

PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPING.

BY D. A. JONES.

Let this be studied and not simply read,
But all its teachings got into the head,
Nor in the head alone, but in the heart,
Enthusiasm there must do its part.

—Clarke's Bird's-Eye View of Bee-Keeping.

PAPER I.

POSSESSED of a desire to keep bees for pleasure or profit, the first question which arises in the mind is: "Where shall I put them when I get them?" In selecting a spot for a bee-yard the two main essentials are good drainage, so that after a rain-fall and in wet seasons the water will be quickly carried off, and the contiguity of honey-yielding plants such as clover, basswood, willow, soft maple, elm, etc. A dry spot on low ground near a running stream, sheltered by hills from cold winds is the ideal location. A honey-laden bee returning from the fields can fly in a downward direction without exertion, and this is one argument in favor of having the apiary on low ground. But do not imagine that because you have no such place as just described that you cannot keep bees. While it is nice to have a pleasant place for them, the main object to be looked for must be an abundance of pasturage. In Canada the principal honey sources are the clovers, basswood and thistle and with lots of these in the vicinage and the bees given reasonable attention, good results may be confidently looked for. Place the bees convenient to the house so that they can be overlooked at any hour of the day. Village bee-keepers of necessity have no choice as to where to place their hives, and farmers—all of whom should keep a few hives—usually put them in the orchard, if they have one, and I don't know but that it is as good a place as any.

LEARNING THE BUSINESS.

Studying books on bee-keeping is very necessary and a fair knowledge of the requisite manipulations can thus be obtained. But learning by actual practice is much better and the beginner

will find it time well spent to go as a student for one year or more in the bee-yard of some thoroughly practical man. Here he will find the right way of doing everything, will meet with many complications not mentioned in books, learn how they are overcome, and obtain a general insight into the manner of conducting an apiary for profit which will be invaluable to him afterwards. Every apiarist with a large number of colonies needs help at periods if not throughout the season and is always willing to give practical teaching for assistance rendered. The student cannot reasonably expect remuneration for his first year's work. By undergoing such a course of study the beginner will find whether or no he has an aptitude for the business and can judge of his future success or failure. Visits to neighboring apiaries are oftentimes the source of much information.

APICULTURE IN THE SCHOOLS.

It has long been a matter of wonder to me that the reading books used in our schools did not have lessons bearing on such practical subjects as come under daily observation of rural children. Prof. Mills, of the Ontario Agricultural College, has advocated that agriculture be taught in this manner with the aid of suitable illustrations, and a series of text books on this subject is now being prepared. I trust he will embody the elementary principles of apiculture in the work, for if we instil the minds of the young with a correct idea of the workings of the hive we shall not only create a greater interest in our pursuit, but future generations will be prone to believe such stories as are afloat to-day regarding the adulteration of honey. Many Canadian pedagogues are bee-