

scientific bee-culture.

Again, when this neophyte (with the big head) conceives that he can construct a hive with a new wrinkle or two to it, which will be the hive among all hives, consumes precious time in doing it, and expends his money patenting and bringing it out, he discovers his mistake after his time and money are gone. When he goes off into this thing and that, to invent this fixture and improve that, and after accomplishing his objects finds, to his chagrin, that the whole ground he has been gone over and over long ago, it just begins to dawn on him that he has made a costly and absurd mistake.

I do not wish to discourage mechanical skill or inventive genius, but to simply point out the folly of wasting time and money in digging for what has already been dug out. This is a common mistake among young bee-keepers, and not too uncommon mistake among older ones. Experience in mistakes is useful to some men, but not so to others. The wise man will never make but one or two mistakes in the same line. His "bought wit" (maybe dearly bought) serves him.

"Bought wit is the dearest,
But mother wit is the clearest."

it has been said. That hardly means that one rich in "mother wit" will not make mistakes, but the man with mother wit will profit by mistakes and never repeat them, while the other fellow will repeat them. I know a man in our county who goes into nearly every patent penny prospect to make money which comes his way, and although in nine cases out of ten he "comes out at the little end of the horn" financially, he still loves the patent fixture, whatever it may be, and goes right in as usual with the next itinerant speculator that comes round, as if nothing unpleasant to his pocket had happened. That man tried bee-keeping, and, of course, failed—tried again, and would doubtless be trying yet only for that "business end" of the "varmint" which proved too much for him.

It is a mistake to suppose that the bee-keeper who makes the business profitable is a sinecurist. While it is true that bees usually "board themselves" and help to board many others, the shiftless bee-keeper who builds on that pleasant fact makes a mistake. Their industry will neither implement nor supplement his idleness. As eternal vigilance is said to be the price of liberty, so is eternal industry and application the price of success in apiculture.

As the wintering of bees in these latitudes is really the most difficult part of bee-keeping, the bee-keeper who neglects or fails to post himself in this essential makes

a fatal mistake—fatal to the bees and fatal to his profits.

The bee-keeper who leaves his colonies short of stores in the fall, expecting to feed them in the winter or spring makes a grosser mistake, for even though they may never be actually short for present needs, the deficient stores operate against them, especially in the spring when they like to see plenty and need plenty for breeding. Furthermore, it is a mistake to feed bees in the fall that are to be wintered, either to supply deficient stores or for other purposes. This will be disputed, but that, too, will be a mistake. Of course, supplying colonies in the fall with frames full of honey is no mistake, but that is not feeding. To feed is to give liquid or some kind of syrup, honey, etc., which for several reasons is a mistake.

It is a mistake to winter bees on sugar syrup, or any thing but honey, except in an extremity—not because the bees will not winter on syrup, but for other reasons. The first is, the honey is the natural and therefore the best food the second is, the excitement and work of storing the liquid, curing and capping it in the fall when the bees ought to be quiet, shortens their lives; the third is, in nine cases in ten a good deal of the syrup will be left uncapped in the bottoms of the frames, and will absorb moisture and deteriorate; the fourth is, it crowds just that much more honey on the market to lower the price; and one more reason is, that the use of sugar in the hives for any purpose excites prejudice in the minds of the consumers, and suspicion of adulteration, and the real fact is that some of the syrup, more or less, will, in many cases, find its way into the honey that is taken out for sale. These are my reasons for saying that the feeding business is a mistake, except in extremis.

It is a fundamental mistake to try to make something else which is not honey take the legitimate place of honey, either in the hive or out of it, or to try to make out of something else than nectar either for bee-food or human food.

It is a mistake for any bee-keeper, who as a bee keeper, not to produce both comb and extracted honey. It is a mistake to have a large hive for the former, or a small hive for the latter.

In producing honey in sections, it is a mistake to use full sheets of foundation and in the brood-chamber and extracting-stories it is a mistake not to use them. The less the better in the sections and the right rule, and no mistake. This, too, will be disputed, but the dispute will again be a mistake. No section foundation has