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APICULTURE SHORT COURSE AT O. A. C.

Illustrated

By F. Eric Millen

This course was held at Guelph from January 9th to the 20th.

Although only commenced last year, the apiculture short course has come to stay. From every standpoint the course just concluded was highly satisfactory, and well attended. There were over fifty students present, from all parts of Ontario, and even Manitoba was represented.

A glance at the programme was enough to make any member of the class feel sure that there were to be some good things in store. Throughout the course this proved to be the case, many valuable lessons being learned.

Among our own brethren we had the Provincial Apiarist, Mr. Morley Pettit, with his helpful and instructive addresses, with Messrs. Sibbald and Craig, also Mr. Byer, who, although he was taking one of the other short courses, could not refrain from visiting the Apiculture course.

We also had several addresses from some of the regular college staff, on various subjects relative to bee-culture. One day was also spent in visiting the plant of the Ham & Nott Co., Limited, of Brantford. The firm kindly met the class, and after the inner man was satisfied, the factory was visited and a good idea of the manufacturing end of the business was obtained.

Then we had reciprocity with our neighbors, and Mr. Clarke, of Messrs. Doolittle and Clarke, gave us a series of demonstrations on queen rearing. Mr. Clarke mentioned that he was not an orator, but his witty remarks always drove home the point he was making, and if some of the students ruin his firm by raising so many queens next summer, he will know it was all his own doing.

One of the greatest treats we had was a series of lectures, some illustrated, from Mr. E. R. Root of the famous firm of A. I. Root & Co. Mr. Root is certainly one among many, and his addresses were brimful of sound advice. He showed a knowledge of the bee-keeping industry that few men possess. He is an eloquent speaker, and makes his audience as enthusiastic as he gets himself. His handling of a colony of bees taught us some of the points to look for in judging the temper of the bees and knowing how to circumvent them.

The course concluded with a conference on the foul brood question, in which several points were raised that should help to control the spread of the disease.

The students are now scattered once more, and it remains for them to put into practice some of the good things they learned while here, and to show their neighbors that a course of this description is always beneficial in raising the standard of not only those present but those who live in their district. Ontario Agricultural College.

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