

Bees at the Big Exhibition.

DR. A. B. Mason, of this city, who is probably one of the best known bee-keepers of America, has just returned from Chicago, where he has been to confer with Mr. W. S. Buchanan, the chief of the department of Agriculture for the Columbian Exposition, in regard to the preparation of an exhibit of bees and honey, and everything used by bee-keepers in increasing the number of colonies of bees, and securing the products of the labors of the bees that "work all day and never sleep nights"

The doctor has been recommended for appointment as superintendent of the apiarian department at the World's Fair in 1893, by the North American Bee-Keepers' association, and his selection for that position would give universal satisfaction to the bee-keepers.

Mr. Buchanan having been quite an extensive bee-keeper himself, takes a deep interest in the apiarian exhibit, and assured Dr. Mason that he would do all he could to aid the bee-keepers in making a creditable exhibit of their industry, and suggested a plan for an exhibit of bees that was just in accord with the method that had been devised for their exhibition, and the doctor feels quite elated over the prospect for a grand exhibit.

In a paper read by Dr. Mason, at the last meeting of the North American Bee-keepers' association, he outlined a plan for the exhibits that has received the endorsement of the bee-keepers, and been adopted by all the state societies that have taken action in the matter.

He says that Illinois Bee-keepers tried last winter to get an appropriation of \$5,000 from the legislature, with which to make their state exhibit, and at the recent meeting of the Northwestern Bee-keepers at Chicago, he said he thought that was not the way to do. His idea is to let the State Bee-keepers' associations of the different states have charge of the apiarian exhibit from their state, under the direction of the State Board of commissioners and let the State Board pay the expenses, which he thinks ought not to exceed one half that sum, and perhaps even less.

The bee journals of the country are in favor of the doctor's appointment, and the Canadian Journal says: "If the apiarian exhibit at the World's Fair is not a success it will not be Dr. Mason's fault."

The space for the exhibit will, like many other departments, probably be somewhat limited, occupying not more than three or four hundred feet in length.

There will probably be a honey exhibit from

fifteen or twenty States, so the space for each will be very small indeed.

In a letter to the doctor, Mr. Buchanan says: "I would suggest that in considering the question of space, it should be borne in mind that in all probability demands will be made in all departments of the exposition for vastly more space than can be assigned, and in my judgment the most careful thought should be given to the question of how best to fully illustrate an industry in the most attractive and thorough manner, in a limited space."

At the Ohio centennial one party occupied fifty feet in length and full width of that allotted space, and the doctor thinks bee-keepers will be very much disappointed in not being allowed to "spread themselves."

It is intended to have honey in all sorts of fanciful shapes, and in all kinds of attractive and beautiful receptacles, so as to call forth from the visitors all the "sweet" expressions of amazement that all the languages of the world are capable of furnishing.

An effort will be made to have a large variety of honey-producing plants growing and in bloom on the grounds.—Toledo Blade.

Honey Beverages.

THE earliest manufactured kind of intoxicating liquid was probably mead. From honey a fermented beverage is made, which is largely used throughout the Soudan. Mead is said to have been the principal beverage of the Britons before the use of malt liquors among them, and long after the introduction of the latter beverages mead was a favorite drink. Under the name of metheglin it was frequently alluded to by old writers. Mead formed the ancient, and for centuries the favorite, beverage of the northern nations. It is still called by the Germans honey wine. Mead is frequently mentioned by Ossian. Dryden has a couplet:—

"T'allay the strength and hardness of the wine,
Let with old Bacchus new Metheglin join."

Queen Elizabeth was so fond of mead as to have it made for her every year.

Mead formed the nectar of the Scandinavian nations and was celebrated by their bards; it was the drink which they expected to quaff in heaven out of the souls of their enemies, and was, as might be expected, liberally patronized on earth. The Scandinavian mead is flavored with primrose blossoms. In Spain mead is known as aloja.

The Africans use several honey drinks, hives being common. In Madagascar they make a