

a gentleman connected with the stock exchange: a healthy country industry and the virtuous feeling that comes from persuing it; and with all the pleasant knowledge that one is skinning one's neighbor all the time.

Now on the chance that I may have made at least one convert to the ranks of scientific apiculture, I will conclude with a few practical hints as to the course he should persue.

If he is already the possessor of a few bees, all he needs is next spring to invest in half a dozen frame hives with sections, a few pounds of comb foundation, a bee smoker, and, last but most important of all, a bee book. As I said before, a very complete and practical manual is the A. B. C. of Bee Culture; but the British Bee-keepers Guide Book is cheaper and very practical and reliable. In fact to a beginner I am not sure that I would not recommend this book in preference to the A. B. C. If he takes to bee-keeping, as I hope he will he can get the A. B. C. later on. There is a much more elaborate bee book than either of these, namely, Frank Cheshire's Bees and Bee-keeping. It is certainly a work that should be in every bee-keepers library; but it is expensive, and I do not recommend its purchase to begin with. Thus equipped with bee book and appliances he will start out to transfer his bees—and he will make mistakes. But I think that I can promise him that mistakes and all, his honey crop, even the first year, will be at least equal to his old average. By the second spring comes, he will be already a bee-keeper.

If, on the other hand, the prospective bee-keeper has at present got no bees at all, he can adopt one of two ways. Either he can buy two or three hives of bees in box hives, then buy his frame hives empty and trans-

fer, or he may buy his bees in frame hives right out. I strongly recommend the latter course. I have transferred more than fifty hives during the last few years, and I can assure my auditors that it is one of the nastiest and meanest jobs that a bee-keeper has to do. He also will in one year become a bee-keeper, ready, with the knowledge that comes from practice, to increase his apiary up to any point he may consider desirable.

Lastly I will take the case of the city man, who wants bees for his country house, him I would recommend to buy his bees in frame hives to start with. And in his case I will make another suggestion, namely that, while he is about it, he should buy double-walled outside-wintering hives. There can be no doubt but that, hive for hive, these are the better kind. On the other hand it is not quite so certain that they are sufficiently better to always justify the extra expense. Personally I am inclined to think that they are, but I know that others think differently, so, in advising the man who looks to go into the business on a cold dollars and cents basis, I prefer to leave the question an open one. But the city man who wants bees for his country house, hardly falls into this category, and him I certainly advise to get double walled hives.

But there is one thing which everyone, farmer, city man or schoolboy, who thinks of going in for bees, absolutely must get, that is a bee book.

A beginner once wrote to a well-known American apiarist, asking for a few pointers on bee-keeping, as he had no money to buy a bee-book. The reply was at once laconic and practical: "Pawn your watch and get one."

I do not like to close this paper without a reference to the Canadian