

Directors Emigh and Clarke, and Mr. F. Malcolm have been appointed a committee on program, which we shall hope to publish in next issue.

ESTABLISHING OUT APIARIES.

THROUGH a misunderstanding as to instructions the paper which the editor of this JOURNAL was to have given at the North American Convention just closed at Chicago, it was not forwarded in time to reach there until after the Convention had adjourned. We regret this exceedingly but it cannot be helped now. We send proofs of the article to the other journals so that they may have the article for insertion if they desire.

ESTABLISHING OUT APIARIES.

This is the question that has been assigned me by your secretary, and it is one which is receiving considerable attention just now, as many engaged in apiculture are increasing their colonies until they have, frequently, more than they can afford to keep in one apiary. Then the questions arise, what should they do? Should they sell them off or start "out apiaries?" There are some localities where 500 colonies might be kept with success, and there are others where 100 would overstock them. We consider from 100 to 200 colonies as many as is profitable to keep in the average apiary. In establishing out apiaries fifty colonies would make a start, but we would recommend a hundred, as no more trouble need be taken to manipulate them. These would contain 200 in the fall, which might be divided again; thus your apiaries, if you double your colonies, would double every year. But counting mishaps, sales and losses, perhaps we might more reasonably expect to double our colonies every two years. This, of course, depends largely on the practice of the apiarist. One man is required at each out apiary during the season, which in this country varies from four to five months. From our home apiary we located one about one and a half miles to the north west, the next about four miles to the north east, next seven miles to the north east then one five miles north, one six miles north west and one ten miles north west, with sometimes smaller ones between. From personal experience we are satisfied that in good localities from two to three miles apart is far enough to have them. We have had as good results from the closest apiaries as from those farthest apart and that too when there were over 200 colonies in each. If the locality were suitable, we should

prefer to place them so we could visit all the apiaries by driving the shortest possible distance, that is, five or six apiaries might be placed round a central one, or in a way that you could drive or take them all in in one route. Ours, unfortunately are not so placed, and it gives us five or ten miles of an extra drive to take them all in but as the locations suited us better, we thought it would more than overbalance the extra cost of the journey to place them as we did. Each apiary should have a practical man or woman in charge. We have frequently had students look after them, but it pays much better to have assistants with, at least, one year's experience, as the foreman cannot manage to go around to each apiary more than once per week and sometimes scarcely that, especially if he has to give a day to each apiary, to instruct the one in charge. The assistant in charge has spare time enough on his hands to keep the yard in nice condition, besides preparing sections, putting them on, keeping the hives painted and making new ones when required. We never expect him to do all the work during the honey flow but give him assistance in extracting. The more assistance that is required for this purpose the better the apiary pays. When extracting we use little boys and girls for carrying the combs to and from the hives to the extractor. Two of them, a little larger and a little practised, do the uncapping and extracting. We have also had boys from ten to twelve years old that could put the combs back in the hives very well after they had been extracted. This class of labor with us is very cheap and there is generally plenty of it in the neighborhood of every apiary that can be got when required, the youngsters think it as good as a holiday to get an opportunity to work in the bee yard. With a good practical foreman to visit the yards and see after them, as much can be realised from the out apiaries as from the home ones. Very often they bring in better returns because they are selected on account of their fitness while your home apiary may only be tolerated because of its being your "home," rather than the most favorable place for an apiary. Almost any number of apiaries may be managed in this way if the owner is thoroughly practical, and will devote his entire attention to the business, or if a good reliable foreman and trusty students can be secured, or better those who have had, say a year's experience. We are satisfied that after one has mastered the business and understands it thoroughly, if his surroundings are suitable, he is only fooling away his time with one apiary, as he can manage several without any more trouble than is required to manage one. He would require a suitable rig, so that in driving to each