

entirely prevent these combs.

Twenty-one found this to work to their satisfaction. A member made the statement that a top bar  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches deep would answer with one quarter bee space.

It was pointed out that the length of frame would influence the thickness of the top bar. E. R. Root, Medina, O., thought that brace and burr combs could be prevented almost entirely. He was inclined to think that thickness of top bar, irrespective of sufficient strength, had to do with the question.

H. R. Boardman—Close spacing only partially prevents these combs.

N. D. West thought one should be careful to have comb built in centre of frames and they should be perfectly true.

Thomas G. Newman, manager of the Bee-Keepers' Union followed the discussion with an address upon:

#### SCOPE AND WORK OF NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' UNION.

At the last election of officers for the union, amendments to the constitution were adopted, which allow the union to exert its influence and devote its resources "for any purposes in the interest of the pursuit of bee-culture, when such are approved by the Advisory Board."

This amendment defines "the scope" of the Union most fully. Its powers are circumscribed only by its available funds, and the "interests of the pursuit."

It remains with the Advisory Board to determine "its legitimate work." But that board should always "feel the pulse" of bee-keepers generally, remain within the limits of the work sanctioned by their sentiments, and thus "keep in touch" with the spirit of "the everlasting present"—the times in which we live.

Prominent among the later suggestions as to a field of operation, in addition to the defense of the pursuit of bee-keeping when assailed by the ignorant and prejudiced, is that the Union should assume the aggressive, and prosecute adulterators of honey.

Much as we may approve this sentiment, it must be admitted that there are difficulties to be encountered, because of the diversity in the laws of the several states. What is needed most is a general law enacted by the National Congress of the United States or provinces against the adulteration of all kinds of food, applicable alike to every state, province and territory. Then something may be accomplished in that line which will be beneficial—until that is done I fear that we shall "labor in vain," except perhaps in isolated instances.

Another difficulty is that the analyzation

of honey by chemists of even national reputation cannot always be relied upon for proof of sophistication. This has been proven by many samples of absolutely pure honey having been by them pronounced "probably adulterated." The reason for much of this confusion lies in the fact that the honey from localities varies in consequence of the diversity of the soil, climate and atmospheric conditions.

I am glad to notice that the professors themselves are endeavoring to overcome these difficulties by attaining more definiteness in this matter. We must await their further investigations and the adoption of a test which will be "infallible" before we risk the money of the Union on the prosecution of the scoundrels who practice the adulteration of our sweet product.

Another phase of legitimate work for the union is to make its influence felt in legislative halls—in preventing unjust enactments, which are sought in the interests of rival pursuits, or those who are ignorant of the advantageous service of the honey-bee in the economy of nature. In this line the Union has already done noble service, but that is capable of much enlargement.

Test cases, in every state, where suits against bee-keepers for maintaining a "nuisance," are desirable, and these can only be obtained by an organization like the Union, for the costs would be too much for individual efforts in that line.

The "moral effect" of the existence of the union is something wonderful. Lawyers, judges, juries, as well as quarrelsome neighbors, are all influenced by the fact that there is an organization ready and able to defend the pursuit against injustice and maliciousness. The strength of a body corporate is wonderful when it is exerted in the defense of a righteous cause.

Organization is the "one thing needful" to-day. Apiarists must learn to act with and for each other. Then they can make their influence felt! Then they can secure "their rights," and command respect at all times and under all circumstances.

In an existence of only eight years, the National Bee-keepers' Union has gained victories to be proud of. It has compelled the courts of the land to render just and fair decisions in cases where the keeping of bees was involved, and has won from the highest courts precedents which will be pointed to as long as "law and order" shall endure. Cases are now common where judges "refuse to interfere with a business which the courts recognize as legal"—that is, the keeping of bees!

In preventing trouble, the Union is just as successful as it is with a case in court. It is always on the alert, with well-directed