

EVENING SESSION.

The Association met at half-past seven o'clock, Vice-President Van Slyke, of New York, in the chair.

The following committee, to report an order of business was appointed: Messrs. Clarke, Peck, Moon, Baldwin and Ladd. While the committee was out, some one suggested as a matter for discussion the Italian bee. Several persons were called upon, and all, with one consent, began to make excuses. Mr. Waite, of St. Louis, Missouri, was suggested. Mr. Waite is deaf and had to be waited on by some one who went to him. He arose and read an essay on bee culture, written in a very attractive style and abounding in humor, as well as in excellent practical hints. He said that in the management of bees no one must ever show the white feather. They did not like drunken breath. He opposed the use of tobacco smoke as injurious, and recommended the use of the smoke of rags or rotten wood instead. Some farmers, he said, gave their bees all the inattention they could. For such farmers, or bee-keepers, he thanked God for the moth. There were an abundance of hives patented, and but few of them worth having. He favored large boxes as best adapted to having large supplies of surplus honey laid up. He gave, in detail, hints for the care of bees during all seasons of the year. His address, or rather essay, was warmly received, and the Association tendered him its thanks.

Mr. Clarke, Chairman of the Committee of Business, submitted the following order of business, which was accepted:

1. The most successful winter management of bees.
2. The best method of artificial swarming.
3. How far is it wise to prevent swarming?
4. Are hybrids better than pure Italians?
5. Volunteer topics.

THE FIRST TOPIC

came up for discussion. Mr. Hosmer, of Minn., said his experience was that small swarms wintered better indoors than large ones. He wintered in a cellar well ventilated. He did not want more than a quart of bees to a stock. He preserved queen bees and divided his stocks. He fed them about five pounds of crushed sugar (to each stock) per year, commencing in March.

Dr. Bohrer, of Ind., said that a large colony and a small colony would not winter well together in the same room, owing to large colonies generating an undue amount of animal heat. The small colonies, under such circumstances, were apt to contract disease. He would have a special repository for small colonies, where the thermometer might be permitted to range about 45° or 50°, while between 32 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit was the temperature favorable for large colonies. He would use an old blanket in covering hives, and corn cobs for the top of them to prevent the accumulation of moisture. He would not have a hive more than twelve inches deep. He believed in perfect neatness in his bee house. He was an enemy to spiders.

Question by a delegate—Would not spiderwebs be a good moth trap?

Dr. Bohrer—The best moth trap is a strong colony of bees. [Laughter.]

Mr. Gallup was hostile to tall hives. They became too hot at the top.

Mr. Gallup was subjected to a running fire of questions. He used no honey board on his large

hives. He put his large colonies near the floor in the wintering house, and the small ones near the top or roof.

Mr. Dallas, of Kansas, thought the indoor method of wintering best. He would have a deep, well-drained trench upon dry ground. Over this he would build a double walled house, the interstices between the walls filled with saw dust, the house provided with ventilators and double doors. In this he would put the bees after equalizing the stocks. Care must be taken to protect from dampness and too great a change of temperature in the ventilation from opening the door or the special appliances for the purpose.

Mr. King, of New York, said he called a hive ten and a half inches in depth, as spoken of by Mr. Gallup, a deep one. He recommended the construction of a winter bee house, so as to answer the purpose of handling bees, taking honey from them, &c.

Dr. Wright, of Indiana, said he had found benefit to diseased swarms from putting a cloth over the top of the hive and placing fresh charcoal pulverized upon it. This absorbed impurities and improved the health of the bees.

Mr. Potter, of Minnesota, detailed an account of a journey north in his State into the Red river country. He thought he had got away from the bees, as he had inquired for a hundred miles for them, and found none: but at the head waters of the Red river of the North he found an Indian who said he had found bees near there [it was 200 miles north of St. Paul], and taken two pailfuls of honey from them. He detailed how he had kept bees in a cellar in which he had four hundred bushels of rutabagas. "It is no trick at all to raise bees, and no trick at all to winter them." He had known bees wintered without a particle of ventilation in a pit covered with straw, than a little water then dirt. He did not believe in the different diseases that it was said bees had. Their diseases were in nineteen times out of twenty, and the twentieth time too, caused by uneasiness.

Mr. Clarke of Canada, said that Sir Robert Peel used to say in Parliament, "Ireland is my difficulty." He would say wintering bees was his difficulty. His experience was that the best wintering temperature was about the freezing point. He believed that no rule could be laid down for wintering bees in all climates. Where he lived, the thermometer was 15° below zero last Sunday. Here he found it disagreeably warm. His experience was that the best temperature was such a one as would keep the bees in a semi-torpid state, and keep them at the same time supplied with fresh air.

Mrs. Tupper of Brighton, Iowa, said that for twelve years she had been successful in cellar wintering.

Mr. Scott of Kentucky, said that he lived as far South as the Blue grass region, and would like to hear about outdoor wintering.

Mr. A. F. Moon, of Michigan, said he had found the best success in outdoor wintering. He equalized his colonies before winter came. He sheltered them from the sun, and on the north and west sides from the weather. He found they consumed one-third less honey in this way than in indoor wintering. He divided the bee bread, so as to equalize the food for different stocks.

Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Claypool spoke on the subject.

The Chairman, the Rev. Mr. Van Slyke, said he