

The Practical Bee-Keeper.

NEW SERIES
VOL. 1.

TILBURY CENTRE, ONT., JULY, 1894.

No. 4.

Dr. Miller in A. B. J. does not advise contracting the brood-chamber in order to force bees to go up into the supers. His plan now is to leave the same number of frames in the hive the year round. To get the bees to work in the supers he advises putting into the super a single section partly worked out. This is done as a bait.

Only clean Sections should be used for comb honey. Soiled and old ones would better be used for kindling. New sections are so very inexpensive now, that to use any other than those in excellent condition, is hardly excusable. It pays to consider appearance in producing comb honey. Temptingly white comb honey in neat and spotless sections will find the readiest sale, and at the best price.—A.B.J.

An interesting find has been made in Texas. While workmen were digging a well on a farm near Bandora, they unearthed a petrified tree at a depth of 45 feet. The tree was hollow, and the cavity was filled with honey. The comb was in a perfect state of preservation, and the cells were filled with honey that tasted sweet, fresh and pure. How old this honey is cannot be known, but it must have taken hundreds of years to have buried the tree to that depth and caused its petrification by natural causes.

In order to test the advantages or disadvantages of "The Wells System" the editor has had constructed for him two hives. These hives are dovetailed,

twenty-six inches long by twenty inches wide and hold sixteen Hoffman frames. In the centre of the hive is an eight inch partition, full depth and perforated with holes about one eighth inch in circumference and one half inch apart in every way. These holes were made with a saddler's punch. A better plan would be to drill the holes with a small bit

On June 1st two colonies were transferred to one double hive and on June 8th two more were put in the other. The hives have two entrances, both in front, although the inventor, Mr. Wells, advocates four, two in front and one at either end. On June 9th a super was placed on the hive first transferred, not that honey was plentiful (for, I am sorry to say, the white clover does not seem to yield any nectar this year) but that the colonies might not be tempted to swarm through lack of room. These supers have the same outside measurements as the hives, but have a partition perforated with half inch holes in the centre. This partition is three-eighths of an inch thick, strengthens the super and supports the standard tin rests for the sections. Each super holds fifty-six sections. A super was placed on the second double hive on the 16th, and an examination showed that the bees had just begun to work in the other. If any of our readers wish a fuller description of this hive we will be pleased to furnish it. Next month we shall tell how the hive turned out as a honey producer. At present, we are sorry to say, that bees are doing nothing. The blossoms seem to contain no nectar owing to the continued dry weather.