

would be of small value with the doings of my neighbors left out. In fact, comparison between the different methods of working bees in one and the same locality is in my mind the all-important question. Most of your readers are no doubt aware that 1891 has been about as bad a season for bees in Kent as the worst on record; that being so, they will not be surprised at my short crop this year. I do not complain, yet it is short in comparison with other years since I have adopted the two-queen system. It must not be supposed that all beekeepers in my own district have been converted into 'Wellitess,' as it is far from that; at the same time I have met with sufficient encouragement to make me continue to advocate my present plan of working bees. But, as I have so often said, it is of no use for persons to think that they can succeed with my plan by simply putting two queens into one hive and leave them to do just as they like afterwards. In that case they might almost as well stick to the old straw skeps. We have some in this district who will hear of nothing but the skep as a bee-hive; moreover, they declare that honey from skeps is stronger and better than that taken from frame hives. One beekeeper of my acquaintance bought two frame hives, which were prepared and stocked for him with swarms from his own skeps. These two hives were managed for their owner free of cost for several years. He was always very pleased with the beautiful lots of honey taken and handed over to him, and returned thanks for labor bestowed on the bees and hives (thanks being all that was expected or required), yet he would do nothing for these frame hives himself, but simply left them to manage themselves, and, of course, in time, they were beeless and empty. He now uses nothing but straw skeps, and I quite commend him for so doing, a skep being the only suitable hive for such beekeepers. But I am getting wide of the subject, so to return to my report.

In the spring of this year I resolved to have only eight double-queened stocks, instead of ten (of course I have no single stocks), as I began to fear that my neighborhood was rather overstocked with bees for so poor a district for honey. The weather also was bad during the fruit-blooming season, and I got but little from that source. The next thing we depend upon in rotation is Trefoil clover, of which there was a very fair lot grown this year, but it is mostly cut too soon for the bees to take full advantage of it, and as the weather continued unfavorable, very little was gathered from that. Then follows about twenty acres of Sainfoin, growing a mile or so from my apiary. But this, unfortun-

ately, is usually cut before it gets in full bloom, much to the regret of us beekeepers. Still, the bees worked well on it for three or four days. We have no white clover about, and I know of but a single lime tree, located nearly half-a-mile away. After this there is very little forage from which surplus honey is to be got. I grow, however, some "Chapman honey-plant," borage mellilotus and nepictes muscra, to maintain a little bloom, and keep the bees in good breeding trim as long as desirable.

I cannot tell you what I have taken from my best nor my worst hive, not having kept a separate account of them, but there was not much choice, all yielding pretty even in quantity. I had two swarms, and by utilizing the queen cell, and making nuclei, I am well supplied with young queens. Not finding much demand for section honey, I work mostly for extracted, and from eight hives I took seventy-two 1-lb sections and 524 pounds of extracted honey, making a total of 596 pounds, together with twenty-four pounds of wax.

The above figures give an average of 74½ pounds of honey and just three pounds of bees-wax per hive (most of the honey is sold). My financial position, in account with the bees for this year (1891), is as under:

Seventy-two one-pound sections comb honey at 11c each.....	£ 3 6 0
Five hundred and twenty-four lbs extracted honey at 8½c....	18 11 2
Twenty-four lbs bees-wax at 2c.	2 8 0
Total.....	24 5 2
Deduct expenditure during year	4 9 0
	£ 19 16 2

Showing the net profit to be a fraction over £2 9 6 per hive. I have also four strong nuclei with young queens, all of which I am wintering in one hive, with the thin, soft wood, perforated dummy between each lot. These may be useful in the spring, in case of the loss of queens during the winter months, which beekeepers are always subject to. I think Messrs. Editors, you will agree that I have done fairly well with my bees this year, taking all things into consideration. Anyway, it is a plain statement of my own bee doings for this year, and I have endeavored to make it perfectly accurate. I will now give you particulars of some of my neighbors' doings in bee-keeping:

The first, whom I will call No. 1 is a skeppist, and lives about a quarter of a mile from me, and that much nearer to the Sainfoin. In the spring he had four stocks, and during the summer got six swarms.