

portion of one edge, and sometimes the separator would curl, as it appears to me, solely because it was so thin. On the whole, 1/16 may be the best.

A knot in the wood, no matter how small, is fatal to its fitness for a good separator. Sometimes a separator will be curled a quarter or half inch out of true where no knot can be seen; but the grain of the wood shows that it was in the neighborhood of a knot, and for some distance from a knot the grain is generally twisted enough to allow considerable warping in a very thin piece.

I don't know what is the best wood, but I am inclined to the belief that poplar or whitewood is not so likely to curl as linden. It is possible, however, that more knots were allowed in the linden that I tried, than in the poplar.

I once got a lot of separators that were not thoroughly seasoned. In fact, they were quite wet. You would hardly believe the damage those separators were to me. Being wet, they were too wide, so that I could not put in the little $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch separators on top; and the curling! and the twisting! In some cases, in spite of their being pressed between the sections, they bent over fully half an inch out of place. And if a section had its place changed, or if a number of unfinished ones were put together in a super to be finished up, then there was fun. Many a one of those sections came out of the super more unfinished then when it went in. If I ever get any more wet separators I'll put them in the fire to dry, and I'll let them stay there till they've dried into ashes.

What should be the length of separators? I'm not sure about it, but I think about an eighth of an inch shorter than the inside of the super. That's the length I've used them, but possibly I might like better to have them only a sixteenth shorter. If the least bit longer than the space they are to fill, they are very troublesome to get in, and can be got in only by a bend somewhere in their length. If too short, one end gets inside of a section, and then the trouble is still worse.

A further trial, during the past season, in all my supers of the little separators on top, confirms me in my liking for them. Although I had forgotten about it, I first saw them used by B. Taylor. My supers are 17 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long inside, and four $4\frac{1}{4}$ sections take up 17 inches of that, leaving a 3/8-inch play at top, for the T tins taken up the play at bottom. Now, that 3/8 at the top is entirely too convenient a place for bees to fill with propolis, and I want it entirely filled with something else. Three separators, each $\frac{1}{16}$, just exactly fill it. I suppose the fit

would be so tight that it would be almost impossible to force these little separators into place; but in actual practice I find no great difficulty. Besides keeping out glue, they are useful in keeping sections perfectly square. I had a box of sections that made up so much out of square that I set them aside and stopped making them. Many of them were so much out of square that, when put in the super, one corner of the sections stood up a quarter of an inch or more higher than it ought. If pushed down into place, they would immediately spring up again. But with the little separators I found I could use those same sections. They were squeezed so tight that, when pressed down into place, they were held there. I heartily commend these little separators to every one who used the T supper.

C. C. MILLER,

Marengo, Ill., Dec. 15.

Bee Keeping in South Australia.

IT may be interesting to note that, according to Nature (December 24, 1891, p. 184) the bee-owners in South Australia roughly estimate that they had 25,383 hives in the colony last year, producing nearly 300 tons of honey, of which 80,793 pounds were exported.—British Bee Journal.

Poisoned Bees.

POSITIVE proof was given by Mr. C. P. Dadant, at the Albany convention, that Mr. Smith's 60 colonies of bees had been poisoned by working on the fruit-tree bloom which had been sprayed by Paris green. After this Prof. Lintner stated that he doubted "if bees were killed by the poison."

This reminds us of a story. A man was put into jail for debt. He sent for an attorney, who heard his statement, and said: "They can't put you in jail for being in debt." The man replied: "Thee talks like a fool. I'm in jail now, and thou hast come here and found me."

Talk as he may, the Professor cannot do away with the fact that the bees worked on the poisoned bloom, and they are dead! His doubts will never bring them to life again, even though he may continue to doubt forever?—A. B. J.

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