

disgusted with apiarian pursuits. It must be understood that writers of the present day, do not endeavor to teach box-hive bee-keepers anything. The sole object is to get them to change over as soon as possible to a more modern contrivance.

Buy from a responsible man in whose word you can place implicit confidence and whose integrity is above suspicion, you can then be sure that the colonies are free from all disease.

Some start with an empty hive for which they purchase a pound of bees and a queen but this plan I do not recommend. The only time when this is profitable is when through queenlessness or other cause a colony has become depopulated, or when all the inmates of a hive are dead and the beekeeper has on hand a hive filled with good combs.

Don't imagine you can start on the plan some people who write to me seem to have in their minds. One man wrote: "Send me your price list, I want to get a queen to start an apiary." Another man wrote to Mr. L. C. Root of Mohawk, N. Y. for "a pair of bees, a queen and a drone as I want to start bee-keeping." And many others equally laughable. Of the

KIND OF BEES TO BUY.

I will treat when speaking more particularly of bees.

TIME TO PURCHASE.

It is generally accepted that it is advisable to purchase your colonies in spring, though at that time the price is somewhat higher. Buying in the fall there is the risk of wintering to run and this is more than I would ask of the amateur until he had one summer's experience in the apiary as his chances of success would be enhanced. First swarms can be had at low rates in the swarming season but until the beginner has been at least one year with his bees I would not advise buying these.

COST OF OUTFIT.

Expense cannot be urged as a valid objection to commencing bee-keeping. I will give an estimate of what is needed for a small beginner—two colonies. Four hives complete with frames will be necessary for swarms, a smoker, two bee guards, and introducing cages, a

dozen queen registers, nails for putting up the hives if purchased, "in the flat," and about five pounds of comb foundation.

You will require the above whether you are working for comb or extracted honey. If you wish to work for both you should have an extractor; a honey knife; comb-basket; about two pounds section foundation, about 250 sections, two second stories and four supers.

If you wish to work only for extracted honey, the sections and section foundation and supers can be dispensed with; if for comb honey only, you could perhaps do without the extractor, knife and comb basket, but I think it always advisable to have them. Afterwards you will require tins, labels, shipping crates, etc., in which to put up and prepare your honey for market.

If you desire to begin with, five or ten colonies, you have only to increase the supply of hives, stands, foundation, nails, bee-guards, sections, section-frames, division-boards, section rests, or section cases in the proper proportions.

I have endeavored to embrace in this list only such articles as are indispensable—such goods as can be used to the best advantage—and by the proper use of which you are tolerably sure of a profitable return for your investment.

The following are estimates of prices:

FOR 2 COLONIES, WORKED FOR EXTRACTED HONEY.

1	Hive, made up, as sample say...	\$1 00
3	" in flat, 80c.....	2 40
5	lbs. brood foundation, at say 50c	2 50
1	Smoker,.....	75
2	Bee-guards @ 7.....	14
2	combined introducing cages and robber-guards @ 15c.....	30
1	Dozen queen registers.....	6
1	Honey knife.....	85
1	Honey extractor.....	7 50
1	Comb basket.....	1 00

Total.....\$16 44

FOR 2 COLONIES, WORKED FOR COMB HONEY.

1	Hive, with two supers, made up	\$1 00
3	Hives, 2 supers, in flat, @ 75...	2 25
4	Reversible queen excluding honey boards, made up, @ 35	1 40
5	Reversers, made up, @ 15c.....	75
2	Lb. section foundation, cut to size.....	1 20