

bees. The result was, the jewelry business was in time abandoned, and bee-keeping as a pursuit adopted. His health returned, and a new lease of life was added. Again, editorial work, together with general business, broke down his health. The green-house and garden hobby was next taken up, and health has again been restored. Instead of dying worn out, he is possessor of almost his full vigor.

Once more, if you will pardon the allusion, I will refer to my own experience. At a comparatively early age in life I had hobbies, not because my health demanded it, but because I inherited these tendencies. First it was electricity, then that most interesting of pastimes, the study of the microscope. Later on in life, when I began to assume responsibilities in the work in which I am now engaged, namely, bee journalism and bee keeping, I felt constantly the need of a change. Amateur photography attracted my odd spells, and very soon became a most enjoyable pastime, and at the supper-table it often used to be about "that last photograph took" "instantaneous exposure," "and flash-light negatives," until my hobby-horse was, indeed a weariness of flesh to my better half. The result of the hobby was, that it gradually incorporated itself into my general work, and the consequence was, that many of the articles in Gleanings were illustrated, which would not have been otherwise. Later, out apiaries began to attract my attention, and feeling the need of a good horse, one that could get over the ground pretty lively, was soon in possession of a fine colt, an animal that was intelligent, and one that reciprocated in many ways the little attentions that I gave him. He was a hobby-horse in very fact. I read up all I could find on the subject of horses; I enjoyed driving him, and when I got back to my regular work, I hardly know why, but everything possessed a joy that it had not before. Gleanings was made better perhaps, and some of my long prosy articles made more concise. While these hobbies did not build up a broken-down constitution as in the other instances, they served admirably to preserve a general good health, on the principle that "a stitch in time saves nine." They did another thing, they kept me away from the street corners, and from contracting bad habits at that age in life when boys are easily led astray.

It is to be observed that I have had several hobbies. I have looked the field all over. I know something of the attractions in raising fine poultry; I have experienced the passion of studying and working with electricity, I have seen a little of the hidden beauties revealed un-

der the lens of the microscope. I know what it is to appreciate and enjoy a good photograph; I believe I can tell when I see a good horse whether he has got a good action, whether he is sound, whether he can travel a mile in 4 minutes, or in 2.10, but not one of these hobby-horses presents half the attractions that the study of bees does. Bee-keeping is eminently well fitted as a pursuit and as an amusement for the busy man who spends long hours in the office. There is nothing of the kind that stimulates study, that fires up enthusiasm, that rests the mind and so gives a new lease of life, as does bee keeping. To ministers there is an unlimited field of illustration in the bee hive. D.A. Jones once said to me, that he did all he could to induce ministers to take up bee-keeping, not only because it gave them another means of livelihood but because it opened up to them a world of illustrations, and at the same time gave them one of the most delightful of pastimes.

And now let me glance briefly at the latter end of my long tailed subject—bee-keeping is an antidote for disease. Many of the minds of those present will recur to Mrs. Sarah J. Antel, of Roseville, Ill., an invalid who is confined to her couch during the greatest part of the year. When the bees begin to work in the fields, little by little she gets out into the apiary, and finally is able to accomplish the work of most strong men. Her husband, likewise, has poor health, and yet they both experience better health while at work among the bees. In a single season, from 180 colonies they once obtained 39,000 pounds of honey, and sold the whole for cash. If my time and space were not so limited I might mention scores of similar instances.

I think it is safe to say, that a very large percentage—perhaps a half of those who keep bees were attracted to that business, not because of the money there might be in it, but because of the delightfulness of the occupation, and because of its influence upon the health. Dr. J. C. Miller, as a musician, has had offers of large salaries that would dazzle the eyes of most of us, but no, he prefers God's pure air, and out-door work with the bees.

But, you say you are going to get everybody to go into the bee business and so break our prices. Oh, no, not at all. Intelligent reading people who need recreation or diversion in the garb of a hobby, are not the ones who would break down prices. We get from the ranks of such people such scholarly men as Prof. Cook, Dr. C. C. Miller, P. H. Elwood, S. Corneil, and scores of others whom I might name. My object in writing this is not to point out how bee-keepers can earn more money, but to call the attention of