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Editor, W. J. Craig.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

We had the pleasure of attending the Elgin County Bee-Keeper's Association meeting at St. Thomas, April 30th, and of being the guest of our good friends Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Smith over Sunday, needless to say we enjoyed our visit. Mr. Smith had a fairly successful Winter, his bees inside came through with very little loss, those outside at his out apiary suffered most, they were in clamps or wintering cases, each holding four hives and packed around and above with dry forest leaves. His out apiary is situated about seven miles from his home yard, and is managed for extracted honey. The home apiary for comb, mostly. He will start the season with about 250 colonies.

Mr. Smith's apiary work-shop, presided over by his son, Henry, is the most complete that we have ever come across. The aim and end of every device is to save time and labor; and there seems to be no limit to what can be accomplished by a small turning lathe and a foot power saw. Just now the operation of an

automatic reversible extractor by a gas or gasoline engine is engaging this young man's genius, and we have no doubt but it will be a success.

Among the many inventions that we saw was that of an adjustable hive portico with a galvanized wire cloth gate or screen to close the portico when moving the bees, or at other times. This gate or screen is hinged to the bottom of the portico, so that it forms a slanting alighting board when open.

Another useful invention, that we admired, was Mr. Smith's concrete hive stands, these are of the usual cement and sand mixture, molded to form triangular blocks 14 inches long, they are light, cheap, and certainly durable.

From St. Thomas we proceeded to London, and paid rather a hurried but pleasant visit to our friends, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Miller. The Vaux Hall residence, and apiary, is most picturesque in its situation, about four miles from the city. Mrs. Miller very kindly met us and drove us out. Mr. Miller is a very busy apiarist, not at all afraid of work; he runs two apiaries besides his home yard—about 300 colonies in all; these he managed without help last season, and expects to do the same again this year. He uses the Heddon hive exclusively, and prefers it. He visits his out apiaries once every four days, and controls swarming without "shaking off." He assured me that with the Heddon hive he did not require to handle individual combs in order to see