

artist and every woman, a musician. Unless a person possesses certain natural qualifications, or can acquire them by cultivation, he would very likely make a failure of bee-keeping. Among the necessary qualifications are perseverance, industry, continuity of purpose, love of home more than of riches, a talent for looking after details, promptness, and at least tolerable health. If he possesses all these, coupled with a love for natural history and botany, and is as enthusiastic and untiring as most one-idea men are, he may conclude to make bee-keeping a life business—provided always, he has, or can obtain a favorable location. It would be folly for a person to expect the fullest success as a honey producer on a bleak Dakota prairie, under the present state of the art. Talk as we please of the desirability or practicability of raising artificial pasture for bees, it has not yet been successfully and economically done. Therefore, in my judgment, unless in addition to all the required qualifications, there is the natural honey flora in abundance, it will be wise to couple bee-keeping with some other pursuit. If the locality is favorable, and the establishment of out-apiaries is practicable, the business may be made fairly remunerative.

As a rule, however, I believe that bees should form a part of the surroundings of every ideal rural home; not only because it adds to the beauty of the landscape picture, but because in the economy of nature, bees are necessary to the perfect fertilisation and fructification of the vegetable kingdom, and that object can best be attained by the proper distribution of the means to accomplish the end sought. If bee-keeping were in the hands of specialists only, it is quite reasonable to suppose that some localities would be over-stocked, while others would be destitute of bees.

Why does every cottager persist in keeping his pig, instead of leaving the matter of pork-raising to the specialist? Because the pig is a scavenger, utilising many scraps that would otherwise go to waste. Bees are gleaners, also, bringing many a golden drop from the waste places of our imperfect agriculture.

I believe in specialists to this extent: Every person ought to know how to do some one thing thoroughly, and if his capacity is limited to the acquisition of the knowledge necessary to master that, he ought to stick to it. But the man who only knows one thing is a one-idea man. His capacity for enjoyment in this world is also limited. His horizon is the narrow bound of a single thought, when just beyond lie the limitless fields of culture awaiting the polished plowshares of investigation and progress. It broadens

and develops a man to know more than one thing, and it seems to me to be reflecting on the intelligence of our race to think man is not capable of mastering more than one branch of learning. I see no better reason why bee-keeping should be confined to specialists than hog-raising. All who have given the subject thought, know the latter industry can only be enlarged to certain limits. The massing together of large numbers of either animals or men, soon develops disease and death—natures remedy for restoring the proper equilibrium of life.

Who shall say that foul brood is not nature's punishment for over-stocking, and a gentle hint to more widely distribute the bees which she intended to act as marriage priests to all the plants in her flowery kingdom? In my judgment too colonies in one yard comes very near the limit of profitable increase. If then, it is not desirable to confine the production of honey to specialists; and if, when one's immediate locality is sufficiently stocked, and he does not care to establish out-apiaries enough to occupy his whole time, or to afford him an ample income, what occupation will best fit bee-keeping? If only a few colonies are kept it makes very little difference, if the person is at home morning or evening. It need not consume more than five minutes per colony each day to properly look after them. If a large number are kept the employment should be such as would give work when not required in the apiary.

I see no reason why dairying, or stock-raising, or both combined, will not be in perfect harmony with bee-keeping. This branch of farming employs one at home, keeps him busy in winter occupies his time chiefly morning and evening, and gives ample scope to his ability and capital. The increase of bee-pasturage will also increase his available food for stock, and *vice versa*.

If near a good town, the raising of fruits, (if we except strawberries, which ripen at the wrong time in the North, and yield no nectar) is well adapted to go with bee-keeping. Raspberries, blackberries and gooseberries are especially good honey plants and neither ripen with us till the swarming is about over. Apples, plums and such other tree-fruits as can be successfully grown are excellent honey producers. Our season's success in the apiary often hinges on the impetus given to the bees by the abundance of bloom on these fruits. The keeping of poultry in connection with bees has already been mentioned and can no doubt be successfully managed. It appears to me that with any of the professions if we except physicians in active practice, bee-keeping could be carried on. Ministers, lawyers and teachers need some recreation in the open