

pointing out the directions in which we should look for anything valuable. Thus, if the department by ample effort should prove that nothing can be gained in any given direction, it will save further disappointment to individual experimenters and prevent a repetition of useless effort. To my mind the character of the work to be undertaken by the department should be of such a nature as to benefit the industry in all parts of the country alike, and prominent among the subjects which it should undertake, is this introduction and testing of foreign races of bees, of which there is much yet to discover, and about which our actual experimental knowledge is limited. The distribution of queen bees of improved varieties, where they would most aid in building up the industry, might be undertaken by the Department wherever it would not interfere with individual effort in this direction. But while the ideas for government action, so far as the economic side is concerned, are limited, there is a large and most interesting field for further scientific investigation of the actual life history of the bee, of its diseases, and of its relations to plant life. Few of you who do not view the economy of the bee from the purely entomological or scientific standpoint, are aware of the errors that are yet extant in connection with the subject, and are still perpetuated in many of the popular treatises on the bee, and there is no better evidence of the biologic questions yet to be decided than the discussions, at such gatherings as these, which, as evidenced this afternoon, involve the actual influence of the bee on the sweets which it gathers. I am satisfied that no thorough investigation under competent direction would fail to elicit most interesting facts and to settle many disputed points. In connection with the wintering of bees in the cooler portions of our country, there is much that remains to be investigated. The statistics of the industry have never been properly collected, and could not be, except by some national organization.

These are a few of the directions, gentlemen, in which I feel that the National Department may work advantageously; and if, in dealing with the subject, I have endeavored to indicate in plain words some things which the department has and has not done, it is in the hope of calling attention publicly to the matter and of bringing about in the future the action which I feel all beekeepers desire.

TO BE CONCLUDED.

—We are pleased to notice from the *Norwich Gazette* that Mr. Martin Emigh, so favorably and well known among Ontario beekeepers, has been elected reeve of South Norwich.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

OLLA PODRIDA.

BY O. FITZALWYN WILKINS

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—Your kind acceptance of my first contribution to your columns, and your very cordial invitation to repeat the *doss ad libitum*, have encouraged me to "do it again some more;" therefore, I will premise my remarks by pleading guilty, to some extent, to the charge of plagiarism, inasmuch as the "Stray Straws" of Dr. C. C. Miller in *Gleanings*, over which the A.B.J. and yourself are having a little harmless fun, have proved very interesting to me, and have made me ambitious to distinguish myself in like manner.

As I intimated in my last effusion, I lay no claim to superior knowledge of apiculture, notwithstanding my experience of more than a quarter of a century in that line; therefore, an *Olla Podrida*, occasionally, is all I can offer for your acceptance.

As you doubtless know, *Olla Podrida* is the Spanish name of a dish composed of various kinds of meats and vegetables, highly seasoned; hence the metaphorical meaning is an incongruous *melange*, or hotchpotch. Such, then, will be the nature of the compositions hereafter emanating from my pen, for the reception of which you have somewhat rashly promised, as I think, that "our columns are always at his service."

BEE PARALYSIS.

Mr. T. S. Ford, in *Gleanings* No. 23, writes concerning bee paralysis, which he thinks is hereditary, being the result of in-breeding. Last year, I had the same experience with that disease, and I entertain the same opinion as does Mr. Ford. I have a thoroughbred Italian queen, purchased from an eastern breeder several years since, which is still living in a strong and healthy colony of her own progeny. Two years ago, I raised several queens from her, all of which proved to have been purely mated. Last year two of her grand-daughters were also mated with drones of their mother hive, and produced well-marked, bright, three banded workers. The progeny of both had paralysis badly.