

Wesley Foster in Gleanings does not believe in smoking bees at the hive entrances. Says the Colorado bee-keeper:

"A hive of bees bringing in five pounds of honey a day will lose nearly a pound of bees by being disturbed with smoke at the entrances, and will be all torn up inside the hive. Suppose you go through fifty hives a day; there is a loss of fifty pounds. It is possible to puff a little smoke (a very little) in at the top when raising the cover, and go through the manipulation without disturbing the field workers. I note also that Mr. Townsend does not use a veil—that means more smoke. I say more veil (and more gloves if necessary) and less smoke in our bee operations, especially during the honey flow. I think too much smoke is responsible for the loss of many a good queen. With gentle bees neither smoke nor veil need be used. Deliberate movements when working over the hive will be better practice than some of the habits the professional bee-keeper falls into. One of the difficult things to learn is to speed up operations at all times except when over the hive of bees with the cover off."

Is it not a fact, that, as a rule, a hive of bees bringing in five pounds of honey a day needs but little smoking—just a "touch," say, now and then? This is obvious, surely, even to the novice. The entrance smoking is not **always** necessary, and we cannot see how any hard and fast rule can be set down. But generally we find it better to quiet the guard bees at the entrance, as well as those that take up sentry duty at the tops of the frames when the cover is taken off. It is the first sting or two that excite the ire of the bees and this the **judicious** use of the smoker prevents. All will endorse Mr. Foster's remarks concerning the necessity for the "make haste slowly" method of dealing with the bees.

Sometimes trouble arises from faulty methods of hive arrangements in the apiary and many unnecessary stings are suffered by bee-keepers who, on account of the way in which their hives are placed, are compelled when working at a colony, to stand or sit two or three feet in front of another hive entrance. At times when working under such conditions in apiaries, we have found it necessary to smoke the second colony. There can be no worse plan of arranging the hives than upon the check-board pattern.

Testifying as to the value of the hive-bee to the fruit growers, Cecil H. Cooper states in the British Bee Journal that all our hardy fruits are more or less dependent on insects for fertilization, some being entirely so. Observations showed that various insects visited fruit blossoms as follows: hive bees 80 per cent., bumble bees 15 per cent., other wild bees, black midge-like flies, tiny beetles, etc., 5 per cent. "The hive bee," he states "is the most important and numerous of the fruit pollenizers, and is the only one under our control to increase or decrease in numbers; the diseases of bees are, therefore, a very great calamity to fruit growers, many of whom, unfortunately, do not value the work of the bee as highly as they should, and get their work done by other people's bees."

The honey bee is of vast economic importance to other industries than our own, and deserves special consideration on the part of the Federal as well as the various provincial Departments of Agriculture. The question of bee diseases is of grave importance to the fruit grower, the wholesale infection of apiaries being disastrous to him as well as to the apiarist. The connection between the work of the bee and the production of a perfect fruit, is not always obvious to the fruit grower, and bee-

keepers would do well to take this matter well to their hearts. It is sufficient we urge, that the duty of combatting many of the other diseases that may befall them should be left to the Department of Agriculture and the rich and rapidly developing countries, ample funds should be provided for the purpose by the Government, who alone are in a position to control bee diseases throughout the Canadian territories.

We much regret that the late Gene Secour's fine line of work last month, we inadvertently state that the poem was taken, originally from the American Bee Journal.

The editor of the *American Bee Journal* draws attention, to the absurdity of the "continental names" to designate chief bee diseases. The honey bee in America is not from Europe and not of a different kind, and foul brood is just as common in our countries where bees are never imported. Therefore, the names of European beekeepers are wrongly applied.

Attention is drawn to the suggestion by the Federal Committee of the O.B.J. for the present year, and bee-keepers should make every endeavour to keep prices, at least, for the present, as low as possible. It has been seen that a short crop of honey from all over the Province and that consequently a high price is suggested by the market.

In the February issue of the *Beekeepers' Gazette*—an excellent publication edited by Mr. J. D. H. who is editor also of the