

until he can prove that bees can walk as easily upon smooth surfaces like sheet metal or glass as upon wood;—it would be safer to be chary about going "on record." I hardly need to add that if a wood and zinc honey-board is not provided with enough perforations to admit of a proper ventilation of the super, the bees will labor under great disadvantages in ripening their honey.

Now, Mr. Editor, allow me to thank you for quoting my article from the *Apiculturist* with reference to the "value of honey-boards generally," also for your suggestion about "charity." Had we all Christian charity I do feel that there would be less occasion for angry communication to our journals. I cheerfully accord to you the honor of first making a practical use of perforated zinc in bee hives. Although used abroad, there must have been improper construction or use, else it would not have been abandoned. That you should have revived its use in a practical form will secure to you all credit and the greatest remembrance of all who prize the use of perforated zinc.

DR. G. L. TINKER.

New Phila., O.

We publish the above in justice to Dr. Tinker, and insofar as the use of our columns are concerned this controversy must cease. Dr. Tinker, we observe is taking out a patent on the Honey Board in the U.S. and any further controversy can be had in the U.S. law courts. We do not understand the patent laws in the U.S., but here in Canada a patent cannot be taken out unless before one year from the time the invention was first made public. This honey-board has been before the public now nearly *two* years, and therefore would not be patentable in Canada.

For the Canadian Bee Journal

MY EXPERIENCE.

RESULT OF THREE YEARS' HARD WORK.

FOR years I had been reading and hearing of the wondrous profits made out of bee culture, the tons of honey procured, and the amusement the pursuit afforded those engaged in it. I actually began to hanker after a sting; my sleep was nightly sweetened by dreams of sailing over seas of "liquid honey," seated on a "one pound section of comb;" I could talk of nothing else than "centrifugal force," "reversible frames and hives, Italians, Syrians, Carniolans," and other strains, *ad nauseam*, so

far as my friends were concerned. I could stand it no longer, so on the first of January, 1885, I took my plunge by sending \$2 to Chicago as a subscription for the *American Bee Journal*. This only made matters worse, and added fuel to the already fierce fire, for had I not now the evidence before me, if the mountains of honey gathered by the bees of Brother (!) Blank, if his account were true (and of course every American beekeeper emulates "the father of his country" and sticks fast and close to the truth.) I soon followed my first investment by procuring "A. B. C. of Bee Culture," and at once set to work to post myself theoretically in "the art of handling bees," for pleasure and for profit. By the time May arrived, I thought I had gained sufficient knowledge to venture in purchasing two colonies of Italians, and become in a very modest way one of the fraternity. I did not expect to rival Jay Gould or any other "king of finance," with the profits of my first season, but I certainly did think that in two or three years, with fairly good management, I would see some return for the trials and tribulations, to say nothing of the stings I had to undergo. I am situated in a fairly (for a city) good locality, have plenty of time on my hands, and think I possess ordinary intelligence, patience, and pertinacity; still I am a long way, according to my thinking, from success. I am now going to give you the result of my three years' work among the bees, and then to ask you for your honest opinion. The first year I increased my two colonies to four, and got seventy pounds of surplus honey. I bought a lot of supplies, so on balancing my accounts at the end of the year I found I had expended \$39.83, credit \$7.25, and I was behind \$32.58. I wintered my four colonies in the cellar, keeping a uniform temperature of 42°. In the spring of 1886 I found my four colonies in good condition and increased them during the season by natural swarming and division to twelve, but I only secured eighty pounds of surplus honey, and with my cash balance on the wrong side of the ledger to the tune of \$55.60. This amount also represents the previous year's deficit, \$32.58, brought down. I again wintered my stock without the loss of a colony, and began the year of 1887 with twelve colonies, which I increased to twenty-three. I got but 338 pounds of surplus, for which I received in cash \$38.80, but as I had to feed, last fall, \$21 worth of sugar made into syrup, I really had but \$17.80 for my year's work. This morning I balanced my books, and find that during the three years I have expended in cash \$99.53, and have received for surplus honey, etc., \$56.65, leaving me after three years'