

any part of the hive that does not come in contact with the sections. With us we make a point of carefully cleaning the bottom board, sides and ends of the hive, also scraping the frames, and any other part of the hive before putting the super in place. The super of course is correspondingly well cleaned. Some think that the bees travelling over the soiled portions of the hive and then the comb, travel-stain the comb. This may be a theory, the correctness of which may be difficult to establish, but it is held by many. Again, is it reasonable to believe that when the bees bring in propolis and all parts of the hive except the sections are pretty well stocked that the bees will not put more there? I think so; and I believe that the keepers of this country who have taken choice white honey free from travel-stain cannot be induced to accept this argument, and believe that for this country it is a waste of time to clean and scrape the hive in preparation for comb honey.—Ed. C. B. J.]

WHAT G. M. DOOLITTLE SAYS.

The excitement now going on in some of our bee papers over plain sections and fence separators, reminds one of a similar craze which came over the bee papers some years ago, regarding reversible hives and frames. The reversible excitement raged very nearly equal to the one of the present and caused hundreds and thousands of bee-keepers to put dollars into the thing, which dollars, if we are to judge by the quietness regarding reversible frames of the present day, were entirely thrown away; for if there are any bee-keepers now using either reversible hives or frames, they are not enough pleased with them to say anything regarding that pleasure. It is to be sincerely hoped that this plain section and fence separator matter will not prove such a bankrupt affair as did the other. History tells us that through the influence of the New York Tribune, Horace Greely was enabled to push to an issue the battle of Bull Run, when neither the country nor the army was prepared for it, thus bringing defeat and sacrificing hundreds of lives for the unadvisable "push" of one man; and while there can be no such momentous issue at stake in bee affairs, as there was in this country in the early sixties, yet I cannot help but think that

the course pursued by some of our bee papers in pushing new things, is as ill advised as was the pushing of the battle of Bull Run by the Tribune. I am not opposed to giving any new thing publicity, and a chance for such new thing to make its "mark in the world;" but it does seem that the throwing of the whole force of a periodical into such things as reversible hives and frames, deep cell comb foundation, plain sections and fence separators, etc., is ill advised, and has a tendency to influence the readers of such a periodical to invest money in something which will surely sink it for them when the craze is off, and reversible hives and frames, deep cell-walled foundation, etc., is declared a flat, dead failure. As for me, I am willing to "bide a bit," and use the old sections a little longer, especially as they brought the top price in the market the past fall, in an open race with all the others.—THE PROGRESSIVE BEE-KEEPER.

Farmers' Institutes.

We have received from the Provincial Department of Agriculture the Report of Mr. F. W. Hodson, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, for the year 1897-8, a document of 500 pages embodying a vast amount of intelligence in relation to farming matters of a scientific and practical nature. The Institutes appear to be growing in popularity as the membership shows an increase of from 15,707 to 16,351 during the twelvemonth. The number of meetings was 658, the number of addresses delivered 3,270, and the aggregate attendance 126,094. Excursions to the Agricultural College at Guelph were conducted by many of the local Institutes which were participated in by fully 30,000 people. A Women's Institute has been organized in Saltfleet Township, Wentworth County, the membership of which amounts to 86, an example which it is hoped may be emulated in other neighborhoods and lead to the establishment of an organization for the benefit of farmers' wives on much the same principle as the Farmers' Institutes. Addresses were delivered at the fortnightly meetings of the Saltfleet Women's Institute of a high