

den- sation be so great in the con- duits in the knife as to fill them with water, the boiler has simply to be removed from the spirit- lamp for a few seconds, when a vacuum is produced, and the cavi- ties are emptied as if by magic. The boiler is filled with half a litre of boiling water, so that steam is generated almost at once. The apparatus takes up little room, and the tubes are long enough for ordinary uncapping. For those who have elec- tricity at their disposal the in- ventor has arranged a knife. Instead of tubes, electric wires are used, and connection is made with the main in the wall or at a lamp. The electricity consumed is about equal to that of a ten- candle lamp—that is about one penny an hour. Although the knife is a little heavier than an ordinary one, it is less fatiguing to use, because there is no adhe- sion of the uncapped combs which is caused by the honey, this being liquefied by the heated knife. The price of the appara- tus complete is 20 francs (16s. 8d) —British Bee Journal.

UPPER VENTILATION

Mr. Byer, in September Notes and Comments, speaks about J. E. Crane and his wintering methods, also refers to the plan I use. I claim no credit for being the first to use upper ventilators as described by Mr. Crane. I got the idea from a Mr. French, of Oshawa, as far back as 1885; previous to the above date hive entrances had to be regularly ex- amined and cleaned out with a long wire, which always aroused the bees, when they would other-



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wise have been quiet. With a ventilator as described by Mr. Crane, I have leaned boards in front of hives about the middle of November and never removed them till late in March, and, as Mr. Byer says, they are good for summer time as well.

In 1888 or 1889, the Ontario bee-keepers had their annual meeting in Lindsay. The late Mr. Corniell was secretary and he referred to the plan and asked me to explain to the meeting the details of the ventilator.

There is one little difference between Mr. C's plan and mine. He uses a tin tube, I use a block of wood with a hole through it. Have used tin tubes, but some times the bees died in them and blocked the hole and caused trouble.—Jas. Storer.

HONEY may be used to sweeten hot drinks, as coffee and tea.