

worth anything will come up and give some honey, and those that are worth nothing will die.

Mr. HEISE : Would you leave them on as many as 8, 10 or 12 frames ?

Mr. HALL : Whatever it is I do not meddle with them. I look under the bottom to see if they are strong. I do not touch the top at all.

Mr. WALTON : If the weak ones winter that way without being contracted, why do not the strong ones do so ?

Mr. HALL : I give you the reason : With a small entrance and large population there would be more dead, and they would drop on the bottom board, and they would suffocate.

Mr. WALTON : It is a somewhat interesting question to this convention. This spring management of bees has drawn out quite a discussion. With all the experienced beekeepers here, I may be away behind the times, but I tell you my bees are not. I contract neither spring nor fall.

Mr. HALL : Neither do I.

Mr. WALTON : We ought to get to some settled point on this question. With reference to the weak colonies in the fall with Mr. Hall I would allow them to stay so. If they have stores enough do not meddle with them. I practice out-door wintering, but last year I wintered 25 in the cellar—they were queens I had not sold. They were rather weak, but they surpassed all the ideas and opinions of the writers in the journals. I could give the temperature and a good many things along that line, but I do not think it is necessary. I would leave the weak ones quietly alone if they were any ways protected for the winter. Also as to clipping queens, I am not in favor of clipping with scissors. I am afraid there is a liability to clip the queen in two.

Mr. DARLING : I lay my finger right on the back of the thorax and the wings come up that way, and I clip what I catch, one, two or three, and let her go.

Mr. McEVoy : Mr. Walton, how much do you take off ?

Mr. WALTON : I take off both wings, one on each side. I think I like to have the queen evenly balanced.

Mr. GEMMELL : It is astonishing how easily they will fly if they have wings the same on both sides.

Mr. WALTON : I do not get down on one knee ; when the queen is coming right down some comb I catch her thus with the two wings. (Shows). We are always in haste in doing this thing, and I think it is the nicest way to clip wings. I suppose I learned it from Mr. Doolittle. I think Mr. Heise's paper is very good.

Mr. NEWTON : I am sure this paper has been pretty well discussed, and a good paper it has been. I think any paper that will bring out the discussion that this has led to this afternoon, is worthy of the thanks of this Association. There are some things I agree with, but most of you know I am of Mr. Hall's school, and of course, I fall in with a great many of his ways. With reference to the clipping of the queen, Mr. Heise's plan seems to me to be a very awkward one. I think if I were to try Mr. Heise's plan I would be very apt to kill the queen the first go off. In working with my hive, I sit down on the hive top ; I place my comb between my knees, and catch her as she runs up the comb, and in somewhat the same way as friend Hall does, I strike a knife across the finger, and I take about one-eighth or a quarter of an inch off one wing, which is sufficient to prevent her flying away, and this does not disfigure the queen. I do not believe in contracting in the fall. I give them a good letting alone in the spring until we have time to work with them in fruit bloom, and sometimes, if it is an extra good spring and they have been shut up, I have in mind two cases where there have been four or five cards of new combs built in. I generally find that medium stocks winter best.

Mr. WALTON : Do those who change from one hand to the other ever break the legs ?

Mr. GEMMELL : Never.

Mr. McEVoy : Never ; if you get the two legs it is all right.

Mr. NEWTON : But we touch only the part we take away.

Mr. PICKETT : The matter which I have risen to speak of is this uniting of weak colonies in the spring. I think one of the first things we require to take into considera-