

at half the counties
and for the advance-

*
and encouraging de-
monstrations all
the Provincial
in constant re-
Simcoe County As-
pend the grant on
during the coming
a most of the other
then the matter up.

*
short course for
be held May 1st
ing considerable at-
ns are coming in
Stormont County in
ussets in the States.
that the gathering
ewhat larger than
bargained for. The
especially, will be a
king meeting. We
per in Ontario who
ake an effort to at-
of saving bee-keep-
ravelling to Guelph,
nated from Essex
that short courses
ent localities. We
it will view this de-
short course" idea in
Anyhow, we imagine
exists and is suffi-
shall find that the
e-keepers will meet
and sympathetic re-
partment.

* *
r. N. E. France that
n of the National
ation will be held at
Minneapolis, Minn., on
s will be during the
it in which the Min-
will be held, so that
of good board and

lodging from 75 cents to \$3.00 per day.
The present membership of the National
is 4,440.

* * *

Every bee-keeper should send for the
new edition of Hutchinson's Advanced
Bee Culture. A great bee book by a
great bee man.

* * *

Our sympathies are entirely with those
who desire to modify the swarming in-
stinct of bees. "It seems, however, that
we are at issue with some on this mat-
ter, and perhaps we may be permitted
to state just where we stand. We take
it that swarming occurs when a colony
becomes conscious of having amply pro-
vided for its successors in the old home,
which usually takes place when the hive
is so full of stores that either the bees
must remain inactive or depart elsewhere.
Swarming comprises a number of phen-
omena, apparently co-related, but little
understood. Whilst in ninety-five cases,
perhaps, out of a hundred, we may, by
skillful manipulation, prevent swarming,
there are the five that will persist in
their perverseness, no matter what we
may do. Doubtless there is also a cor-
responding percentage amongst the
ninety-five that take things more coolly
and appear anxious to accommodate the
bee-keepers. In other words, there is
variability in the swarming habits of the
bee. We have yet, however, to learn of
the colony that is non-swarming under
any circumstances. We believe we are
correct in the statement that the limits
of variability form practically the limits
between which the process of selection
may operate. What already exists may
be perpetuated; but improvement can-
not go beyond a certain point. Inferior
strains may be eliminated and the gen-
eral level of excellence raised. To show
how little the swarming impulse may be
influenced by selection, let us remind
our readers that prior to the advent of
the modern methods of bee-keeping,

everything was in favor of those colonies
being perpetuated that showed the great-
est tendency to swarm. Yet when skip
bees are transferred into frame hives,
they are found to be as amenable to the
desires of the modern bee-keeper in the
matter of non-swarming as are their
more aristocratic pedigreed relatives.
In fact, the swarming instinct is largely
governed by conditions external to the
bee, and is not subject, to any great
extent, to hereditary or variable causes.

* * *

On the same subject, and referring to
a previous note, Editor York asks us
why—if in the case of hens, egg-laying
constitutes reproduction—why, in the
case of bees, it does not? What we
actually said in our note was that "It
is only when queens are hatched and a
swarm issues that REAL and COM-
PLETE reproduction takes place in the
case of the honey bee." The very
obvious answer to our friend's query is
that the hen's egg, if fertile, contains
the germ which ensures the continuance
of the race, but that in the case of bees,
the continuance of the race is effected
only through those eggs, that, as a re-
sult of the swarming instinct, are per-
mitted by the bees to result in fully de-
veloped females.

* * *

How many of us possess the courage
to make the candid confession "I don't
know." Our esteemed contributor, F.
Dundas Todd, tells us in his notes,
which appear in the present issue, that
once he had thoroughly drilled into him
the difference between knowledge and
belief. It was Confucius who said "To
know that we know what we know, and
that we do not know what we do not
know,—that is knowledge."

* * *

To learn some we must unlearn more.

* * *

The following paragraph has been mak-
ing the rounds of the newspapers:

THE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO