Now buy a smoker, veil and gloves, the latter merely to prevent nervousness in the first work you do, after becoming accustomed to your bees put the gloves away for use in an emergency only, in ordinary work they are never needed.

You should also have a drone trap and learn its use in swarming. You will notice the outfit is not costly, and there is not a patented article in it. The patent on the drone trap, I am told has expired. I mention this to show the simplicity and cheapness of the stock in trade, not to advise making any of the appliances.

Now take a large piece of chalk and write upon the shop door, "I will try no experiments the first year;" and stick to that promise.

Next, you are ready for your bees, and two colonies will make a good beginning. Two, because one can help the other and save it should it get into bad condition from any cause except infectious disease.

It will be cheaper to start with two swarms rather than two colonies, and as your knowledge develops with the swarm, and as the examination of a swarm is less difficult than of a colony, and as a swarm stands moving better, and is less irritated thereby, it would be my choice for a beginner. The returns the first year will, however be as a rule, much less. In beginning be sure that every frame is movable, combs flat, free from drone cells and brace combs, and keep them so. Always have every frame so it can easily be taken out and examined.

You will do well to buy your bees of a bee master. He will show you the interior of the hive, instruct you how to open and examine it, will give you valuable information as to the time to put on and take off your supers, and points on the requirements and conditions of your locality. He will probably charge you more than a farmer would and the goods will be worth more, but remember he is doing profitably many things (like the use of shallow hives) that it will not pay you to imitate. Study simplicity, and have absolute uniformity in hives and fixtures.

Learn to know your bees, go among them with slow and gentle movements, wearing when possible, light-colored clothing. Always use a little smoke and much common sense in handling them. Give the little people one hundredth the care you would give the same money in hens, remembering that the hen lives only to destroy and chuckles with glee over every successful effort to injure your garden, while the bee wears her little wings to tatters in her untiring effort to protect your harvest.

As to the best kind of bee, I assume that every practical farmer knows the value of well bred, gentle stock.

I have not touched upon the great benefit to the crops owing to the fertilization by the bee—it is more than equal to the profit from the honey, and is a subject of great importance. —"American Bee-Keeper."

Composition of Nectar—A controversy has been for some time going on in l'Apiculteur regarding the elimination of superfluous water in the nectar as gathered from flowers by bees, some maintaining that having hives on scales give false results. M. B. Spoerer reviews the conroversy, and states that nectar, as collected by the bees, contains an excess of water, which they have to get rid of. He points out that in twelve kilos of nectar there are three kilos of water. When this has been converted into honey and evaporated to three kilos of solids there only remains one kilo of water as a constituent.

If a book bores you it's an easy matter to shut it up, but when a man bores you—well, that's different.