

One word more with regard to the method of packing in use here. The material may consist of almost any porous non-conductor of heat; chaff and planer shavings having the advantages of lightness, are the general favorites. Care should, I think, be exercised that the packing be perfectly dry, that it may absorb as much of the moisture of the bees as possible, moisture being feared next to poor stores as a cause of winter loss. The packing is held in place by an outer case consisting of two rims of about ten inches in width each, with a good gable roof on top. These rims are about three inches larger inside than the brood chamber, leaving that amount of space for the packing.

After the close of the honey season, the bees are left as much as possible to themselves, the only care being that they have sufficient stores for the winter, until about the first of November, fall "tinkering" and excitement being avoided as detrimental. At this time the brood chamber cover is removed and a piece of burlap or cotton placed upon the frames and the top filled with packing to the depth of about six inches. Formerly this super packing was used loose but now sacks, or trays with cloth bottoms, are used to hold the chaff or shavings. These sacks are very handy in spring when upon some warm day it is desired to examine many colonies. The packing is not removed until settled warm weather, and then only from the top, the sides remaining packed throughout the year. This packing at the sides I consider an advantage even during the sultry days of basewood bloom.

In answer to the argument of clumsiness, I will simply say that nearly all of the improved methods of management at all seasons of the year may be practiced with chaff hives without the moving of a single one. How this may be done could form the subject of many long articles.

Last winter I wintered ninety-six colonies out of doors in chaff. On the first of April all were alive, one was queenless and one dwindled during April as a result of late "tinkering." J. H. LARRABEE, in *Bee-Keepers' Review*.

The Influences of Conventions are Elevating.

WHEN I saw an article by Mrs. Chaddock, entitled "Bee Conventions," on page 185 of the *Review* for December last, I wanted to say something on the subject, but realizing that the *Review* was devoted to some special subject each month, and fearing what I might say would find its way into the waste basket, I "held my peace." I now see

that the October number is to discuss "Bee Associations and Conventions."

It may be true, as the *Review* says, that "not many up-with-the-times bee-keepers now go to these meetings expecting as the result, to come home loaded down with information. It isn't for that they go. It's to see the 'boys.'" (And girls?) It may be that such "shining lights" as "ye editor" don't learn anything, but there are some who may not be classed with "up-with-the-times bee-keepers" who do learn many things at these meetings.

Is Mrs. Chaddock's opinion, that it does not pay to attend these conventions, unless one has an ax to grind, of any value? Has she had any experience in this matter? I have never heard any one who has attended "these conventions" express any regret for the time and money spent in so doing; but I have frequently heard the expressions: "I am glad I came." "I feel well paid." "It has been a real treat." Etc., etc. Mrs. Chaddock is certainly not posted when she accuses certain ones of having "an ax to grind;" unless her meaning of that expression is different from the generally accepted one. I had supposed that persons "having an ax to grind" were those having something to sell, or those working to secure some influence by which money was to be made. I have never known Prof. Cook to make any effort at any convention to sell his book, or to secure, an honorable position, but he is always trying (and succeeding) to help others to get on a higher plane of intelligence and goodness. So I guess, after all, I'll have to admit that it does pay him to attend conventions; and I know he helps make it pay others to attend.

Thank fortune, or any good influence, all the people in the world are not so many bundles of selfishness; and many have learned the truthfulness of the statement that; "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

That it pays Messrs. Hutchinson and Root, in dollars and cents, to attend conventions, I very much doubt. I have never known them to offer anything for sale, or to attempt to advertise any of their wares; and if Mrs. Chaddock thinks it is necessary for "D. A. Jones to be there to keep up with the times," I think she is very much mistaken.

I have no doubt that "Mrs. Harrison gets better pay for what she writes because she attends the conventions," but if that is all she goes for, and all she gets, I'm sure she misses the better part that others get. If such is the case, then Mrs. Harrison is the only one who "has an ax to grind;" but we know it is not with the ladies, as it is with the men; for I'm