

cost something, and are valuable in proportion to the pains taken in raising them.

I put the getting of the bees at the right time to receive the harvest, second, for this is paramount to all else in the production of comb honey, except the queen. Unless we can have the bees in our colonies by the ten thousand at the right time, the flowers bloom in vain as far as filling our sections with honey. When all realize the second proposition, and work for the same to its fullest extent, one-half the colonies will be made to gather the surplus that the whole do under our present management. I place a skillful apiarist third, as he is only second to the bees and queen, unless he is skillful enough to do things at the right time and in the right place, both bees and flowers will be in vain as far as getting a good yield of comb honey in sections is concerned. Our apiarist must study hard, work early and late, and leave no stone unturned that will produce a pound more of honey, if he is to be successful producing comb honey at the present low prices for the same. I place the right kind of a hive fourth, for this comes last in the category of our subject. To be sure bees will store honey in a nail keg, but the day of putting honey upon the market in the shape it must present if taken from such a repository has passed away, so that if we would realize the most from our bees and our labor, we must get our honey stored in neat and attractive receptacles. The hive that will admit of getting the largest number of bees in the right time for the honey harvest, and then get "all hands" to work in this surplus arrangement as soon as the harvest arrives, is the one to use. We could divide and sub-divide these four heads, especially the last three, yet the above four fundamental principles would not be changed. I, therefore, leave the subject for your discussion.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N.Y.

#### EXCELLENCE OR CHEAPNESS—WHICH?

I DO not know but that this subject was given me because some of the brethren think I have been a little too eager to recommend cheap tools and appliances; and may be they thought I would defend my side of the subject while somebody else would take up excellence rather than cheapness. Now, it seems to me that wisdom and experience should guide us in this matter, and that we can not very well lay down *general* rules for purchasing bee-supplies, or for *purchasing* anything else, in fact. Isaiah tells us, in his first chapter, to "learn to do well;" that is, doing well is progressive; and I should also say, learn to purchase wisely. If you have

got a little money that you want to invest in bee-supplies, don't be in a hurry to get rid of it all. Our text says, "Through wisdom is a house builded;" and I should say, through wisdom we make prudent purchases.

Suppose a boy gets big enough to need a knife. What kind of a knife should he purchase—a five-cent knife or a two-dollar knife? Why, I should say it depends upon who the boy is, his age, and what he wants to do with the knife. But with the average boy, I think it would be a pretty good idea to try the cheap knife first. Even if he has laid up a couple of dollars to buy a pocket-knife, I think he will get more satisfaction by trying a cheap one first than by trying the two-dollar one first. If the cheap one does not please him, nor answer his requirements, it would not be very much expense to give it to some other boy, and try a little better one. Let him carefully *examine* and test each knife he buys, until he becomes a tolerably good judge of knives, and is able to purchase understandingly.

There are a great many people, and good people too, who have a way of saying, in regard to every purchase that comes up, "The best is the cheapest." A good deal depends upon what you mean by *best*. Suppose you want a hammer. There are hammers in the market, for only five cents. They are not loose nor rickety either, for they are made all of one piece of iron; and although they may be awkward and cheap-looking, they will do a vast amount of service for many kinds of work. They cost so little that if somebody borrows one, or loses it, it does not matter much; and I have found it quite convenient to have these cheap hammers scattered all around the premises. We have one down in the barn, and one in the stable out in the lots. The children have them to crack nuts; and, in fact, there are so many of them on the premises that whenever you want some sort of hammer for just a minute, you can almost always get hold of one of these, without going a great way or hunting very long. But, do you think I would give a good mechanic such a hammer to put up hives with? By no means. In putting up hives he uses a hammer almost constantly; and if I could find a hammer *worth* five dollars, I would give it him without hesitation; for if it were worth only a *cent a day* to him more than a cheap hammer, it would soon pay for itself. For this same reason a good mechanic ought to have at least three hammers, and *three good ones*. Now, when I say I would give a hammer worth five dollars if I could find it, I do not mean that I would buy one that is silver-plated, or has inlaid work in the handle, and things of that sort; neither would I give him a hammer that had a great