



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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EDITORIAL.

Something further about the New System of Handling Bees.

IN our last issue we gave some points in reference to handling bees by the new system, as we might term it, or perhaps we had better call it Mr. Alpaugh's plan. The plan is to manage bees in a way that the old colonies produce no honey, but simply form stocks for the coming year, and all honey is taken from the increase. For instance, we set two colonies of bees close together, and build them up as strongly as they can be without swarming, giving them, if you like, all the room necessary to enable them to increase to their fullest extent up to the honey harvest, and when they are about to swarm; instead of being allowed to swarm, they are manipulated in a peculiar way by which the working force of both colonies is combined—the old colony being allowed to hatch out a large number of bees, which are further added to this colony. For instance, we take two colonies, and place them side by side, leaving room in the centre for an empty hive; then when everything is ready—and that is

one of the secrets Mr. Alpaugh purposes charging for—the working force of both colonies, with say one of the queens, is put into the empty hive, set between the two. In this hive would be frames with starters of foundation, much as friend Hutchison, of the *Review*, described to us years ago. These starters, we presume, would be from one to three inches wide, the outside frame being eight inches, and the centre frames one inch wide. Supers filled with sections, and full sheets of section foundation in them are placed on top of this hive, first putting a queen-excluding honey board on top of the hive, to keep the queen from getting up. Sections are added according to the size of the colony, so that the bees will have all the room they can occupy above the brood chamber. The way in which the bees are manipulated by friend Alpaugh causes them to begin work in the sections at once, and not rush about in an excited manner without attempting to do anything for a long time after being put in the new hive. We have sometimes done this by putting one frame of brood in the hive with the queen, which seems to satisfy them; but how Mr. Alpaugh does it we do not know. Supposing the two old colonies, one on either side of this new one, have the entrances facing the south, the new one also faces the south. Now, by turning the entrances of the two old colonies around to the north, all the bees that fly out and have their locations marked, and that do not already belong to the