

but to what good? For Mr. M. Neal winds up his article by giving a remedy for the same, "just break these colonies up." He finds it the quickest and cheapest. Then why spend perhaps hours in hunting out a laying worker which is no earthly use after caught, and whose colony is only worth the breaking? I don't care whether I know one or not; the only thing I care to know is that none are trying to rule in my hives, and if I find any I dispatch them hastily in the very manner prescribed by Mr. M. Neal.

It was decided at the Buffalo Convention that Doctor Miller should answer the contents of the question drawer in A. B. J. After doing so on page 803, he says, "Some questions that were handed in are omitted, being of such character as to require something of a vote of the members of the convention. Indeed, it seems hardly the thing that questions handed in at a convention should not be answered on the spot, so as to have the advantage of possible new light from members present. While the doctor has perhaps done full justice to the said questions laid over, yet after all, his answers are but the expression of one mind, mature and experienced though it may be. I believe it is a great mistake in not allotting ample time at conventions for the full and free discussion of those knotty, intricate little problems that are sure to find their way into the question drawer. By submitting them to a full convention, ideas by the dozen will be brought out that would never see the light of day by the method adopted at Buffalo. It might well be said in the language of Thos. Gray:

Full many a gem of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Who Shall Keep Bees.

—C. H. DIBBERN.

I have just read the article in the January Number of The Canadian Bee Journal, by C. C. Miller, and while treating the matter fairly and well, practically concludes like many of his productions by saying "I don't know." Now, it seems to me that we bee keepers, or ye editors, have very little to say in the matter anyway, as those who want them will have them, if they can get them, and keep them if they can. Human desire, profit and ability always will con-

trol the matter. Why not discuss as to who should keep hogs or who should keep sheep? This is supposed to be a "free country." I do not know how it is in Canada, but here people do pretty much as they please about what particular occupation they shall pursue. I do not believe that it costs the farmer twice as much to produce a few hundred pounds of honey per pound, than it does the "specialist" with his hundreds of colonies. In fact I know that the advantage is all with the farmer.

As I have owned over 100 colonies during the past ten years, I am perhaps a specialist, rather than farmer or merchant which latter is my main occupation. The idea the Dr. advances that farmers should be in some way prevented from keeping bees, as they "spoil the market" is preposterous. Now, Dr., honestly, did you ever know a farmer who did not get all he could for his honey? Owing to bad conditions of his product he may sometimes be obliged to accept less than the regular rate, but does not willingly do so just to beat prices down. I sometimes buy honey from farmers, and they usually ask me what I am getting for the best honey, and although the style of package and general condition may not compare with mine, they will generally insist on that price.

Doctor, are we not a little "narrow" when we preach that only specialists should keep bees? I well remember when I was struggling to get a start in life, and after meeting many disappointments, I thought a few hives of bees would be a help to me, and how I was discouraged by a few "bee men" who seemed to fear that I would interfere with them. Did that keep me out of the business? Not much! but I rather concluded that if it was a good thing for them, why not for me. That was thirty-two years ago, and I have had bees, sometimes more than 200 colonies, ever since, and they have been a very considerable help to me too.

Milan, Ill.

Willie—Pa, what's an usher?

Pa—He's the man who shows people where they mustn't sit at church.—Chicago News.

Mrs. Biggers—Oh, yes, I understand my husband thoroughly!

Mrs. Jiggers—Practice, no doubt. I have heard that he gets sometimes so that no one can understand a word he says.—Indianapolis Journal.