main source of the trouble, was easily remedied by providing a proper place for the oil-can and funnel. The lady was delighted at finding so ready a way out of her troubles, and we relate the case in order that others may profit by the experience. As most of the lamps now in use are of some kind of metal, their contents cannot be seen, and it will be well to ascertain occasionally the condition of the oil within them. With the utmost care some foreign particles will find their way into the oil, and after a long time that in the lamp will be quite impure. If the oil emptied from the lamp is allowed to stand a few hours all the dirt will settle to the bottom, and the clean portion may be carefully poured off for use. See that the oil vessels and funnel, if one is used, are kept away from the dust.—*American Agriculturist.*

Cloverseed.

There is at least one product of the farm with which the market is not overstocked, and that is cloverseed. At this writing, good seed commands, in bulk, from nine to ten dollars per bushel. Happy is the man who has it to sell. One writes us that he has just disposed of his crop from eleven acres for the handsome sum of four hundred dollars. We venture to say that man is pretty well convinced that "farming pays." But unfortunately, very few have seed to sell, and many still more unfortunate have it to buy, and dire are the complaints of this class. It is said that cloverseed is in the hands of a few dealers, who are making a "corner," running up the price to extortionate figures, etc., etc. This is all nonsense. There is not enough of it in the market to make a respectable corner. Dealers have to keep a sharp lookout to obtain enough to supply customers, and at this writing the market is almost bare, at this point.

We have never advised farmers to raise cloverseed for market, but we have frequently urged them to raise enough for their own use. Ordinarily, every one can do this. We know that last season was an ex-