

sion the Secretary read a paper by Mr. W. F. Marks, of Choppinville, N. Y., on "Organization Among Bee-Keepers."

In the discussion following the reading of the paper, "Co operation" was also discussed.

Dr. Miller—I believe the one thing we ought to do above all others is to press for membership in the Union. We have had many good conventions, but our membership has always been a fleeting one; only those who attended become members. We have gotten out of that track a little, but we want to get out of it entirely.

Mr. York said that perhaps methods of securing membership might be suggested.

Mr. E. R. Root said there was no state in the Union that had so many local organizations as New York State. I think there are something like a dozen counties well organized. The one in Seneca County has something like seventy-five members, and they meet once a month during the honey season. The society in an adjoining county has about sixty members, and Thompkins County has a membership of about 100. There is scarcely a farmer in these counties that does not keep some bees. In these organizations they recommend bee-keepers to take some bee-paper, and to become members of the Bee-keepers' Union.

Mr. Lathrop, of Wisconsin, said we have several bee-keepers' organizations in our State, some of them quite prosperous. A good many of our bee-keepers have been members of the National Bee-Keepers Union, and we voted to recommend that the National and the U. S. Unions should be combined, for our members are slow to join the U. S. Union. Having had the protection I needed in the old union I have not joined this till to day, and I would like to see the members of that organization come into this. I think that would be a good step towards what you are talking about now.

Dr. Miller thought that one of the greatest things to help increase the membership is the influence of the bee-journals. They have done good work, and possibly a little more work in the same line will do great good. Perhaps they need a little encouragement by knowing that we recognize their work. Then it might be a good thing for those who write to the papers to mention the matter and urge all to become members of the Union. I doubt if there is any one thing that will do as much to increase the membership as that.

Dr. Mason said, we all feel under obligations to the bee-journals for what they

have done for the Union, and I'm sure they are ready to do all they can.

Dr. Miller—I do think they can do a little more if they want to, and I don't think we ought to do anything to stop them.

President York—Perhaps it would be all right if I asked Dr. Miller to tell the publishers in what way they can be more useful. There are some things that publishers don't know, the same as with Dr. Miller. I think one great help to the publishers would be this: Let the Union do some real live active work and let us report it. That would help more than anything else.

Mr. Frank Ranchfuss, of Colorado—I am of the same opinion as the gentleman who wrote the paper; we should organize county and state societies, and the national organization should be the head. I think it is feasible. It is done in Germany, and I don't see any reason why it should not be done here. Every one who is a member of our state organization derives some benefit in buying his supplies. If they see that by paying fifty cents for membership they can save \$5 00, they will join every time. We have 150 members and more coming.

Honey Production in Our New West Indian Possessions.

The coming Americanization of Cuba and Porto Rico present many interesting problems to us as a people. This is especially true with bee-keepers; with some because of a contemplated removal to one of those islands, and to all because of the inevitable effect on our business.

It is possible my two years experience in Cuba enables me to give some idea of the good and bad features to be found there. But I understand better than almost any one else can that the subject can only be skimmed in an essay like this.

Cuba is, without doubt, one of the finest honey countries in the world. I consider it as fully the equal of California, and in some respects superior. Should Cuba be annexed to the United States, thus not only doing away with all duties on honey shipped to this country, and duties on hives and implements from this country, but in time improve facilities for transportation all over the Island itself, it will, I think, affect the honey market of this country, far more than the great crops from California have yet done. It is well for us to look these facts square in the face.

At present there is a Cuban export duty of six cents, and an American import duty