

Mr. Abbott—I confess I am astonished. I am like Dr. Miller now. I am more astonished than he was, to think that any one would advocate at this time that we should let nature alone. Let me give you an illustration from the dairy business: The Babcock test has eliminated from the dairies of this country about half the cows that were in the hands of intelligent dairymen, because they were eating more than they produced. It is not necessary to overhaul a colony to see how old the queen is. It is unnecessary to "count the rings on her horns" as you do on a cow to see how old she is. It is only necessary for the intelligent manipulator to know that there is a colony, No. 22, that is not paying its way. If 22 is not, why 9 chances out of 10 the queen is responsible for the non-payment. An intelligent answer, it seems to me, would be to take off the head of No. 22's queen and put one in there that you thought was better. That would be improving on what we call the "natural method," just as the dairy people by selection have improved the Jersey cows until they have nearly doubled the butter-production of the Holstein herds. If they can double butter-production of the Holsteins by careful selection, can not the bee-keepers and queen-breeders eliminate the poor queens and double the production of the colonies of bees in the country in the same way? It seems to me we can. This is an age of progress and scientific investigation, and we ought to take advantage of it, it seems to me. Take the heads off the queens whose colonies are not paying their way.

Mr. Taylor—I do not like to take up the time of this association in talking. I like to say a word once in a while, but I do not like to talk so much. If you are willing to bear with me a few minutes, I will try to explain this thing that Mr. Abbott seems

to be entirely astray on. Now the two cases are not parallel at all.

Dr. Miller—Correct.

Mr. Taylor—I am glad you are with me, Doctor. They are not parallel at all. It will take me two or three minutes to explain why they are not parallel. Take cattle. I suppose originally they were in a wild state, and they had long horns and they were fleet of foot, and they had great courage, and they were rustlers. That is, they were fitted to their environment. They were so constructed and so developed that they were able to survive under the hard circumstances in which they were placed. They were able to fight. They were able to escape their enemies by flight, when it was really necessary. They were able to hunt their food in difficult places. Now, then, suppose Mr. Abbott had some of those cattle and he wanted to develop them in the line of fighting and hustling for their food and fleeing from enemies, and this sort of thing. Would he be so particular about picking out animals that were not fleet and not fighters? Why, no. He would not expect to develop them very much. They have been developing for ages and ages. The weak ones have gone down always. They could not get food. They could not escape their enemies. They could not repel their enemies, and they have developed, I may say, to the highest possible stage of that sort of existence. Now take bees. The bees have not been developed as fighters particularly, except what was necessary to keep out certain enemies, but they have been developed from the very first for the production of honey, because upon that alone has the existence and continuance of the race depended. Now I know it is against the generally received opinion among bee-keepers, but bee-keepers are all astray in this everlasting talk about improving the honey

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