

## THE BEGINNER'S PAGE

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The beginner needs all the help he can get; the more help he gets the better beginner he will be—providing it is real help; and the better beginner he is the better bee-keeper he will be as a rule. The more good bee-keepers there are, the better for the bee-keeping industry. The more poor "ornery" ones there are, the worse for it. I am sometimes forced to the conclusion that I am no great "shakes" of a bee-keeper myself, there are so many things I don't know about keeping bees, and don't seem able to find out. Ten or twelve years ago, when I was in the "baby class" myself, I knew it pretty well, but since then the few things I have learned have somehow or other obliterated nearly all my original knowledge. The beginner who starts out with a big stock of theory has an advantage over the one who has nothing but a log full of bees to get him going, but each has a lot to learn, the first of practice, the second of principles. All beginners need help, just the same as older bee-keepers do, and if reading what may appear in this department from time to time may help any beginner to be a better beginner than he otherwise would be, the writer will be glad that he wrote it.

The proper way to begin bee-keeping (having first, of course, contracted the bee fever, without a liberal infection of which you will not have the patience to follow the business through) is to buy a book on the subject and subscribe for one or more "bee papers." The book will teach the student most of the principles and many of the particulars of the business, and the papers or periodicals will keep him posted on

everything new that turns up; and new things keep turning up faster than one would imagine. The beginner who goes to work according to the details laid down in a book printed twenty, or even ten years ago, will, when he afterwards rubs up against the "latest improved" find that there has been a lot of things happened since the book was written, little things, perhaps, if looked at singly, but, taken in the aggregate, they make a pile of difference.

Begin, then, with theory and impatience. Read and study everything about bees you can get your hands on. Spend a winter at it. Then you are ready for the practical beginning. The best way (for the beginner) to make this beginning, is to begin on somebody else's bees—with the somebody else there to show him how. Fortunately is the beginner who is so situated that he can cut loose from everything else and spend a couple of summers working in the apiaries of the best bee-keepers he can find, who will take him on. He will learn more in this way, and learn it better, than he will in twice the time working alone, and will be then in a position to get some bees of his own, and make them pay from the start. Theory is very necessary to success, but few people are so constituted that they can or will follow theory closely—at first. They may think they are doing so, while they are making a lot of "side-steps" that will cost them a lot to unmake. As Dr. Miller puts it in a recent issue of "Gleanings in Bee Culture": "Wonderful how far one can stray away from instructions while really trying to follow them if one has a genius that way."

So, Mr. Beginner, present or prospective, if you would make a success of bee-keeping, get right to work with books and papers—principally books at first. Load up with theory for all you are worth, from now until the first of

May. Then, spend the summer with a man who has been making them a season you will find so blended almost forget what you have had "quick" notions with stung and will be in fair success of it next year. If home, stay. Get one. When you will be time enough you will have to handle them and And, when it comes the latter is much the former.

Fenelon Falls,

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Editor Canadian Bee Journal

Dear Sir,—I read of different methods of introducing queen bees, only a new beginning of my plan; it might lead to something or screen made from strips of wood around the queen excluder. In my case, to have to do is to have, put on the screen, other hive body with place it on the screen. In a very warm, I go to the upper hive, take the screen out and put back the hive. It is all right. It is never fails; in cool weather from 2 to 3 days with each other before remove the screen. There is not the strong smell in cool weather as