Mr. Holtermann—Drone comb?

Dr. Miller—No, sections with foundation. I am not sure whether they waited until I had the supers on.

Mr. Ferris—There is nothing I have studied more than the question of producing the most brood from the least number of bees I winter, and getting the most honey from them. To keep them entirely from producing any swarms until after the flow is over, I divide them at my will. I will use both 10-frame Langstroth and a special hive which holds 14 Langstroth frames 21¼x21¼, and a division-board through the centre. This makes a large hive. Provide that through the centre with a solid division-board which is removable, place a queen in the fall on each side of that division-board. In winter two queens in an ordinary colony of bees in this hive. Then in the spring I work each division up to seven frames full of brood. Then I add on another story, and as each story has a place for the division board, I put in a division board, and in that way I get both sides worked up to an exceedingly large colony in brood, up to time when the honey-flow begins. At this point I take away both queens, and let them be a few days queenless, and then either give them a capped queen-cell or a queen already mated. In this way you can prevent swarming, I think, as well as in any other way. An old queen will swarm quicker than a young one, and by following this method you get enormous swarms. I get, with a 10-frame Langstroth, four stories full of bees by June 17, and not one of these colonies ever yet cast a swarm. And while others are not getting a second of surplus in my locality, they yield me 200 pounds of comb or extracted.

I can endorse what has been said about ventilation. You need consideration of it. For extracted honey, upward ventilation with a hole at the back of each side about three-quarters of an inch is a good thing. It will keep them from clustering on the outside. I had one swarm at one time five stories high, and it was crammed full of bees at night, so that they had a cluster as big as the size of a hat; there would be a half bushel on the outside. That swarm of bees filled five stories full of honey in seven days, except the brood-nest. Three or four manipulations are practically all that is necessary up to the time of the honey-flow, and yet will entirely control swarming.

President Dadant—In how many colonies did you try this?

Mr. Ferris—I had twenty-five..

Mr. Rice—When you remove the queens and division boards do you unite them ?

Mr. Ferris—Yes. At the end of the flow. I supply them with another queen besides the one they have.

Mr. Rice—What do you do with the old queens that are over a year old.

Dr. Miller—You consider this practical, uniting two colonies.

Mr. Ferris. Yes, But really you only have one to deal with all the way through.

Mr. Baxter—I would like to be understood on this matter of ventilation. I have holes at the back of my hives also, but then that is simply to ventilate around the super and the top of the super. There is no draught from the lower part of the hive through the hive and out through this hole. I have an oilcloth over it which makes it perfectly tight. If there happens to be a hole in the cloth the bees will not store honey near that hole. You can see from that it is a detriment to have a draught through the supers. But I do believe in having ventilation around and from below.

Mr. Holtermann—I want to say, most emphatically, I have got at least 300 of