

by so doing that course every member, without seeking it, is doing what is best for himself. What dangers have we then to guard against as members of an association? There are several. In organizing we must be anxious to put the best men in the best positions, that is, when electing an officer it should not be a question of what man do I like best, but what man will make the best officer and fulfil the duties of that office best. An office is no longer an honor when it is to be passed around like a collection box; the question of honor is secondary, and as soon as it becomes the first question the office becomes prostituted again. There are members of associations who go to conventions and (as a dry sponge which absorbs moisture) greedily absorb every new idea, but it takes a tremendous amount of squeezing to get any good ideas out of them, not because they do not have them but because the shell is made of such hard material they are afraid some one might benefit by unearthing them, of course allowance should be made for those who are too timid to rise in a gathering. An apicultural association to confer benefits must leave politics alone. It must not undertake, either to create beekeepers, or to suppress beekeeping. It must make every effort to induce actual beekeepers or those who have signified their intention to become such, to join the association. The object of this is to give him all possible benefits and put him upon the footing of an intelligent beekeeper. This will also prevent him selling honey at a much lower figure than necessary, also assist him to produce a first class honey, for which he can get the best prices, also puts him in the best position to guard against the spread of foul brood in his apiary without his knowledge.

Associations should be conducted in such a manner that no member would be able to have foul brood in his apiary without knowing it. It might be well, even when there is no law regarding the disease, to appoint a foul brood inspector who, upon the request of three or more members, would go to inspect any apiary suspected of having the disease. If admission was refused much would be gained by simply reporting the facts. Apicultural associations could do much by passing resolutions in their interests, either for submittal to government or to strengthen certain causes. Such should, however, not be done too frequently, or they lose their weight. Again apicultural associations should take in hand the guidance to the formation of prize lists. They should make every honest effort to have the prizes offered large, and to have proper judges appointed to award

such prizes. I say judges, for I do not believe in the single judge system.

Honey statistics are very good, and when the necessary funds are there to secure them complete they should be taken, but they are not a complete guide to what the demand for and price of honey should be, the amount of fruit and the scarcity or plentitude of money must be considered. While speaking on this subject let me say it is doubtful if an apicultural association will ever be the proper medium through which to sell honey. Each individual, as a rule, should be able to work to the best advantages in his own interest, and the energy of many individuals through the country will be more useful than that exacted by one or two. Beekeepers, as a rule, during the season in which honey sells best, have ample time at their disposal to devote to this matter.

Apicultural association conventions are not solely for those who are posted on everything new, those who know that honey is partially digested nectar and those who just as positively know that it is not. For those who are disgusted at the idea and those who very sensibly are pleased to know that it is, and that their own digestive organs will have that much less to perform, neither is it for those who know bees hibernate and those who don't, nor is it for those who want information upon the simplest questions in apiculture. No, it is for both, for all classes, and time should be given for each class. As a rule the simple questions are fired at a committee who may not report at all or answer yes or no. Not much wonder that we cannot draw the beginner into our midst and what wonder that we should have cause to rail at that class of bee-keepers which we cannot reach and benefit through apicultural associations.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

A. I. Root thought conventions a grand thing. Time was when he objected to them, but he now wanted his friends to jog him up if he did not attend them.

Jas. Heddon thought as far as dollar and cent returns were concerned, bee papers yielded a better dividend than the outlay on attending apicultural conventions. Yet when a man could afford it he should invest in both. At a convention a man could not so easily be muzzled as the editor of a paper could a correspondent.

Dr. Mason thought perhaps Holtermann had been tried by a single judge. Believed in the system.