

combined ameliorative at he himself was not ch assistance to attain success.

his was not an isolated of all the arguments ad- of an effort to organize bers, the matter was al- Convention without any ebate. The fact is that so big bee men that at- cannot be said to be tive of the thousands of ered through the Coun- y being located at dis- reat to permit of their t these annual delibera- to be frank. A truly uthering should be ready e particularly the needs diocrity, who, as in-all er all form the majority.

not suggest for one mo- dy should be called up- slightest sacrifice on be- bor, yet we may be per- k that the sympathetic the needs of our less for- is a religious duty, look ny standpoint we will tter files contain ample he necessity of some en- ade to assist the smaller rley Pettit, in organizing ocations is doing much es, and could the rank le to realise their obliga- tter, they would not be until such times as they ulus from headquarters selves. The County As- t furnish the bee-keepers ample opportunities of and forming co-opera- Net in the small bee- him, teach him the real ving modern methods of s bees and marketing his will become a valuable

asset to the bee-keeping fraternity, in- stead of a "bug-bear" or a "menace" as he has frequently been described lately.

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A Novel Suggestion

Everybody nowadays is interested in the matter of the "elimination of the swarming instinct" and many are convinced as to its practicability. An interesting and to us a novel suggestion is made by a recent writer to the effect that "the No. 1 gland system of the worker" plays a prominent part in the "mechanism which controls swarming." He proceeds to state that an excess of the secretion gives rise to the construction of queen cells and the desire to swarm. A contracted brood nest acts therefore by limiting the opportunity for its use. On the other hand, the removal of sealed brood gives extra scope to the queen and to the nurse bees. Incidentally it limits the, etc., etc." The same writer if we remember rightly, furnished an equally ingenious explanation of the bees' submissiveness to smoke!

We almost forgive a certain learned doctor for his recent acid remarks anent the pseudo-scientific bee-keeper.

PARTHENOGENESIS AND CELL STRUCTURE

By J. E. Hand.

'Tis said that open confession is good for the soul. I note in the December number of the C.B.J. that Mr. Gray frankly admits his error in assuming that the drone is not a product of his mother. Notwithstanding this confession, however, he is still in error in his statement concerning the alleged "freak" queen. I am not willing to believe that Mr. Gray would wilfully misquote an opponent for the sake of gaining a point in an argument; if he will refer to my article he will see that

the alleged freak is a creation of a rather vivid imagination. If all queens that are unable to unerringly duplicate themselves in their queen progeny, are freaks, then there are far more freaks than normal queens.

To write for the rank and file of bee-keepers, instead of for a few, is a noble sentiment, and worthy of emulation. We should bear in mind, however, that the reader of an article is benefitted in proportion to the correctness of the theory advocated. In this connection, be it said, that the idea of cell structure as a possible factor in connection with the theory of parthenogenesis, was given as a theory for what it was worth, supported by such meagre evidence as had come under my personal observation. It matters little to me that this is not a popular theory; we have abundance to show that the largest crowd is not always on the right side of the fence. I am free to confess, however, that there would be small consolation in standing alone on the wrong side, and therefore I am not going to vouch for the correctness of this theory until it has passed the theoretical stage.

Yes, friend Howe, I have known queens to lay eggs in cells before they were completed, but I can't prove that such eggs were not removed by the bees, and others deposited a few hours later, after the completion of the cells. The workers have full control of the egg business and the queen is supposed to deposit eggs only in such cells as have been properly constructed, and prepared to receive them. Whenever the queen oversteps the bounds of propriety, and deposits eggs in unprepared cells, I believe the workers exercise their prerogative by promptly removing them. In view of what has already been advanced upon this subject, it is in order for me to state more fully my reasons for entertaining the idea that cell formation may, perhaps, be an important factor in con-