

duction in prices. We have incurred a large expense by the great amount of labor which we have required in unnecessary manipulation. In this I anticipate a change as we advance, which will result not only in economy of time and labor, but also in avoiding many serious consequences. It is evident that we yet need much light upon many of the simple and practical, as well as on the scientific phases of our calling. With every advance made in apiculture, it becomes more apparent that there are new fields of investigation and research, which promise to yield information, and are destined to work marked changes in our methods of managing bees. Only those will succeed who are willing to practice the most rigid economy, and who will be satisfied with moderate pay for honest work performed.

It is evident that the effort has been too much in the direction of increasing the production, rather than to create a corresponding demand for the same. I think I am safe in the assertion that no effort of ours is needed which shall tend to an increased production of honey for our present, general, overstocked market. Last season extracted honey was shipped to New York from California by car-loads. The market was already overstocked with the best grades of Eastern honey, and the result was such that California bee-keepers will hardly care for a repetition of the experience. The present season has afforded another illustration. Honey has been shipped very largely from the Eastern and Middle States to New York, and the outcome of this has been that the choicest white honey in sections has sold at ruinously low rates, and some of it has actually been returned to grocers in our own vicinity. By these methods we practically establish these unprofitable prices ourselves.

The resource seems to be that we must enlarge our field of consumption. This can be done by each bee-keeper, by encouraging home consumption in his own immediate vicinity, and also by opening up new avenues for the uses of honey. A demand thus created would measurably relieve the over-burdened city markets; and in this way we would be able in some degree to maintain reasonable prices. With the present facilities for disposing of our products, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that there is an over-production. Whether this will grow to become a positive fact, or whether bee-keepers will succeed in causing the demand to keep pace with their success in producing, is the problem to be solved in the near future.

Much will depend upon the answer to still greater questions which are agitating the best minds of the day. If the thousands of dollars which are annually spent in nearly every com-

munity for that which tends to degrade, and to the production of evil, could be turned to the purchase of that which is wholesome and beneficial, the danger of over-production in this, as in other useful callings, would be little to be feared. My faith in the fact that in the end the right will prevail, leads me to the conclusion that any calling which presents such a wide field for the intelligent and patient worker, and student of nature, and which is so productive of a harvest of good, must always command those who will find it pleasant and profitable to continue in the work until the harvest is complete.

Mr. C. F. Muth remarked that in New York they principally demanded honey in glassed sections or in paper-boxes. In the West, such are unsalable. We, here, require it in unglassed sections with the crates glassed.

Mr. C. R. Isham said that our honey-producers can sell all their honey in glassed sections, and it is desirable to do so in order to preserve its beauty and purity.

Mr. Thompson said that he wrote to New York asking for a bid for best glassed honey, and he was offered only 10 cents per pound for it delivered in New York.

Mr. J. B. Hall proposed a vote of thanks to Pres. Root for his able address.

Mr. R. M. Doolittle then read an essay on

#### THE PRODUCTION OF COMB HONEY

He said that there were four things important in the production of comb honey: First, a good queen; second, the getting of the bees at the right time to secure the harvest; third, a skillful apiarist; and fourth, the right kind of a hive. Remarks were made on each of these points, and Mr. D. said that we could divide and sub-divide these four heads, especially the last three, yet the fundamental principles would not be changed.

The discussion on comb foundation took a general and rather desultory course. Mr. J. B. Hall was asked to state his method, and confined himself to his experience with comb foundation.

Rev. W. F. Clarke said that Mr. Doolittle's essay was professedly on the production of comb honey, but what he said was just as applicable to the production of extracted honey. A good queen, plenty of bees to gather in the honey harvest, a skillful apiarist, and a good hive—were not these just as needful for the production of extracted as comb honey? What we want is the points of a skillful apiarist required to get large crops of comb honey. We want to know how to do it. Our most successful producers of comb honey rather tell us "how not to do it." They appear not to like to explain things. They take Burns' advice to his friend Andrew: