

HELPING BEGINNERS IN BEE CULTURE.

Canadian Bee Journal:

I have often thought of writing something for the "Journal," but time has slipped by without its being done. I do not pretend to be able to give the beginners any new ideas, but I may be able to help beginners a little.

I have been taking more interest in the "B. J." lately, which means that it has been improving, to my satisfaction at least.

I congratulate you on opening up a new chapter for beginners. They greatly appreciate that is, if you can get them to subscribe. I have often thought it would be better if professionals would write that they were novices once, so they might speak and write in a way novices might understand them.

FROM GLEANINGS IN THE BEE JOURNALS.

I remember my own experience. I got the inspiration from reading Mr. Clarke's articles in The Montanan. I had no one to go to for instruction, so I took his advice, bought a book and subscribed for a journal. I understood the book well, but it was nearly three years before I could read the journal understandingly. The discussions drawn out of the convention were especially taken care of. A catalog of beekeepers and their supplies helped me greatly. I puzzled over names of parts of the hive.

An early beekeeper left to me with regard to subscribing for a journal. There is a thought that has come up in my mind: How are we to reach a beginner by advertisement and explanation through the columns of a journal? If he is not already a beekeeper, how is the advice to reach him? He may not live within ten miles of any one who will repeat the words to him. My own solution of

the problem is to get your articles into the columns of some of the newspapers that print such matter. I suppose I would never have been a bee-keeper if I had not been brought into it in that way. If newspapers do not print articles from the bee journals, the alternative would be for bee-keepers to write articles for such newspapers, keeping always in mind the increase of the subscription list of the bee journal.

Another point I have often thought of: Commonly the advice given to beginners is to buy only one colony of bees to start with. I should feel strongly inclined to advise them to buy three, certainly two. One would be necessary to study from, to look at, to open and examine at any time, to use in almost any way, and, perhaps, in the end, to ruin. The second would be necessary to experiment upon occasionally, but the third would be to let alone, that it might make honey. This would be for the encouragement of the beginner. He would be likely to meet with much discouragement, some ridicule—enough to hurt his feelings—and this, perhaps, from his own family or near acquaintances; but if he were able to treat them to a nice dish of choice honey, it would probably stop such things and give him a certain amount of pleasure for one whole year. This might hinder him from throwing up the whole thing at the end of a year, and perhaps save to the world a good bee-keeper.

WILLIAM MOORE.

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Not only is honey the most wholesome of all sweets, but it is the most delicious, and its cost so moderate that it may well find a place on the tables of the common people every day in the week.