

I have been thus precise, because I believe that in the not very distant future the home market will be the boon or bane of the average bee-keeper. By all means let us develop a taste and a market for first-class honey at our very doors, and then see to it that the demand is supplied.

J. K. DARLING.

Almonte, Feb. 25, 1886.

Friend Darling is almost another McKnight—the principle upon which they work is about the same in both instances, and both are successful. Perhaps we ought to say here that we have never yet had any difficulty in disposing of all the honey we produce, and it is generally admitted that we have about as much to “get rid of” as most bee-keepers, and we never spend very much in trying to dispose of it either. The past season's supply is all gone but perhaps 2000 lbs., and it has not as yet cost us one cent for canvassing for sales.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### SCIENCE AND APICULTURE.

On page 723, C. B. J., Prof. Cook says, “I have seen the light of a candle extinguished by a person blowing through several inches of hard solid wood.” After reading this sentence, I said to a friend without mentioning the author's name, “What do you think of this?” and then repeated the sentence. Very promptly came the reply, “It's a lie.” Without knowing the author, I should have said the same thing. I cannot believe Prof. Cook capable of wilful misrepresentation, and I know he is above the petty artifice of concealing his true meaning by an ambiguous play of words, but under ordinary circumstances, taking the plain surface meaning of the sentence in question, I should be able to stand outside a solid wall of two inch oak plank and with my lips at the middle of a plank blow out a lighted candle on the inside of the wall. I don't believe Prof. Cook means this. Professor, what do you mean?

On page 725, C. B. J., is an article on “Formic Acid.” I seriously question the logic contained in the third paragraph. Is it true that praise of Ligurian or Italian bees is misplaced? Is it “indolent?” and all this because it “hardly ever stings?” Are we to understand that the lack of stinging in the Italian results the same as with the Melipone, in a lack of honey stored? Isn't the writer all in a fog?

C. C. MILLER, 179-340.

Marengo, Ill., Feb. 12th, 1886.

We leave the matter in the hands of

Prof. Cook. He will be able to explain his meaning clearly to us, we feel sure. We do not know that we have heard of anything quite like the experience of friend C, but we have often heard that it was possible to blow out a lighted match through the length of an ash or elm log. We have, through elm roots five to ten feet long with one end in water, blown blubbers, thus showing that air may be forced through long thicknesses of wood—of course this was *with the grain*.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

#### NOTES ON “SCIENCE AND APICULTURE.”

I AM glad to notice in the last C. B. J., page 722-3, that Prof. Cook has abandoned his untenable position on the minimum amount of air required by a swarm of bees. Instead of the quantity contained in the hive, he now takes in addition what passes through the walls of the hive, or perhaps several hundred hive-fulls the amount, depending upon the hive and other conditions. Even from this multiplied supply of oxygen he must still consign his bees to a “quiescence” so profound that they pass far beyond the state of hibernation into that of suspended animation, an illustration of which he gives in his article. Even the Rev. Clark will cry stop before he gets as far as this. There is probably as much difference between the not profound hibernation of the honey bee and suspended animation as there is between day and night. And there is not so much less difference between the prolonged torpidity of cold blooded animals and the winter state of the bee. I therefore object to having language that I use with the one applied to the other. Spallanzani kept frogs and serpents alive for three years and a half at a temperature of 38° and 39°. He also resuscitated animal culæ after having been in a dry state for 27 years by adding water to them. That common-sense writer, Mr. Demaree tells us on page 700, C. B. J., what becomes of bees with only the amount of air contained in the hive. My views as to the amount of natural ventilation or passage of air through walls of hives, winter repositories, etc., also on the diffusion of gases may be found pages 222-3 of the A. B. J. for 1878. I have neither time nor inclination to write more at present and will leave that part of Prof. Cook's article, in which he criticises Mr. Cushman to this gentleman for correction. Perhaps when the light of Diogenes' lantern shall fall upon some of the Professor's assertions, it may again appear to a modest man that a

“little learning is a dangerous thing.”

P. H. ELWOOD.

Starkville, N. Y., Feb. 16th, 1886.