

The general impression was our population was too scattered to do anything with this, and that the society was doing very well as it was. By means of it bee-keepers and bee-journals gained valuable information.

10 A. M. THURSDAY.

The president, Doctor Miller, in the chair. R. F. Holtermann was called upon and gave an address upon

#### The Production of Comb Honey.

The production of a first-class article of comb honey becomes a subject of greater importance from year to year. The demand for comb honey is increasing, and those producing the article in the best condition will secure the best prices and readiest sales. There is no treating the subject except in detail.

There are a number of points to be considered: First of all, is the man fitted, for no man who is not thorough in his work, neat, intelligent, paying attention to detail, can succeed to the fullest extent. It is then a subject worthy of the attention of a man or woman of first-class ability. The locality must be considered, one in a locality generally poor cannot expect to compete in the production of comb honey with a bee-keeper in a good locality, by that I mean heavy flows are required rather than prolonged. The greater number of pounds of honey gathered in the least time the better the production of comb honey. Upon this we are all agreed.

#### THE HIVE.

Upon this subject I hardly consider it wise to more than touch. There is such a diversity of opinion, everyone must judge for himself according to conditions. At the same time I cannot treat the subject honestly and conscientiously without stating that I consider any material variation from the depth of the Langstroth frame, a mistake.

#### THE SUPER.

There is perhaps no super that will give us all advantages and no disadvantages. We must then select the one which has the greater number of advantages and the least number of disadvantages. I should like the super that would protect the four sides of the sections, also its edges as far as possible, but when we consider the difficulty, in fact impossibility of getting at sections the conclusion is forced upon us that something else must be looked for. The section supers with section holders

consisting of two sides and a bottom bar with separators, followers and wedge, is probably the super we are looking for, as it is not covered by patent, and everyone is at liberty to make and use it. The sections are protected as far as convenience in handling permits.

#### SIZE OF SECTION.

The size of section must be the next consideration. In this, we must keep in view convenience, demands of the market, and what the supply dealer makes. When we do this but few will fail to take the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{1}{2}$  section. To decide upon the width is a more difficult matter. In Canada ninety-five out of every hundred use the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  section, a few use seven to the foot, the balance 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  and 2 inches. The demand is for the thinner section, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  or seven to the foot. In the United States I am safe in saying the demand is increasing for a thinner section, something more in the direction of what Canadians are using and that demand will be met.

#### BEES.

Next comes the bees. Upon this it is my intention here to touch very briefly as the subject comes up again under "General Management." Just let me say, beauty of comb produced, honey gathering qualities, and these, must be looked to rather than beauty of bee. I believe many of our queen breeders are bowing too much to popular opinion in the breeding of queens. They know a beautiful queen and beautiful bees will please as soon as the eyes rest upon them. We are apt to be carried away with them the moment we open the cage, while it takes time to manifest other and more practical characteristics.

#### MANAGEMENT.

And now comes management. The bees should have plenty of stores in the fall of the year, they must be wintered well, and every hive should have plenty of stores so the bees in the spring need never curtail brood rearing on account of shortage of stores. All that applies to the building up of colonies in the spring applies to the successful production of comb honey.

I take issue with the statement that bees can get strong too early, such a condition never was and never will be, the opposite, too weak colonies at the honey flow alas is too nearly the rule and reduces the number of pounds of honey we get per colony. If a colony gets crowded in the lower story and the time has not arrived when sections should be put on, I place an extracting