

honey, they gather nectar and from nectar produce honey. It is therefore a process of manufacture, and if it is removed from the bees before that process is finished man cannot finish it: If asked what the bees do that man cannot, I say I don't know. But I do know, and many others know that there is a flavor and texture about honey that has been thoroughly capped, that cannot be produced except by the bees. Why is it that comb honey is so much preferred to extracted? Do people give nearly double the price simply because it is a fancy article? No doubt this accounts for part of the difference, but the principal reason is the honey is really finer than honey extracted before it was ripe.

I believe it is unwise to extract from the brood nest and mix the honey with what is intended for market. With very few exceptions can this be done without injuring the flavor and color. I believe in and practice taking all surplus from a top super. What is the best size for combs in the super? I do not know, having only had experience with combs the same size as those in the brood chamber. I believe this is the best practice, it having several advantages that I need not here mention. I also believe in using a queen-excluding honey board; by keeping the queen below a great deal of trouble is saved while extracting when the queen leaves the brood chamber, it soon becomes a "house in ruins."

A difficulty arises sometimes during a heavy honey flow when everything is full, but none of it ripe enough to extract. In that case it is better to put on a second super on the tiering up system, that is setting the empty one under the full one. The objection to this is that it is expensive. I have tried with some degree of success to remedy the difficulty by only putting in one half of the super combs, when the super was put on. The bees commence and fill these and just when they are commencing to build new comb in the empty half of the super, I fill with the remaining combs. Those that were first put in will be filled and capped much sooner than if all had been put in at once, and frequently they may be taken out and extracted a few days before the others are ready. This is a kind of a make shift. The best plan is a second super.

F. MALCOLM.

In answer to questions Mr. Malcolm stated that he used a metal honey-board between the brood and extracting chambers. The question was asked what he considered to be the difference in the take if the honey were left to be capped over before being extracted. He could not say positively what the

difference was. He wished it emphasised that the bee-keepers of the future were those who worked for quality and not for quantity. He was satisfied too that naturally ripened honey would not granulate nearly so quickly as that which was artificially ripened. He would not think of extracting from the brood-chamber for the purpose of making sales of that honey. If it were necessary to extract to give the queen more room it would certainly be advisable and proper to do so.

J. B. Acheson concurred in Mr. Malcolm's paper almost entirely. He was satisfied that at times just as good honey could be obtained from the brood-chamber as from the surplus department, but he was opposed to the practice on principle.

J. B. Hall explained that by taking the honey from the surplus department there would be no pollen mixed. In extracting from the brood-chamber there would almost necessarily be some pollen in the honey. He did not think it right to supply customers with pollen for food. Using the surplus department you get better honey, kill no queens and are sure of a few spare combs, if they are needed for wintering.

Rev. W. F. Clarke was opposed to the use of the extractor at all. Had used it but one year and found out all about disturbing the brood-nest. He felt satisfied that if the extractor had never been resorted to there would have been little crance of the cry of adulterated honey on the market. If the extractor had to be used he opposed the taking of the honey before it was capped over in the combs.

M. S. Shell was also in favor of leaving the brood-chamber alone and not extracting until the honey was thoroughly ripened.

Thos. Idyle related his experience and explained how they used to take honey in Yorkshire. When the hives held above four stones they considered them ready to take. When below two stones in weight they did not think them worth while keeping and they applied brimstone. After they got rid of the bees, the combs were crushed between the hands for the purpose of extracting the honey. He thought that if the extractor were done away with, that in many