

grand success. A good supply of questions has been handed to the secretary, Dr. Mason, and as we have no committee on question-box, he will read the first one.

Dr. C. C. Miller, of Illinois—I think it would be well to mention in connection with this matter that any member is entirely at liberty to hand in any question that he wants.

AN APIARY OF CROSS BEES.

Dr. Mason then read the first question, "What is to be done with an apiary of cross bees?"

Dr. Miller—I overheard a lady right here saying, "Kill them." If I had an entire apiary of cross bees, I should want, first, to introduce some new blood of a kind that would be more gentle. This, however, is what will come in the experience of any bee-keeper who has any number of colonies; he will find after a time that he will go out some day and there will be a lot of cross bees after him, and if he takes pains enough to watch closely he will find that all those cross bees come from one or two colonies, and then all he needs to do is to kill one queen and introduce another queen; and a curious thing is that a change in the disposition of the bees has seemed to be much more rapid than the change in the blood of the bees; that is, if I find one such cross colony and kill the queen and introduce another, within two weeks' time, although there would be no change yet in the bees that is the same bees would be there, there would be a very decided change in their deportment, and although it seems rather unreasonable to suppose such a thing to be the case, it looks to me as if the simple presence of the queen had something to do with the disposition of the bees.

Pres. Root—Sometimes the cause suggests the remedy. Sometimes

bees are very cross in an apiary under certain kinds of management. Speaking about cross bees, it seemed to me that the crossiest bees I ever saw were the bees in southern California. It seemed to me that they were trained to be cross; I could not get anywhere near the apiaries without protection, and sometimes if I was half a mile away they would come out to meet me. I fell to wondering why they were so cross. The great majority of bee-keepers there produce extracted honey. Their hives are any old box, and they leave one or two inches of space between the extracting and the brood frames. When they separate the upper story from the lower one and get ready to extract they break all this comb, and it irritates the bees. The bees are what we would call a very good grade of hybrids, and they are not naturally very cross bees, but tearing the combs to pieces is apt to irritate them more or less.

N. A. Kluck, of Illinois—I have had a little experience with cross bees. In working around them should they get cross, thoroughly smoke them and then kick the hives. I whip my bees when they are cross and smoke them till they don't know anything.

W. L. Cogshall, of New York—would not give them that treatment. I may kick the hives, but the bees are subdued before I kick the hives. I had a boy take off 80 top stories last Tuesday, and after the bees were subdued—you may have a wrong impression about the kicking—when the bees are subdued, they are just peaceable as can be, and kicking them doesn't affect them; to kick off the top story wouldn't hurt anything.

Pres. Root—I have noticed that cutting down a bee tree, as soon as the tree falls the bees are apt to be very cross, but when one takes

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