my mind, the distance it should be."

"What reasons have you for that distance in preference to having the hives raised 18 in. from the ground?"

The reason for having the distance so little is that on cool windy days in early spring the bees easily reach the hive; while where the distance is great many would fail to get home, being blown down to the ground, or, in a benumbed condition, drop under the hive, where they soon die from exposure. In this way many bees are lost just at a time when they are of the greatest value to the apiarist; for one bee in early spring is of more value than 100 after the honey harvest is past."

"That looks reasonable. And now I wish to know how near the hives should stand to each other?"

"My apiary is laid out on the hexagonal plan, the hives being 10 ft. apart in the rows from centre to centre, and the rows 10 ft. apart. Some place them closer, or as near as 5 ft.; but I think that, where the ground can be had without too much expense, the saving of queens when going out to be fertilised, and less mixing of bees, more than pays for all the extra travel which the distance makes."

"But how do you manage to secure the hives in the hexagonal form?"

"To get the hives arranged in the hexagonal form, get a line of the desired length. In your case it should be 100 ft., having a pointed stake tied on each end. Five feet from the stake at one end tie to the line a white thread or string, 4 in. or 5 in. long. Five feet from this white thread tie a red thread or string, and then a white one 5 ft. from the red, and so on till you have red and white threads alternating at 5 ft. from each other the whole length of the line."

"Having this line fixed, how do you proceed?"

"The line is to be stretched where you wish the first row of ten hives to stand, then you are to stick a little steak at every white thread. Then move the line ahead 10 ft, when you will stick the little steaks at the red threads. Then move the line ahead 10 ft. again, sticking the stakes at the white threads, and so on till you have stuck the 100 stakes for the stands for your 100 hives or colonies you expect to have in time. Having your stakes all stuck, level off the ground about each stake till you have a nice, broad level place ready to set a hive on at a minute's notice at any time. Having it completed, and each stand occupied with a hive of bees, if you are like me you will consider for convenience and beautiful appearance this plan is superior to any other."

"One more item and I'll not bother you further. Toward what point of compass should the entrance face?"

"On this point there seems to be a difference of opinion; but here at the North the majority of our best apiarists thinks that no hive should face north of an east and west direction."

"Which way do you have yours face?"

"I have mine face south. But some of our best bee-keepers in this State think south-east should be the way, for then the morning sun will entice the bees out early in the day. However, I see little difference in favor of any southerly direction; but the facing of hives to the north in this cold climate is objectionable, especially in winter, as it nearly precludes the flight of the bees during days when they would otherwise fly, and allows the cold north winds to blow in at the entrance, which is by no means helpful to bees at any time of the year, unless during the extreme heat during the month of August."—Gleanings.