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WHOLE NO
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Annual Meeting

Twentieth Annual
Meeting Bee-Keep-
ers' Asso., Ontario.

HELD AT
TORONTO,
DEC., 1899.

Management in Extracting Season.

M. B. Holmes, Athens.

The management of an apiary during the extracting season is perhaps the most interesting feature in connection with the care of bees during the whole year round, interesting in various ways and from different standpoints.

The amateur is enthused at what seems to be the discovery of a connecting link between nature and art. The strict regard shown by the bees for perpendiculars, horizontals and regular angles in the construction of the honeycomb, as well as accuracy in spacing, and all without the aid of square, plumb-line, or trowel, arouses within the breast of the apprentice who has "entered upon" this ground with indifference, the desire for light and advancement until he shall become "a master" of the work. The novice receives fresh stimulus as he sees for the first time the perfect order and discipline under which all operations in the line are conducted, and the neatness, cleanliness, economy and industry so studiously observed by

the little workers themselves.

The master in apiculture at the opening of the season under consideration notes with great satisfaction that each colony of bees has its thousands and tens of thousands already mobilized and fully equipped for service under their queen, ready to move when the order "forward" is given, and possess themselves of the rich treasures in the adjoining territory, and that without any blare of trumpets or display of bunting.

At the opening of the clover season the appearance of bits of newly made comb in the upper portions of the hive tells us that more room is required, the new comb referred to is easily recognized by its pure whiteness and freshness of appearance. We now, proceed with the least possible delay to furnish all colonies, which thus indicate that they are over crowded, with supers of drawn comb. This is of no inconsiderable importance, as a delay may mean the issuing of a swarm from the colony so neglected. Having placed supers on all crowded colonies until all are supplied with good combs in which to store the rich and delicious nectar just now being distilled in nature's gorgeous laboratory, the clover blossoms.

In our work we find that the use of perforated metal queen excluders is necessary in the case of new swarms, that is, colonies that have occupied the hive but a short time; older