

left Galt, Ont., on the intention of spending B. C. We visited out in Michigan, In-  
 ashington, and so on. While at this last we met Dundas Todd, or for Western B. C., talk with him. He is a

I was out with him two days. There is no entry that they know saw the clover, both which at the time of full bloom, I came to it was a paradise for round Vancouver and mountains were simply clover bloom. When, get among the bees found there was some clover had then been weeks, and was still in though it would be for several weeks I found good strong upper stories full of did not swarm, there they stored, and the comb if it were left they would do back flow was over. As they get a good flow ears, but as a rule cool for nectar secret about one month is not really comfortable, so I made up my wish to monkey very re I could not keep r time. We never uthern California at st say that the cli- present. It has not s summer—from 70 perature, which with fine. After a lit- some of the B. C. e. I have not been s here yet and will

report later. Until further notice kindly forward my C.B.J. to Upland, California.

Upland, Cal., July 9th, 1911.

[We are very glad to hear from you, friend Alpaugh, and trust that you and Mrs. A. will have a good time on your trip. Your hint as to the unreliability of clover in B. C. as a source of honey supply will prove very valuable to any who may contemplate moving so far west. We should like to have further reports upon this very important question from our B. C. readers. We shall await your next report with great interest.—Ed.]

#### MR. T. W. COWAN'S "WAXCRAFT."

Indexed

The apiarist of the present day is not a bee-keeper merely. Probably he never was. Even in the days of yore when the phenomena of bee-life were a profound mystery, the bee-master was also a philosopher. The possession of a row of straw skeps and the ability to hive a swarm, placed him upon a higher plane than that occupied by his fellow rustics. To possess a mastery, no matter how precarious, was in itself no small matter, and the old time apiarist was not the man to make light of his achievements. Then, as to-day, bee-keeping possessed a fascination for all its practitioners, by whom the bee-state was accounted to exemplify all that was virtuous or worthy of emulation. We may be certain that the old fashioned bee-keeper with the slightest pretensions to learning would never tire of expatiating upon the bee. Nor is the modern apiarist different in this respect from his worthy predecessors, for it is absolutely necessary to his peace of mind to know everything relating to his craft.

To satisfy his desire for knowledge a great body of literature has sprung up, so that the future investigator will find it somewhat difficult to strike upon a new field of research. Thus every bee-

keeper worthy of the name has his little library of works relating to bee lore. No matter whether he possesses but two colonies or colonies by the hundred he cannot possibly be happy without the companionship of bee-books and bee-papers. Part of what Anna Botsford Comstock terms the "psychic income" is derived from the reading of bee literature.

There is one direction in which writers have displayed a somewhat remarkable neglect, and also some lack of discrimination, for until the publication of Mr. Cowan's "Waxcraft," the field covered by this work was left almost entirely unexplored. For ages the production of beeswax has been in itself—is yet in some parts of the world—an industry of considerable importance. To-day, in addition to that consumed in the bee-keeping industry itself, vast quantities are required in large and increasing numbers of manufacturing processes. It is somewhat strange, therefore, that the subject has not been more often dealt with.

Mr. Cowan has opened up the ground somewhat as a pioneer, yet with great thoroughness and care. In a chapter of some length he deals with the subject from a historical point of view, going back to the early Greek and Roman ages when wax was very largely employed in the arts and crafts of those early periods, and when bee-keeping must have been carried on upon a very extensive scale. The story as Mr. Cowan tells it is a very interesting narrative taking us through the centuries—through the dark ages—and up to the present day. The chemistry of the subject is also very adequately treated, and in such a manner that the unscientific bee-keeper is put in possession of a knowledge of the means of testing wax for adulterations. A very full account is given also of the various mineral and vegetable waxes which are employed, sometimes as adulterants of, and sometimes as substitutes for, beeswax. Even the most experienced bee-