

filled with comb are anything else than an advantage. I have been convinced to the contrary for some time. If you will turn to page 445, *Gleanings* for 1883, you will find the record of an experiment made by me in 1882 that showed me that foundation was superior to comb in sections. For the benefit of those who may not have the back number and did not attend the convention I will say that the experiment consisted of putting on each hive about an equal number of sections containing natural comb, worker foundation, and drone foundation, the worker foundation being fresh, while the drone size was old and hard. At least 1500 sections were so arranged. To quote the article alluded to, "The worker foundation was drawn out and finished first; the natural comb next, while the bees seemed very averse to working the drone foundation." Each year's work since has only helped to confirm me in the belief that the use of comb in sections was unprofitable.

There has been a great deal of talk about the hard septum left by foundation, and the effect it might have on the market, but I have always been more afraid of the old sections left over from the preceding season. A section of comb left all winter, to bleach and harden and become blackened by dust, etc., is not an inviting subject for mastication, even if it contains the best of honey, and we have plenty of evidence that usually it does not. It just occurs to me; that the reason why extracted honey is never quite equal in flavor to the best comb honey, and is usually much inferior, is that, on account of being placed in deep cells, it remains longer in an unripened condition.

J. A. GREEN.

Dayton, Ill., Dec. 10, 1887.

From *Gleanings*.

OUT-APIARIES.

FRIEND ROOT:—I wish to add a few words to the answers to the questions on page 946, concerning out-apiaries. It appears that we are the ones who pay the highest price for hiving swarms. It was after a long experience that we settled on this price, and we find it is no more than sufficient. Perhaps it is owing to the fact that we are like Mr. E. France and do not expect to have many swarms. We have found that it is very difficult to get a boy, a child, whose time is worth but little, to hive swarms; and if we found one, we would hesitate very much in entrusting him with the job. He must see that the hive is well prepared, that the frames hang true, that the bees are safely housed, and, when the swarm is in, the hive has to be carried to the location which it is

to occupy. All this must be done by a man, by some one who has a certain feeling of responsibility, or it will be badly done. Moreover, as the *question* correctly states, the bees are usually located near a farmer's house; and did my readers ever see a farmer who had very much time to throw away in May and June, or in swarming time, whenever that may be? He must either sit there watching for swarms, and then he is a *bee-keeper* who had better be hired by the day, or else he must be called from the field to hive our swarm. If he gets only 10 cents, or 25, or 50 cents, he may at times hesitate very much before leaving his work, and your swarm will be in danger of being allowed to leave. Your farmer may have to climb a tree, or cut a limb from one of his apple trees. All that is trouble, annoyance. True, if he can harvest a number of swarms in a day he will make quite a profit; but since he can not leave his business during the whole season to watch for your swarms, he must either hire some one to see to it, or do as I said at first—come from the field whenever a swarm is out. If the bees are not too far from the house, the house-folks generally notice the swarm readily, and there is no great need of constant supervision. If help has to be hired to catch the swarms, it had better be special help, hired by the apiarist.

But some of our friends will say that the ladies can often hive the swarms. That is so; but in many instances they can not: as when the swarm is high up in a tree, or if they are getting dinner, and the farmer and his hands are expecting to eat at their regular hours. If we say that we will make allowance for the swarms that are more difficult to hive, it becomes a source of trouble to decide when a swarm is harder to hive. On the other hand, if we are liberal with our man, we can require more care from him than we would otherwise. We can insist on his ascertaining that nothing is lacking in the hive, and on his transporting it at once to the place which it is to occupy, and setting it level, so that the combs will not hang out of their frames, etc. We can also ask him to ascertain which hive the swarm came from. This can be done when the bees first come out, and may save a great deal of hunting to the apiarist when he comes.

Taking it all in all, and considering that, in the olden times, the one who looked after the bees generally received half of the swarms and half of the surplus, we think our price of 75 cents will not be considered too high, by the majority of our readers.

In regard to the other question, "What rent should be paid for an out-apiary?" we are again the ones who pay the largest amount. We wish