

From R. McKnight, Owen Sound.

IN your issue of the 15th, Aug., Mr. Bottenman criticizes the prize lists of some of the leading exhibitions as far as the Bee-Keepers are affected. It is a very easy thing to find fault, and Mr. H. would be doing the community some service if when he takes exception to the present state of things he suggested a remedy for fancied or real defects. He has not done this in any of the cases to which he refers. I am pleased he has written the article. However, as it may lead to a closer consideration and a more just appreciation of one of the prizes on our own "Industrial" list. A clearer notion of its intention than seems to obtain in the minds of both exhibitors and judges is, I think, desirable. I refer to the very handsome prize for the most tasty and neatly arranged exhibit. Mr. H. admits that the points here are clearly set out. But he says a change in the prize list is needed. Will Mr. H. tell us what form this change should take. If he refers to this particular prize he admits the conditions are as clear as noonday. I had the honor to suggest this prize some years ago, and I have had something to do in its modification since. The best evidence of its wisdom is found in the fact that it has been copied into nearly all the important prize lists in the country in some form. I am anxious to learn what improvements Mr. Holtermann has to suggest. I regret to say that in my judgment its import and its aim has been misunderstood by both exhibitors and judges to some extent. It was established with but one end in view, that is to cultivate a higher and better taste in the manner of displaying honey than prevailed hitherto, and to create emulation among exhibitors as to who can present their goods to the public gaze, in the most tasty and artistic way. I fear the judges on several occasions have misunderstood its object. On one occasion I saw a gentleman's exhibit passed over without even being commended which should have got the red tickat. That is to say in my judgment it was the neatest and most tasty display in the building. Mr. Holtermann is right in supposing that quality should not be an element in leading the judges to a conclusion. Symmetry, proportions and design together with a blending of colors and kinds in such a way as to make a harmonious whole, are the points upon which the awards should be based. Of course men will differ upon these points and judges are but men. The quality of the honey should not affect the award. The quality of the same honey is pronounced upon and awarded prizes on its merits before

this special feature is considered at all. And the quantity of the honey only enters into the matter, in so far as it enables the exhibitor to present variety. In this respect the man with a large quantity has an advantage over the man with a small quantity if he makes use of it. But quantity if monotonous in its make up will have little neatness or taste about it.

R. McKNIGHT.

We are very glad, friend McKnight, that you give us this explanation in reference to the prize. As you are the person that had the prize so arranged, no doubt you are best able to judge the intentions of it, and we are fully aware, that that was the intention at the time the prize list was arranged, and we see every day, the necessity of putting up our goods in a nice attractive form. It is something that we have all neglected perhaps too much, even the rough cases sent out, should be so labelled as to indicate the contents. Keep honey before the people's eyes, and they are less liable to forget it on the table.

#### Preparing for Next Season.

THE honey crop, so far, is very light, but the queens keep brooding and hives are very full of bees—so much so that they keep right on swarming, and in order to utilize the surplus bees I have removed a number of hives from their stands and set empty ones in their places, with foundation in frames. I am removing these frames as fast as they are partially drawn out and foundation attached to them and replacing with other sheets of foundation. I am also placing two or three cards of foundation in full hives, and having it drawn out, thereby securing combs in good shape for the season of '92. I have done this for two years and think there is a great advantage in having these combs ready in advance of our needs. This prevents the probability or possibility of combs sagging when putting swarms on them, as they sometimes may do in extremely hot weather. Our bees are working lightly on basswood at present, in this locality, but we do not anticipate very much from them, judging from appearances. If we do not get more honey the price will rule very high this fall and winter.

J. H. DAVISON.

Mount Forest, Aug. 11, '91.

Your plan of putting foundation in between two brood combs and the brood chamber, and having it drawn out when the bees are not doing much, is a good one. Such combs are splendid stock and we have many letters speaking very favorably of this plan.