

ing, and instead of the bee-keeper having to await the convenience or caprice of the bees with the risk of losing swarms if the watch of the apiary is intermitted he consults his own convenience, divides over populated colonies and avoids loss of swarms. Moreover, when a colony becomes queenless and are in danger of extinction a new queen or brood from which to rear one can readily be supplied; combs, bees and honey can be given to weak colonies and surplus honey readily taken. The bees instead of managing themselves under the guidance of mere instinct, are managed by the superior intelligence of their human lords.

It was a still further step in improved apiculture when the honey extractor was devised. This machine by the simple application of centrifugal force, empties the well-filled combs almost to the last drop of honey, and on their being replaced in the hive the bees at once proceed to refill them. By the use of this machine the yield of honey is doubled and even trebled in good seasons.

Apiculture is naturally a part of and closely allied with agriculture, inasmuch as the nectar gathered by the one is immediately derived from the same fields and forests that yield the abundant ingathering of the other. Indeed the bulk of the honey crop of this country which runs up to millions of pounds annually, comes from the bee-keeping which is in connection more or less with farming. But this is not the principal reason why bee culture must take rank as an important national industry.

The postulate is fully warranted by the following fact or facts. Honey is a wholesome and desirable article of food, it is furnished to us at our very doors, and if we fail to preserve it the odor of wasting sweetness constantly reminds us of our neglect

and loss. When the agriculturist takes his grain to market he takes with it more or less of the fertility of the soil; when he takes his stock and dairy products to the market he does the same thing, only perhaps in a less degree. But when he takes his honey to market he does nothing of this kind, he takes none of the fertile elements of his soil along with it. When the skilled apiarist, guided by science so controls, directs and manipulates his bees that they gather the rich nectar in tons from a given area, representing hundreds and even thousands of dollars, he impoverishes neither his own land nor that of his neighbor, he simply secures that, which if not gathered, wastes its sweetness on the desert air.

Likewise when a country exports its surplus grain or stock it also invariably parts with more or less of its fundamental agricultural resources, but its exported honey-surplus represents no corresponding impoverishment of soil. It would therefore seem clear that from economic considerations alone bee-culture ought to and must take its place among the most useful and important national industries.

Buying Second-Hand Hives.

I never advocate the purchase of second-hand hives because of deeming them to be the most fruitful source of contagion. New ones are cheap enough and this does away with risk of any kind. Besides, it is always wise to fight shy of beeless hives unless their history is well-known.—H. W. Bryce in B. B. J.

I have been a subscriber to the C. B. J. for about ten years and find it an indispensable helper in the honey industry. I consider that it has been greatly improved lately.—Robert Galbraith, Kerwood.