

watched the matter closely but had not seen any proof that queens were injured by shipping immediately after caging.

C. P. Dadant. - Instanced a case where twelve queens were forwarded by mail to Major Shallard in New South Wales, the time occupying some thirty days, and all the queens arriving in good order. The queens were forwarded by Mr. Thos. Wallace, Clayton, Ill.

O. L. Hershiser - Had received from Frank Benton a queen in good order which was 40 days en route.

Rev. W. F. Clarke—Emphasised what Mr. Macpherson said about catching queens, and suggested the use of an implement called a "queen catcher" to be obtained of Mr. Root.

E. R. Root—Said that they had tried the queen catcher and found it to work very nicely but it was too slow.

The next paper on the programme was by E. R. Root, entitled

Riding Hobby-Horses.

BEE-KEEPING AS A RECREATION FROM OTHER PURSUITS, AND AN ANTIDOTE FOR DISEASE.

A hobbyist, or one who rides hobby-horses, is, according to Webster, one who pursues any thing unduly, or to the weariness of others. I am not one who would advocate riding hobby-horses to such an extent, but I am one who would by all legitimate means encourage healthy enthusiasm in bee-keeping, or in any other hobby. Riding hobby-horses has been a characteristic of the Medina Roots. In harmony with such characteristics, perhaps I have inherited my due share. I am going to talk to you to-day on the benefit of having a mild hobby, not one that will make its rider get so crazy as to neglect his legitimate business, but one that will help in his pursuit.

Coming down to the subject, the first question I ask is, "What do we keep bees for?" You answer, For the production of honey and wax; that is for the money there is in them." But is this the only reason? nay, verily. We not only keep them for the money there is in them, but for the real fun we can get out of them, a sort of fun that is akin to a healthy enthusiasm, a fun that lightens the burden of our daily toil, gives zest to life and a new lease to it. In a late number of that most excellent periodical, the Bee-Keepers Review, Prof. Cook says. "In every business, one can do better work if some variety comes into the life. This rests the mind, brightens the hopes, and makes the success better in both lines. Thus the minister, the

lawyer, and the teacher, think and speak to better purpose from their work and experience in the apiary. The bee-keeper has clearer thought and better success from his rest period, when he wrestles with the problems of how he may save souls, save property, or educate his fellows.

The professor is in a position to know whereof he speaks, and he hits the point exactly. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Close application to work of the every day sort, year in and year out, wears on the constitution; but if a man has a hobby-horse to release the tension during the odd hours, he will not only enjoy the work more, but live more and better as Prof. Cook puts it. Several instances come to my mind.

A business man of my acquaintance gave such close attention to his business as to become morbid, even despondent. When he arose in the morning, it was his business, when he ate his meals, it was his business; when he went to bed, it was his business; and in his dreams it was his business, and the result was, melancholia came upon him, and the end was suicide. A mutual friend, in speaking of this sad event (who was considerable of a horseman, and who enjoys breaking colts, and whose hobby, by the way, is horses,) said: "If that man, (Mr. W.) had had a fine colt, and had gone out mornings to take a little drive, breathing in the fresh air and watching the development of this noblest of animals, he might have been alive now, and such a thing as despondency might have been unknown to him."

Another friend of mine, a teacher of music and most musicians are more or less nervous, confessed one day that thoughts of suicide continually entered his mind, and as a confidential friend, he asked my advice. Said I, "You lack variety in work. You need recreation in the shape of a hobby, to interest you, aside from your duties." Of course I advised him to keep bees. But he had such a natural aversion to them that the thought was out of the question. I next suggested poultry, he embarked in the business, and now his health is not only much improved, but the dreadful thing that sometimes afflict humanity, melancholia, is gone. He has obtained a new lease of life, and enjoys the work of his profession; and when he goes home from his work he works with a keen zest among his poultry.

I might take one more example, and a very familiar one, I doubt not, to many of you. My father once was, as you know, a jeweler by trade. Close application to business, however, brought on paralysis. The doctor advised him to get out doors and work with his