

Mr. PICKETT: No, and the reason is you lose the aroma or volatile oil to a large degree when exposed any length of time, and I consider you lose really the essence of the honey.

Mr. SHAVER: You can improve it in body, can you not?

Mr. PICKETT: Not much.

Mr. McKNIGHT: I think that is a ridiculous question. But it altogether depends upon the character of the vessel in which it is put and the conditions of the atmosphere whether it improves or deteriorates. There is one thing certain, that if you put honey into an open vessel and keep it there for a certain length of time it will lose its aroma whether it improves in body or fails. The essential oil which gives the honey the aroma is a volatile oil and will pass off if it gets a chance, and it will get a chance in any open vessel; and therefore it will deteriorate so far as losing its aroma is concerned. As to its body, that depends much upon temperature, the condition of the atmosphere and the season of the year.

Mr. HALL: But the beautiful part of the honey is the aroma, and if you cork it up as soon as you take it, you will retain that.

Q Which is the best, the ordinary make foundation or the Weed maker?

Mr. PICKETT: I have not used the Weed, but if what is claimed for it is true, that it is softer than the ordinary foundation, and strong enough to bear the bees without sagging, I suppose it would be an improvement.

Mr. MILLER: I think it is possible that it may be softer and it may be possible that it will not sag, but I do not consider that is what is wanted. The idea is, will the bee handle it sooner and better, and use it for what he needs it? I have not tested it, but I understand in the Weed the grain of the wax is crushed and it has no longer any granules to be worked by the bee. I think the bee in drawing out comb will pick it out in granules and build comb that way. In building natural comb he uses wax pockets, and it is worked in those granules, and I think the bees prefer to work it that way instead of working something that will pull out like strings. I do not doubt but that the bees will work on the Weed foundation all right, but I think they prefer to work on the foundation and use their own wax.

Q What is the best method of getting rid of pollen?

Mr. PICKETT: The way I get rid of it, if I have too much of it, I destroy the comb. I would be pleased to hear from some others in that line.

Mr. HALL: That question has been pretty well answered in discussion on Mr. Newton's paper—by giving them room in the hive to put in.

Mr. NEWTON: I think there are a couple of gentlemen here who have misunderstood Mr. Hall in one thought, and I think he should have a moment to explain himself. It is about leaving perforated metal between the comb supers and the hive—does he do it or does he not do it?

Mr. HALL: We use the perforated metal only for comb honey at the time of hiving a swarm, and only on contracted hive, and we do not go back to take it off until it is convenient. Any hive in the yard that has not swarmed has no excluder. I want the excluders only for extracting, so that we may work quickly.

Mr. SHAVER: Do you not get a little better honey with the queen excluders than without?

Mr. HALL: No. Some days we get an abundance of pollen in our sections, and some years we take a very large crop of comb honey. Some years, I may say, out of perhaps four or five thousand pounds we may have twenty sections with pollen in. Other years the hives and swarms, treated just the same, we would have 200 or 300 sections with pollen in. What the reason is, I do not know. There are some races of bees that do not know much, and do not know where to put the pollen.

Mr. McKNIGHT: The excluder is used to prevent the queen from going up and depositing eggs above and destroying comb honey; is that likely to occur if contraction is not practised?

Mr. HALL: Yes, sir.

Mr. McKNIGHT: Not often in my experience.

Mr. HALL: I did not say how often; there are some very stupid bees that do not know where to put the pollen. I got some bees a few years ago; they were grand bees to handle and build comb as long as they could do it at home, and they were very pro