

positive rules would apply in all cases, and certain results would certainly follow; which results could be predicated as positive and sure. As a matter of fact, however, we are all at sea in regard to wintering, and no one has any advantage over the others. All are alike, groping in the dark, and I am sorry to say, I fear they are all alike so wedded to their idols, that they have become intolerant of the expressed views of others, if they perchance happen to differ from their own, or the general ideas of the multitude. Bee-keeping may perhaps grow to become a science in the bye and bye; but to bring about such a happy state of things, will require not only a large amount of study and intelligent experiments, but a large amount also of tolerance of ideas of others. Let us hope that this millenium is near at hand.

J. E. POND, JR.

Foxboro' Mass., Dec., 1885.

There are many points *well* taken in in the above article. Your remarks are decidedly well worthy of consideration. Bees *do* winter well and badly under apparently the same conditions, and there are few, if any, who seem to be able to tell the exact cause of success or failure. Yet we think that great advances have been made. There are certain principles which, if lived up to, will bring us so near perfection in wintering that we need not feel alarmed as to future successes. We have so many scientists at work, so much experimenting going on, and so many valuable journals published, to keep all these matters prominently before the bee-keeping public, that it will be our own faults now, if we do not succeed in the business and make it indeed a "science."

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.
BEE STINGS.

MR. Macpherson's painful experience recorded on pages 494, 495 of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, recalls a similar one which befell the writer of this article in the autumn of 1873. He was inspecting a hive which had been fitted up for exhibition, when a bee buried its sting exactly at the point of the upper lip, right on the projecting tip of flesh from which the moustache marks its centre, and divides to the right and left. The pain at once became very great. The upper lip felt as if it

were on fire, and swelled to an enormous thickness. Ordinary applications had no effect whatever. Mouth, throat, stomach and brain, were all powerfully affected by the subtle *virus*. Blotches appeared from head to foot, and the surface of the skin looked like a case of scarlet fever in its worst stage. For about an hour the pain was intense, and though it then began to subside, it left a general sense of nausea, weakness, and soreness which did not completely pass off for several days. Ever since, a bee sting in any part of the body revives the old symptoms to a greater or less extent, and, curious to relate, there is usually a small swelling from the size of a pin-head to that of a pea at the tip of the upper lip.

I had kept bees for a number of years then, and supposed I was well-nigh sting-proof. When I began bee-keeping, a sting used to cause considerable pain and swelling, but I had got over all that, and did not mind a bee-sting more than a prick of a pin. It is usually supposed, and is taught by apicultural authorities, that once inoculated with the *virus* of a bee-sting, you can submit to be stung by these little insects with impunity. But I know this to be a mistake. There are parts of the body which are more sensitive to bee-poison than others, and there are times when the poison of the bee is dangerously virulent. "Forewarned, forearmed." Mr. Macpherson will be wise to wear a veil and gloves hereafter in handling bees, as I have done most religiously since the fall of 1873. With these precautions, even, he will now and then get a bee-sting, if he meddles much with the "prying little fellows" as John Keys calls them. I spent the greater part of my time last summer among the bees, never putting on veil or gloves unless I was going to open a hive, and I got three or four stings on my hands, which renewed the painful symptoms of twelve years ago in a mild form, so mild as to encourage the hope that the effect is gradually and slowly dying out of the system.

I have queried much as to the why and the wherefore of the honey-bee being armed with such a formidable weapon. In addition to guarding its stores, I believe it is important that the busy little worker should be let alone as much as possible, in order to work to the best advantage. Even as it is there is a great proneness to interfere and meddle too much with the interior economy of the hive. I am studying how to manage my bees to the best advantage with the *minimum* of interference. My experience, though painful, has never operated as a deterrent from bee-keeping, but has been, like the blindness of Huber, a stimulus to the con-