

or they never could have clustered so quickly where he least expected they would. You speak about bees going on the war-path. Anyone who has noticed when bees are flying about them to sting will have observed that they had no difficulty in determining it by the sound. When the hive is opened, and the bees are cross and "stingy," as some term it, the odor from that hive is quite marked. Now is it not more probable that bees go by scent, rather than sound? Catch a bee, remove the poison bag, spill the poison on your clothing, and will not the bees persistently bother you attempting to sting and fly about in an excited manner? Kill them and more will take their places, until the odor is removed. Remove the poison bag from a bee, squeeze the poison out on the entrance so that the bees may smell it, even after night, and see what a commotion it will make. The odor from a swarm is very apparent, and the spot where they have clustered retains it for days; other swarms issuing will catch the odor and alight in the same place. A queen, caged in a suitable place in the bee yard, will attract a swarm, or a branch on which a swarm has clustered placed in another locality will do the same. Some say it is the sound of the queen that attracts the bees. We say it is the odor; but then on the other hand, we find two queens piping in a hive, one answering the other. If one queen did not hear the other, how would she know enough to answer? There is room for argument on both sides. Perhaps they do both.

#### BEE CONVENTION IN SYRIA.

WE had a bee convention in Syria, or rather we've been having a series of them here recently. This may seem rather surprising news to the people of the Western world who suppose Syria is beyond the pale of civilization. But though the country is in many respects behind Europe and America, modern methods in bee-culture have now taken

permanent root here. The gatherings have been informal in their nature, as close application of parliamentary rules in the conduct of such meetings is not the way of the country, moreover the seven or eight different languages represented by members of the convention, four had to be employed in the talks on bees, namely, English, French, German, and Arabic. Perhaps some of the friends in other countries, who find with but one official language in their conventions it is still difficult to get on harmoniously, will wonder what we could do with such a babel of tongues. Nevertheless we got on quite well, and the interchange of ideas will no doubt prove of great value to many of the participants. At one of the meetings a president was unanimously elected, but he hasn't yet called anybody to order. Probably the most important work done by the Convention was the adoption of a standard frame for Syria to be known as "The Syrian Standard Reversible Frame." All bee-keepers in countries where several sizes of frames have come into use will comprehend at once the wisdom of such a step while movable comb bee-keeping is yet in its infancy in these parts. The frame adopted measures  $14\frac{3}{4}$  inches (365 mm.) in length and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches (223 mm.) in depth. All members of the convention, which included two Americans, one Frenchman, one German, one Italian and a number of Syrians, follow American methods altogether in their apiaries, if we except one, a Syrian peasant who has but one frame hive as yet and for the present retains natives—long cylinders made of clay or wicker-work and also earthen water-jars, into both sorts of which the bees are put after the receptacle has been laid on its side. Among the other topics which were discussed at our meetings, migratory bee-keeping (already largely practiced here) and hives adapted to it received much attention; also in connection with this the various bee-ranges of the country were discussed. Orange blossoms furnish the chief Spring harvest, though almond, apricot, and other fruit blossoms are of importance; cactus plants supplement these, in fact, in many localities they form the chief early honey yield; the late harvest comes in midsummer from wild thyme, which is abundant in most of the hilly and mountainous portions of the country; of course there are also many minor sources, wild flowers, etc. It was agreed that where orange, cactus, and thyme blossoms were abundant, with the usual minor yields, nothing would be gained by transporting bees to other pastures. The wintering problem didn't get much attention, since there is no difficulty on that score here; nor did we devote very much time to a discussion of the relative merits of the