BEE BOTANY AND ENTOMOLOGY.

I SEND herewith, leaves, bloom, and pod or seed of a very singular and beautiful plant, or shrub. It is a stranger to me and to everyone who has seen it, and it seems to have got among us mysteriously. Miss Mollie Heath, the daughter of quite an extensive apiarian of this county, Mr. Henry Heath, procured the seed among other flower seeds, and planted them, late last spring, in the front yard at their residence.

This plant came up with the rest, but did not attract much attention until the last of August, when it commenced to bloom, and all other flowers were gone. Then every passer by stopped to admire it. There have been some 25 or 30 branches of bloom, with from 50 to 100 blooms each. It is about 3 feet high, with quite a large top. It is yet in full bloom, and looks, from the number of buds yet unopened, as if it will bloom until New Year's. Cold weather and frost don't seem to have any effect on it.

Not one of its many visitors has been able to name this stranger; so we have concluded to get you to do so for us, if you can, and tell us whether it is an annual or semi-annual plant, and where we can obtain seed of the same. I don't think any seed will ripen on this one, this season. The bees have worked on it all the time, and are working on it today. G. W. SNIDER.

Denison, Texas, Nov. 23, 1878.

We sent the plant to Prof. Beal, who replied as follows:

This is some species of *Poinciana*, a woody plant closely related to the acacias. These belong to the order Leguminosæ, an immense order of 6,000 species. With more time and better specimens, I might make out the plant more certainly. W. J. BEAL.

Agr. College, Lansing, Mich.

MISS MOLLIE HEATH'S HONEY PLANT.

As Leguminosæ is the family to which the locust, pea, and clover belong, it is nothing strange that this should be a honey plant. It is a plant of rare beauty, as you may see from the cut our engraver has made. The flowers are yellow. Friend S., we are much obliged, and if seed can be procured, we all want enough to give it a trial.

CHICKEN CORN.

I send you enclosed some kind of chicken corn (name unknown). I wish you to distribute it among some of your bee-educated friends. It is the most productive crop of any grain I ever cultivated. It should be planted and cultivated just the same as sorghum, which it very much resembles in size and growth. It remains in bloom 3 or 4 weeks, and bees work on no other plants while it lasts. I had buckwheat in full bloom along with it, and though I noticed closely, I never saw a bee on the buckwheat blooms while the corn was in bloom. I would like to have some bee-man's experience of what benefit it is to the bees, that makes them so fond of it.

Birds and fowls are equally fond of it when ripe, and will soon devour the whole patch to the neglect of all other grain equally convenient, if it is not gathered soon after ripening. In your climate, it should be planted very early, as I notice that late planting here fails to form grain. FRED BATTLE.

Withe Depot, Tenn., Feb. 23, 1879.

Thanks, friend B. We sent samples of the seed to our seedsmen, and also to the O. Judd Co. Their replies are given below:

We are not acquainted with this particular variety, but, judging from the seed and your description of its growth and habits, we should pronounce it one of the numerous *Imphees*, all of which, even if the seed should not ripen in our latitude, make good fodder when cut up and properly cured. Very early planting would not be advisable, but it should be planted at corn planting time, as the seed would not germinate at a low temperature.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 27, 1879. STAIR & KENDEL.

The seeds are evidently one of the Sorghums; but it is not possible, so many varieties are there, to say which one. In size and color, they are more like those of one of the sugar sorghums than those cultivated for their grain. I do not know how you can ascertain the name. I have, among the many kinds sent us, seen none just like this.

GEORGE THURBER,
Associated Editor of *American Agriculturist*.
245 Broadway, N. Y., March 1, 1879.

As our bee men are all "educated" or supposed to be, I will send a few seeds to try to any one who applies. If I get out, as I expect I shall, friend B., you will have to send me another little bag full.

Juvenile Department.

WE have got 5 swarms. One swarm is dying off quite fast. The bees come out when it is very cold, and fly a little, and then they fall and freeze. I put a stick before the entrance, but still they would try to get out; they would crawl out and I would poke them back; but they were bound to stay out, so I let them stay out and went away. The other 4 swarms don't die off so fast. What is the matter with the bees? Is there any remedy?

One night, the door was open and about half of them froze. Some die and stick fast to the glass. I hope you will read my letter and put it in the bee book, GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE, for I am a boy 11 years old. (I want pa to see it; he don't know that I am writing.) LONSON G. BARGER.

Five Corners, N. Y., Feb. 24, 1879.

To be sure, I will read your letter, friend Lonson, and I am very glad of the privilege of putting it in GLEANINGS. Your bees have the bee malady that has prevailed so universally, and I know no better advice than what I have given in the past few months. The warm weather has doubtless cured them, if they lived till it came. I hope your "pa" will smile, when he sees this letter.

I am a boy 10 years old. My grandpa gave me a nice hive of bees, and I want to learn all I can about them. OGIE DUDLEY.

Austinburg, O., Feb. 8, 1879.

Glad to hear from you, Ogie, and I hope you will please your grandpa by letting him see how much you have learned about that fine hive of bees.

Cleveland, O., *en route* for California, Feb. 20, 1879.

I cannot call, but greet you as I pass. I saw D. Quinby, Thorn, and Cap. Hetherington, in N. Y. Our country looks cheerful notwithstanding it is covered with snow, and our people seem hopeful.

R. WILKIN.