

THE NATIONAL MEETING AT DETROIT

There was a splendid collection of bee-keepers at the Wayne Hotel, Detroit, on the occasion of the meeting of the National Bee-keepers' convention. The most prominent bee-keepers of the continent were present. The programme, as prepared by Mr. Hutchinson, was a good one and kept the convention well employed.

At the first session, on Tuesday, Oct. 13th, the most interesting feature was a demonstration of handling live bees in a cage, by E. R. Root, of Medina, Ohio. Mr. Root stripped himself of his coat, and entered a wire cage with his smoker. The cage contained a colony of bees. These he smoked in the usual manner, and then proceeded to manipulate the hive. He not only removed from the hive the combs with adhering bees, but shook the bees from the combs into a pan, and then scooped the bees up in his hands, after having shaken the bees about in the pan. Mr. Root also shook bees upon his head, surprising his audience. He explained that he was careful not to pinch a bee. Mr. Root also gave a talk on the life history of the bee, and made a very interesting session for his audience.

Prof. E. F. Phillips, of the Bureau of Apiculture, Washington, D.C., gave a lecture, with stereopticon views, on "Bee-keeping in Hawaii." He found that colonies yielded a large amount of honey per colony, and that a large number of colonies could be kept in one apiary. The sweet the bees gathered was, however, mostly an excretion from an insect which worked upon the sugar cane, the "leaf hopper." Some expressed the opinion that the bees worked on the troughs of molasses set out for cattle. The "honey" was of about the same taste as molasses, but he never saw a bee working at the troughs, and, as a result of his investigations, he was quite satisfied that the surplus the bees gathered was from the source indicated.

Wednesday morning session opened with the addition of a number of later arrivals. The President, Mr. George Hilton, of Fremont, Mich., delivered an address. He eulogized the Canadians, and gave them credit for much assistance to the bee-keeping industry. He spoke encouragingly and optimistically of bee-keeping as a profession.

Dr. G. F. White, of the Bureau of Apiculture, Washington, followed with an address on "The Bacteria of Bee Diseases." He dealt with the subject ably, claiming that disease was an abnormal condition, a state of not being at rest. The causes varied, age, sex, race, heredity or pre-existing diseases being the predisposing causes. The cause of European foul brood was yet undefined. A lengthy discussion followed, in which Messrs. N. E. France, Byer, McEvoy, E. F. Phillips, R. F. Holtermann, John Newton, R. L. Taylor and others participated to some effect.

Mr. Byer referred to the European foul brood discovered by him in Eastern Ontario. He considered it very virulent. Mr. McEvoy stated that in his opinion European foul brood was nothing other than black brood. He believed we had only one kind of foul brood. He also stated that he must also rule out pickled brood, and call it what it was—starved brood. He went fully into experiments made by himself in 1875, and related the manner by which he traced the diseased honey in the diseased cells, as distinguished from those cells not diseased. By the use of wires crossed over the comb he marked off certain areas as foul and not foul. He took the head of a pin and lifted the honey out of a diseased cell and dropped it upon sound brood, and thus transferred the disease. He then took a clean pin and lifted honey out of clean cells and deposited this also upon sound brood. In this case no disease appeared. He thus satisfied himself that the disease lay in the honey that was stored in a cell wherein a young bee had died of the disease. He then gave full