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"BEE-KEEPING IN CANADA"

BY FRANK ERIC MILLEN.

In your December issue you published an article by Mr. R. F. Holtermann, which should, in the interests of bee-keepers generally and college-trained men in particular, receive some corrections.

The writer states that he has no desire to, and will not, be drawn into controversy, yet, Mr. Editor, he proceeds to write matter that is certainly far from actual facts.

"Why is it that so many have gone into bee-keeping and made a failure of the business? When we look over sections of country where *years ago* dozens of men kept bees, we often find none or very few in the business now." The next paragraph gives us the necessary answer:

"Bee-keeping is a business requiring *skill, intelligence and application*," and where, Mr. Editor, can we get these better than from a good college training, combined with practical work? A college training teaches a man to think for himself, it awakens his *intelligence* and gives him added *skill*. No one would be bold enough to say that successful and extensive bee-keepers are made at schools and colleges alone, but the majority of readers must admit that, given the practical work, and then the theoretical added, any man should make a stronger and better-balanced bee-keeper.

Why the writer mentions the case of the address on "Swarm Prevention," I cannot see, unless the speaker was a college man, but as "other good bee-

keepers advocate this," surely Mr. Holtermann allows a man to hold his opinion when that opinion may not quite agree with his.

"It takes a great many years of experience to size up the situation in the honey-flow or during the active season with bees." Quite right, and the writer might have added, "and experience is a hard taskmaster." So why not get the result of much experience in a short time by attending college? Let me give you a little experience taken from the 1912 short course in Apiculture at the O.A.C. A bee-keeper, Mr. X, attended this course. He learned that European foul brood was nearing his yard. During his two weeks stay here he also learned that Italianizing would probably help him a great deal. He purchased about 100 queens and requeened the whole yard last summer. From then on he had orders from neighbors for colonies at \$10 each, and he sold until he refused orders for more. There, Mr. Editor, is just one case where only two weeks' course at college put that bee-keeper on the right track.

To quote Mr. Holtermann, "Bee-keeping is not a business for a farmer to have to look after with one hundred or more acres of land." Certainly not. The man to do this is the specialist, the man whose interest is aroused sufficiently to specialize, and he will only be an up-to-date, well-read man.

On the foul brood question the writer again shows ignorance of the facts, and by writing as he does is liable to give a wrong impression. "From near Trenton it has swept into the Ottawa Valley." Now if the writer had only