

many who are in favor of the latter. We must confess that we incline to the latter. There are good and bad points on both sides. It may be said in favor of having the frame hang with end to entrance of hive, that the bees have more ready access to all the combs; that ventilation may be made more thorough; and that when the hive is slanted as is sometimes the case the frames hang vertically, as before. We may now argue in favor of the crosswise entrances. That very little difference can be seen in the *actual results* between equally strong colonies when compared; that though the ventilation for summer may be more perfect, it becomes "drafty" in winter time, (and which is most important?) and then the small amount of tipping which is required at times may be performed without any very disastrous results, especially with fully drawn out and completed cells. If contraction is required in the spring time, it may be obtained much more easily, because of the fact that the rear combs, which contain probably neither eggs or brood, can be lifted out and put away. The wooden division board or dummy may then be moved up. With the entrance at the end it seems to us that two dummies would almost need to be used if you wanted to keep the colony in the centre of the hive. In the spring time surely the end entrances would be more chilling and drafty? On the whole probably as much can be said on one side as on the other. The decision of some of our most able and practical bee-keepers is that it doesn't make very much difference.

#### SALT AS A LUBRICANT FOR MAKING FOUNDATION.

A day or two ago it struck us to try the brine, and the starch and brine methods of lubricating the rolls of our foundation mills, and we must confess that we have not been nearly as successful as with our old lubricant—suds of a good quality of soap. The young man who conducted the experiments has been in charge of the Foundation Department for the last six years, and we can therefore rely on his decision for all we did not personally witness. We may say that we had, in former times, tried a good many experiments in the direction of a more rapid and perfect plan of run-

ning foundation, and we were pretty well content that nothing much ahead of our present mode could be found, and we have yet to find it. We made up a starch and tried that without brine, but did not find it satisfactory. We then added a little of the brine with about the same proportions as mentioned in *Gleanings* in its experiments, and made the application, but with no better final results. At first it did seem that it was a trifle more rapid, but much more trouble was found in making the joints in the sheets, and in getting this particular portion of the rolls. It is possible you will none of you understand what we mean by "joints," and we may do well to explain. In former years we have been in the habit of running sheets of section foundation about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. long and four inches wide. There was always a good deal of waste this way, and the foreman conceived the idea of joining the plain sheets just as they were going through the press. The plan worked well and we now run out sheets of section foundation from 100 to 200 feet long. This may serve as a pointer to some of our friends who make foundation. Of course, this refers only to section. But to come back. The sheets *would* stick to the rolls and a great deal more "picking" was required than formerly. Then brine alone was tried, but with even worse consequences and more trouble. Perhaps we did not go at it rightly; at any rate we couldn't make it work. In that accidental experiment which brought the salt process to light there had been, if we remember rightly, pork packed during the winter. The water would consequently be greasy. Would not this grease have had some effect, and assist in making it work easily? But was the experiment carried so far as to submit sheets of foundation so made to the bees to see whether or not they would accept it?

#### THE WEEK'S WORK.

During the past week our foreman has had entire charge of our three apiaries. In the spring at this time, one man can as well look after 200 or 300 colonies as 50. After selecting a number of strong colonies for drone rearing, he went over them and put a card of drone comb in the centre of the brood nest, thus inciting the colony to work in the direction of drone-rearing.