

cage without cover or lid, pressed into the combs would be convenient. If the bees neglected to feed her she would only have to put her head into the cells and feed herself.

BREAKING SECTIONS.

D. P. CAMPBELL, PARKHILL, ONT.—Would you kindly inform me if there is any trouble with your new sections, in regard to breaking the capping of the comb, in taking them out of the crates, as when you draw them about half an inch there is nothing to keep them apart, if that is not a fault I think there will be no trouble to get straight combs with them without separators. I have made a new case for their use, will tell how it is made in JOURNAL in due time, as it is something new and not like any in use yet that I know of.

Thanks, Friend Campbell, we shall be pleased to have your description and to hear all about it. We can see no reason why any difficulty should arise, in the removal of sections when properly managed.

APICULTURE.

BY ALLEN PRINGLE.

AMONG the recent industries of rapid growth in this country, bee-culture stands prominent. Of course, as a homely art, bee-keeping is no modern industry, being as old as history; but in its scientific developments it is of recent growth. In these times, when science is properly taking its place at the helm in all departments of human industry and activity, it is not strange that it is promptly assuming the guidance of bee-culture. This is a utilitarian as well as scientific age; and this is why bee-culture is being so rapidly developed, for its extraordinary growth is only in the ratio of its utility. Though known to commerce for 2500 years, hitherto it has been followed and known, in this country at least, principally as a local industry. But bee-culture, from the soundest economic considerations, ought undoubtedly to become a great national industry fostered and protected by the state. Apiculture is naturally a part of, and closely allied with, agriculture, inasmuch as the nectar gathered by the one is immediately derived from the same fields and forests that yield the abundant ingredients of the other. Indeed, the bulk of the honeycrop of this country (which is, in round numbers, about 100,000,000 pounds annually) comes from the bee-keeping which is in connection, more or less, with farming.

But this is not the principal reason why bee-culture must take rank as an important national industry. The postulate is fully warranted by the following fact or facts:—When the agriculturist takes his grain to market, he takes with it more or less of the fertility of the soil; when he takes his stock and dairy products to the market, he does the same thing, only, perhaps, in a less degree. But, when he takes his honey to market, he does nothing of this kind—he takes none of the fertile elements of his soil along with it. When the skilled apiarist, guided by science, so controls, directs, and manipulates his bees that they gather the rich nectar in tons from a given area, representing hundreds and even thousands of dollars, he impoverishes neither his own land nor that of his neighbor: he simply secures that which, if not gathered, “wastes its sweetness on the desert air.” Likewise, when a country exports its surplus grain or stock, it also inevitably parts with more or less of its fundamental agricultural resources; but its exported honey-surplus represents no corresponding impoverishment of soil. It would therefore seem clear that, from economic considerations alone, bee-culture ought to and must take its place among the most useful and important national industries.

There is also an æsthetic and hygienic side to apiculture, though in this practical and materialistic age mere sentiment must be subordinated to utility. But the more advanced scientific bee-keeping of to-day may, without assuming much license or latitude, be called “one of the fine arts.” To the cultured and æsthetic devotee of art proper in the recesses of his own studio, who has never practically studied the nature and habits of the wonderful little honey-bee, and manipulated it from day to day, this claim for our beloved art may excite a smile. Nevertheless, the apiarian devotee who has studied, observed, and handled the marvelous denizens of his hives for twenty years, will affirm his art, no less than the flavor of the nectar it produces, to be indeed *finer*. Ladies of high culture and refined tastes are engaged (and successfully too) in bee-culture with all the enthusiasm which is naturally inspired by a congenial and ennobling pursuit; and this is the best proof of our contention as to its æsthetic status. Being withal a healthful occupation, bee-culture invitingly offers itself to those in delicate health and not strong enough for hard physical labor. In numerous instances such persons, by engaging in this pursuit, have not only procured liberal means of subsistence, but have also recovered lost health and strength. The capital required is comparatively small, while the average return for skilled exertion is large. Hardly any other legitimate business yields so large a return in dollars and cents for the amount invested and the work bestowed. True, bee-keeping