

## FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

## FERTILIZATION OF FLOWERS BY BEES.

IN a private letter to the editor, Mr. McKnight, of Owen Sound, says:—"In your last issue you deplore the fact that at none of the meetings of the Farmers' Institutes held thus far had the bee been represented. I enclose you the programme of meeting of the North Grey Institute held here last Monday and Tuesday, 14th and 15th, by which you will see that at least one such Institute had a representative of the 'busy' industry on the list of speakers. We had an excellent meeting, and I am persuaded that in the hour I occupied the platform I made many friends for the bee."

We are glad indeed to see that our friends in North Grey appreciate the importance of our industry. They must have felt that Mr. McKnight's paper was of value, because at their annual election of officers the following day, we notice that he was elected as a director. Bee-keeping will eventually become one of the adjuncts of good farming and every farmer will keep bees, as much for the sake of their usefulness as fertilizers. While speaking on this subject it may be worth while here to quote a paragraph from a letter lately received from one of the foremost of Canadian intelligent bee-keepers. He says:

"I am sure that if the work of the bees in the fertilization of flowers was better understood and more frequently brought before the public at such meetings (Farmers' Institutes) there would be no necessity for such organizations as that on the other side for defending suits brought against bee-keepers, as the prejudice against them would vanish as their worth became better known—that in fact all would be friends and none enemies."

## OBSERVATIONS.

WHERE have I been? Why, away on holidays—this is the Christmas season you know and some of my friends have been keeping me.

Canadian grocery trade journals in giving the market price of honey invariably speak of "pure"

honey. These quotation marks convey an insinuation that the honey is not really genuine, but merely called so for trade purposes, and their use is unwarranted.

Was I afraid of Dr. Mason when he came down on me so heavily! Well no! If I couldn't read between the lines, and feel that all the while the doctor was having a real good laugh I might have been. The arguments put forth by "A Hallamshire Bee-Keeper" are so good, especially the one with reference to "no stamp for reply" that I commend them to Dr. M. Why, the good doctor writes on this very subject in last *Gleanings* and proceeds to walk into those people who forget to send a stamped envelope when they write for information that will benefit no one but themselves.

That old proverb "people who live in glass houses" is a favorite of mine. I am reminded of it when I read in the last issue of your monthly contemporary, a squib with reference to a report of the O.B.K.A. which was sent to the dailies with the names of the auditors not included in the list of officers, and all because high mightiest was one of the aforesaid auditors. He "never did an act so dishonorable," my thoughts revert to the report of the O.B.K.A. convention of last year, sent to the A. B. J. by this honorable (?) gentleman wherein no mention was made of a certain paper written by Mr. Allen Pringle, nor was any mention made of that gentleman either directly or indirectly. "Consistency thou art a jewel."

OBSERVER.

## EXTRACTED.

THE question "are queens injured by transit through the mails" is answered by Friend Pratt of the Q. B. J. thusly: The only way to ship a really valuable queen is with a nucleus or one pound of bees. Never send them by mail in the common shipping cage unless you can afford to stand a loss."

Mr. Lucien French, of Dexter, Me., has kept bees for fifty years and now at 83 still follows his favorite pursuit.

The Rural Californian speaks very hopefully of the coming season. "The foundation for a good yield of honey for the year 1889 has been laid by the splendid rains that fell in November and December 1888, and so far the atmospheric conditions have been perfect. No high winds; no very cold nights; and warm days. Even the rain was what may be called a warm rain, and