

bee. The honey bee, however, presents, perhaps, a more complicated problem than any of those yet studied by the genetic experts, owing to the fact that parthenogenesis is involved.

It will be seen therefore that scientific opinion is decidedly in support of the view that the plastic nature of the bee may be still further modified to meet the ever-increasing demands of the modern bee-keeper.

We have recently heard from some French and English friends who are making careful experiments with bees along Mendelian lines, but we are not yet in a position to communicate anything of a definite character regarding results achieved. In fact, whilst the preliminary experiments will furnish results of an extremely interesting and curious nature, yet some time must necessarily elapse before the bee-keeper will be put in possession of those same means of "improving" his stock that have been afforded to breeders of other kinds of animals. We still have the selective process which undoubtedly is productive of much improvement in the strain, but to obtain improved races of bees, we must await further investigations in the genetics of the honey-bee.

"GLEANINGS"

The Control of Swarming

Indexed

Our good friend and neighbor R. F. Holtermann states that bees that are the least apt to swarm are not necessarily best for the bee-keeper **who can control swarming**, and he does not appear to be at all interested in the matter of a non-swarming race of bees. "The prevention of the desire for swarming in powerful colonies, without reducing the numerical strength, either at the moment of or during the continuance of the honey flow, is the capstone of successful bee-keeping."

Mr. Holtermann considers that:

"The time for the greatest danger of swarming with strong colonies is during the light honey-flows before the heavy surplus flow sets in, and during idle time between heavier flows.

When the bees are about ready for super room is a most critical time. I put supers on the bees too early rather than too late; and I generally keep the bees packed in their winter cases until the clover begins to yield nectar, I run no danger of chilling brood.

If, during a good honey-flow the bees enter the supers with a rush, I find but little trouble, under right management, until the super room begins to be crowded **for the process of ripening** the stores they gather from day to day. I do not recollect ever having a twelve-frame Langstroth hive with three, four, or five supers on top of it wanting to swarm. We are told that in tropical countries during the heavy flow the bees abandon swarming; and when the light flow follows they get the swarming impulse. I believe it is much the same under proper management in more northerly localities.

The trouble does not lie solely in the lack of super room. Neither is it lack of ventilation alone, nor in hive conditions alone, as then all the varieties of bees and all colonies would swarm under certain conditions. This much is plain—that, within recent years, there are those who have learned so to manage that the bees will bend their energies in the direction of gathering honey rather than in swarming.

Watch the Queens!

G. C. Chase describes a good method of keeping a record of the achievements of queens without books. It is as follows. Says Mr. Chase:

I use tin tags of three shapes, round, half-round and square. Beginning with the round ones, I tack one on the lower left-hand corner of each hive. If a queen proves good I move the tag over to the centre; if very good higher up in the centre; and if extra good, giving a big surplus, I move the tag to the top of the hive in the centre; and when a queen proves poor I move the tag to the right-hand corner and "discharge" this queen as soon as I can get one to fill her place—the sooner the better. The second year I take another shape of tag; so you see the shape of the tag tells the queen's age, while the place it occupies on the hive shows her quality.

COUNTY BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND

By Morley Pettit,
Guelph

(At the Annual Convention of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, Toronto, November 1911.)

(Continued from page 453.)

The next meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association was held on the 30th, 1891 (A.B.J. Vol. V, p. 453.).

It is not heard from the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association until 1889, when a Welland County Bee-Keepers' Association was mentioned in 1889, but the name is not mentioned in the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association Vol. V, 1888, p. 257).

In 1889 a Stratford Bee-Keepers' Association was organized with F. A. (name) as president. In 1890 the Perth Bee-Keepers' Association was organized, presumably the same as the Stratford Association. It is not heard from in the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association Vol. V., 1889, p. 4.

The Kent County Bee-Keepers' Association only lived during the year 1889. In reference to the Kent County Bee-Keepers' Association Alex. Dickson, Lanark County Secretary, writes as follows:

"Our Association was organized in 1893 by W. J. Brown on the basis of membership of ten and attendance has kept up very well. I have two of the original members, Mr. Toombs and myself are left. Mr. Calder and Mr. Morrison have since passed away. The association has been organized once a year though irregularly for a few years. Our membership has always been fifty cents per year. We receive a government grant of \$100 on an average. Our honey has been sold on bee-books, and sometimes on queens for a member and one who has a lively interest in the matter. We consider the money has been