

with comb in them. I think too, reversing has aided much.

H. D. CUTTING—Have good strong colonies and they will go in the sections if they can find anything to put there.

DR. DUNCAN—If your hives are strong and full of bees you will have no trouble to induce them to commence if there is a good flow of honey; keep the crate well covered to keep them warm; one or two sections of empty comb in the centre will help.

ALLEN PRINGLE—Contract the brood-chamber and put a section of empty or partly filled comb here and there through the case, and put but one case on till they get well at work.

O. G. RUSSELL—Study the honey resources of your locality so you will know when your main honey flow is coming; then build up your colonies as strong as possible, and have them boiling over with bees when the flow begins. Then put on sections with natural comb starters. We have tested them side by side and have always found that starters of natural comb are better to start bees in sections than comb foundation starters.

J. F. DUNN—If the brood chamber is in proper shape at the commencement of the honey flow, bees will, as a rule, enter sections without any coaxing. If, however, we find a colony "on a strike" that we wish to run for comb honey we can usually compromise with them by placing among those filled with foundation a section of comb from which the honey was extracted the previous season. If this section is sticky with honey, that is just as it came from the extractor, and was not placed over brood-chamber to clean up the fall before, it will seldom fail to start them at work.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

STRAW HIVES.

CHAS. MITCHELL.—As I see you are looking round to see how straw hives are doing I can send you some facts which capped anything I ever witnessed and of which I have been anxious to publish for years.

One of my neighbors, an expert at making straw skeps, had a quantity of them in use when he commenced making hives of pine. The first winter and spring he lost many in the wood hives, the balance coming out so weak that none could swarm until too late for profit.

All that were in straw skeps were hanging down over the front of the stands about a foot, having to hang out over night. Some of them swarmed early in May, this being nothing new here, being a general thing for the past ten years with 100% in favor of straw skeps, I would be very slow to believe from print what I have seen in favor of straw skeps and if Mr. Corneil or any one else can make a substantial hive with a moveable bottom with tiering up principles he will make his mark in this generation, also if you can get up an extra number of the C. B. J.

soon I think I can fill it all with the disgusting results of the Hutchinson plan of producing drone comb for the million. I have been there. You see it makes a cheap drone factory next year. If you think I have too many male bees put it a little stronger.

Molesworth, June, 1888.

A great many people have been very enthusiastic over straw hives, but all have laid them aside and are using board hives instead. No doubt one of the difficulties has been our inability to make them cheaply and square like the board hive; that one difficulty has been partially overcome by the invention of Mr. Lee, of London, Eng., who, we believe, is the inventor of a machine which works very nicely. No doubt you saw the hive constructed on that principle by Mr. Corneil at the Toronto Exhibition. While this cannot be made up nearly as cheaply as a board hive yet there might be some who would consider them worth the extra cost. Mr. C. J. H. Gravenhorst, of Brunswick, Germany, used straw hives exclusively; he had, at least, three colonies in them when we visited there about eight years ago. He was very successful with the straw hives and liked them very much. We believe the straw in the Lee hive as manufactured by Mr. Corneil is about one inch thick. If our memory serves us rightly we have many reports where bees have not wintered any better in hives made of straw than of wood. It is easily seen that the old-fashioned straw hive with conical top has some advantages over the flat or square top hive for the simple reason that as the bees become less in brood in spring they can cluster in the top of the hive and have a smaller space to keep warm, utilizing their heat, whereas in a flat topped hive the small cluster has to keep a lot of space warm that they have no use for until they become stronger. No doubt since the square topped straw hives when tested side by side with the wooden hives will not give quite as good results as the conical top, at least in some seasons. We infer from your remarks that you have not been successful with the Hutchinson plan as we presume you mean the system of hiving bees on starters or empty frames, allowing them to build their own combs and storing in sections of the upper story at the same time. If the brood chamber is larger they are very liable to build