

much like you say yours act. I think there must be some poisonous plants in the locality, where they get more or less honey or it may be from honey dew, possibly it may be some strange disease. We frequently find contagious diseases cropping up among the human race and why may not similar diseases occur among bees. We think it would be worth your while to send samples of these dead and sick bees to Prof. Cook, Agricultural College, Michigan, that he may examine them.

### Hints to Beginners.

BY J. H. DAVIDSON.

**I**N order to get a good start and make a success from the beginning, I would advise those who contemplate bee-keeping to follow the directions below:

1. Visit the best apiaries and most successful apiarists.
2. Secure one or more standard works in bee-culture.
3. Subscribe for the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL and study carefully some months before you purchase your bees.
4. Buy a good (No. 1) smoker and a silk net veil; you are now prepared to buy your bees.
5. Go to some reliable apiarian in the month of May and be sure there is no foul-brood there. Buy one colony of business bees, not bees for color or stripe, but honey gatherers. A hybrid made up of a cross between the Italian and Black is a good bee.
6. If the queen is not clipped, get the bee-keeper you buy from to clip her.
7. Now decide on your plan of procedure and adhere to it closely, doing all the work promptly and at the right moment.
8. Allow only one swarm (or in other words I would not more than double the stock) each year.
9. Use only the plainest, strongest and best implements and hives, and with as little complicated machinery as possible.
10. I would recommend the Jones combination hive for extracted or comb honey, using the double story and perforated metal. For extracting, use full sheets foundation comb always if possible.
11. Clip all young queens after mating or leave them until the next spring, then clip one wing, which will indicate that your queen is one year old, and in the following spring, clip the other wing, this will show her to be two years old, then later on in the season replace her with

a young queen as the young queen will give better results, other things being equal.

If these directions are followed and honey is secreted in the flowers, your bees will furnish food fit for the gods of creation. Remember bees do not and cannot make honey, but only gather what is already made and placed within their reach.

Mt. Forest, Ont., Sept. 10th.

### CAPPINGS.

CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS

PROF. T. BENTON.

The Chattanooga Daily Times contains the following interesting little article in reference to our old friend Prof. Benton, which will be of interest to bee-keepers, and which is an evidence of the important place the honey-bee now occupies in the estimation of the government of the great republic:—

Prof. Frank Benton, brother of Mrs. G. W. Martin, of Missionary Ridge, on the 1st July entered the service of the Government under a commission as "a special agent of the Department of Agriculture, division of entomology, to do work on bee culture."

Dr. C. V. Riley, U. S. entomologist, has signified a desire to send Prof. Benton next year to India on a mission to investigate apidorsate, a species of bees of that country. No one else is so well fitted as he for the satisfactory discharge of such a mission. He has been credited, and with good reason, with being the best authority on bees in the world. Last spring he returned with his family from a residence in the old world of eleven years, the whole of which time he devoted to the study and exportation of bees. He established apiaries and lived for one or more years in each of the following places: Island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea; Beyrout, Syria, where his apiary was on Mt. Lebanon; Munich, Germany; Laibach and Krainburg, Province of Carniola, Austria, he also traveled very extensively, establishing an apiary on a French estate in Tunis, North Africa, and even penetrating, in the interest of apiculture, the jungles of India, where he contracted "jungle fever." In addition to his special work he has been an ardent linguist and speaks fluently German, French, Italian, modern Greek, and so on. At one time he was studying ten different languages.

Dr. Riley intends to put Prof. Benton in charge of the whole matter of an exhibit in apiculture at the World's Fair. This is a fitting recognition of his ability and he can be depended on to make the most of the display. He is well known to some of our citizens, having lived for some time in Knoxville, Tenn., where he was instructor in apiculture in the University of Tennessee.