

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BEE-KEEPING.

JAMES HEDDON.

Whew? But you have given me a subject this time, the scope of which is boundless, and the field it presents exhaustless. Well, I will try my hand at it, if you will furnish the space, and I will endeavor to crowd my few, from among the endless number of thoughts relevant to this subject, into as few words as possible.

There is such a thing as a man being a success on general principles; that is, he may possess elements which guarantee success in any pursuit in life. I will name some of them, that while they are as necessary to successful bee-keeping, they are needed if we look for success in any calling. First, integrity. Now, you think I mean honesty? Yes I do, and a good deal more. If the reader will please stop right here and go and consult his unabridged, he will find that this great and grand word covers an immense ground outside of morality. Now you know what I mean by integrity to yourself and your inanimate relations.

Second, system or order. This is one of the greatest essentials to success in any business. It is not only an economy, but a perpetual invoice. The business man who possesses and practices this happy faculty, knows all the time just "where he is at."

Energy; this is the male parent of order, and outside of its splendid parentage as above stated, is the mother of enterprise, executiveness and industry.

Analysis; this is the child of casuality and comparison. Coupled with the before mentioned faculties, this great parent of talent becomes the author of tact, and for worldly success tact lays it over talent ten to one. How many unlettered and talentless people have we met who possessed the tact to pass in the race of life far more intelligent competitors who knew a great deal, but could accomplish almost nothing. Possessing the above named element, the one who embarks in bee-keeping will make few mistakes in choosing his field of operation, variety of bees, style of hive, as well

as other minor implements and fixtures. Before making the first move, however, he will consider the business of honey production in the following light:

Rather than desiring to hear about how many pounds of surplus honey a colony can produce, or what average number of pounds surplus can be secured from an apiary throughout, he will ask, "Where is the best unoccupied field, how many pounds of nectar secretes in its flora each season, on an average, what will be the probable price of honey, and how much will it cost me for capital and labor to secure this honey and get the surplus into money?" He will decide that about 200 colonies of bees (spring count) is the most profitable number to keep in one place. He will raise comb or extracted honey, or both, according to which one he can sell with the least effort at a price consistent with the cost of production in the markets which he has chosen. The kind of bees he will keep will depend upon his flora and whether he raises comb or extracted honey. Unless he produces extracted honey entirely, he will not keep pure Italian bees. He will use his reason and tact in selecting, constructing and arranging his yard, buildings and all minor implements. As far back as the oldest reader can recollect it has been supposed that the style of hive used by a bee-keeper, was of most importance because it effected his success to a greater degree than any fixture or other implement connected with the pursuit. But more recently, since nearly all practical apiarists were using Langstroth hives, of some modification, some called the "simplicity," or the "Jones," "Smith" or "Davis," and all these hives having some strong and some weak points, bee-keepers have come to believe that the style of hive used is of minor importance; such is not the case however. The rapid decline in the price of honey which has steadily taken place during the past 15 years has proportionately reduced the price of bees, a decline disproportionate to that of labor and most other productions. Now it is found necessary to reduce the LABOR COST in raising honey, for with this production