

NOTES ON THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN BEE-KEEPERS' ASSO-
CIATION.

After the large and enthusiastic annual meeting at Detroit last December, it was hoped and believed by the best friends of the association that a meeting within hail of the "Sunny South" would bring out a large representation, and that our southern friends would catch the enthusiasm which had been generated at the north, and turn out with a will. Those who cherished this pleasant dream awoke to the reality of a big disappointment. The south did not rally worth a cent, and the remoteness of the place of meeting kept many prominent bee-keepers away who usually attend meetings held farther northward. Only one Canadian bee-keeper was present. Of course the absence in England of Messrs. Jones, Corneil, Pettit, and McKnight, accounted for their absence, and the inconvenient date selected had much to do, along with the distance, in accounting for the absence of many both in Canada and the U. S. A more unsuitable time for the annual meeting than the middle of October, it would be difficult to find. It is just the date at which bee-keepers are apt to be more than usually busy in preparing for winter both among their bees and in any other line of work which engages their attention. One reason why the meeting at Detroit last winter was more than usually successful, was that the time was one of comparative leisure. Whoever was responsible for fixing the date earlier this year, committed a great and grave mistake, and one, which it is to be hoped, will not be repeated.

The association was bored to death with papers, for the most part sent in by absentees. It was asserted in the meeting by such men as Messrs. Poppleton and Bingham, that some of the papers were mere advertisements, if not of certain hobbies, of the writers. A greatly-needed resolution was adopted on this subject, which will be found in the report of proceedings which appears elsewhere in the C. B. J.

Few exciting topics came before the meeting, and it was to a large extent tame and dull. Mr. McLain roused some criticism by his paper on bee-

keeping and apiculture, and not without reason, for he certainly reflected pretty severely on the fraternity for not having made more progress in improving the honey-bee. This public officer, who is in charge of the U. S. experimental station, and whose business it is to labor for the development of bee-keeping, is hardly taking the best course to secure distinguished success. He should put himself under the direction and tutelage of the leading practical bee-keepers of the U. S.; ascertain from them what he can do under government auspices to promote bee-keeping, and work along those lines. He should feel that he is not so much the chief of the bee-keeping fraternity, as its willing and faithful servant.

It was expected that the controversies about the new Heddon hive, patent law, reversible frames, and other questions of the day that have been going on in the bee journals for some time past would come up at this meeting and be thoroughly gone into. It is a great pity that Mr. Heddon was not there to give "A Talk on Hives" as advertised in the program. If he had been, he would certainly have talked very freely about a hive exhibited by Elvin S. Armstrong, of Jerseyville, Ill., which so far as using a horizontally divisible brood-nest interchangeable and reversible is concerned, has infringed the Heddon patent "as plain, as plain can be." Yet his hive has inscribed upon it, "Patented Sept. 14th, 1886."

The badges which had been heralded as *extra nice*, bore the untruthful inscription, "National Bee-Keepers' Society, Indianapolis, 1886." When will our American friends learn that the association is not *national* but *international*? "North American" is its constitutional name.

An attempt was made to give a social character to the meetings, by interspersing the proceedings on the second evening with music, recitations and refreshments. If this feature had been publicly announced beforehand, several members, amply qualified, would have come prepared to assist in making the entertainment a much greater success than it was. The aim and intention in this particular were better than the execution.