

of Florida, his home is there, and he should stay.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session was called to order at 2 p.m. by President Mason.

We naturally feel a little pride in the fact that when we need poetry, songs or music it is not necessary to leave our ranks in search of the talent necessary for their manufacture. The afternoon session was opened by singing "The Bee-Keepers' Reunion Song"—the words by Eugene Secor, and music by Dr. C. C. Miller. Many of the members joined in the singing, and all were pleased with the sentiments expressed, as well as with the music.

THE BEST AGE OF BEES TO GO INTO WINTER QUARTERS.

Dr. G. L. Tinker preferred young bees; those that had one flight. He would put the bees in as early as Nov. 10th, as they are then likely to become quiet and remain so. As an experiment he had taken some of the bees out of the cellar, and allowed them to fly, then returned them to the cellar, and as a result they became restless and wintered very poorly.

Dr. C. C. Miller—I suppose that if we should try to find out what class of the human family suffered most in a severe winter, we would learn that it was the old folks and the children. I do not know as I disagree with Dr. Tinker. I am not sure however that I want very young bees. In the fall we have all ages of bees in the hives. Some of them will die within a week, others in two weeks others in a month, and so on. If it were possible, I believe it would be an advantage to have sifted out all the bees that would die before spring.

R. L. Taylor—I would like to ask at what time the Doctor would have the queen stop laying.

Dr. C. C. Miller—We have but little control over this. We might prolong breeding by feeding.

R. L. Taylor—One year I fed the bees in the fall. October was warm, there was brood in the hives early in November, and the young bees certainly did no harm, as the bees wintered unusually well.

A. I. Root—We were once told that we must have young bees for winter—must feed if necessary. We tried taking away the queen in the fall, but the bees wintered well.

Prof. Cook would not care to have the queen lay after Sept. 1.

E. R. Root—In 1886-87 we wintered 200 colonies without loss, and they were almost all

old bees; we had foul brood in the apiary, and but little brood was reared.

Dr. A. B. Mason preferred bees that had done a little work before winter had begun.

Prof. A. J. Cook—I think that we ought to have brood up to September. In 1871 we had no brood in July and August, and the bees wintered poorly. I do not care to have the bees begin to breed before the first of April.

R. L. Taylor—I do not want my bees to breed in the cellar. One year, towards spring, I found a colony in the cellar that had one comb full of brood. I was pleased with it. I kept watch of it. When put out the bees seemed to lose heart. They did not go ahead and prosper. Other colonies that did not breed until taken from the cellar outstripped this one.

There was quite a long discussion as to how early in the spring it was best for bees to begin breeding. Some said two months before the white clover was soon enough, and the other half preferred to have them commence sooner.

The convention next listened to the reading of an essay by Prof. G. W. Webster, of Lake Helen, Fla., upon the honey plants of Florida.

The attention of the meeting was next turned to a discussion of the

LESSONS OF THE SEASON.

Dr. C. C. Miller recounted the failures of the past season. Not only had the honey crop been a light one, but he had been called upon to bear troubles and afflictions, still, he had been happy; he thought that the greatest lesson he had learned was that of being contented under adverse circumstances.

R. F. Holtermann became disgusted with bees the first year he kept them, sold out, and the next year the average honey crop was 200 pounds per colony. He had learned that it was best to "stick to it."

Prof. Cook thought that one lesson of the season was in that it showed the desirability of combining bee-keeping with some other business. He called attention to the amount of honey that Mr. Taylor could have secured by moving his bees. This should teach us what might be done by moving bees to better pastures.

The convention now took a recess of ten minutes.

When called to order the members were once more pleased, set to laughing this time, by Dr. Miller singing a song, entitled "Dot Happy Bee Man," the words being written by Eugene Secor, and music by Dr. Miller.

The next topic taken up for discussion was,