

Dairymen's Association had met shortly before and one of the questions discussed at their meeting was the proper rations for a cow, that is, the daily food that would enable her to produce the greatest quantity of milk. I think I said then, and I will repeat it now, that the dairyman might take a lesson from the bee-keepers, if bee-keepers know anything,—I don't think they know very much about the queen. I know I don't know very much about her, but I know she is an extraordinary creature. If they could produce the rations that would enable a cow to produce three times her own weight of milk in a day, that would do something for their country. Will any of you tell me how it is possible, how it is that a creature like a queen bee can work up out of herself three times her own weight in a day? She must have assistance; she must have something to enable her to do it. It is one of the most extraordinary things, I think, in all nature.

I have not the slightest doubt but what the queen bee has a good deal to do with her progeny, with the bees she produces, with the three thousand five hundred she produces every day for a certain length of time, but how our bee-keepers can so handle it that the highest quality of the man will come from the mother, I do not know; I am sure I cannot tell.

Mr. Hall: They can only do it by selection; they cannot guide their ways; that is why I do not kill the queens.

Mr. McEvoy: How do you know the best queen you have in your yard?

Mr. Hall: From the work she has done in the previous years and from the work that her offspring have done.

Mr. McKnight: My own impression is that there is not so very much

after all in the queen as people imagine.

Mr. Hall: It is her offspring.

Mr. McKnight: But the offspring is the product of the producer. Has the male bee nothing to do with that?

Mr. Hall: Yes, he has.

Mr. McEvoy: You are both right.

Mr. Shaver: I think this meeting is all out of order. Mr. Brown who, according to the program, was to open the discussion on this paper, is here and we have never given him a chance.

Mr. Brown: The discussion has been going along very well indeed and I have been taking it all in. The subject has been so thoroughly covered in the paper that I could see no point to contradict or even to raise a question upon. I can only indorse what Mr. Holmes has written. The paper has been a very valuable one and I would fully agree with him that the selection of queens are as necessary to a bee-keeper as the selection of his cow is to the dairyman. I have noticed very often in the spring of the year some very weak colonies, and I find in letting such take their course that some of them will go the whole season through and not amount to anything. There must be something the matter with such a queen, consequently I would discard her as soon as possible. I am not a queen raiser, but I know that when there is an inferior queen in the yard it would be much better for the apiarist and for the yard that she be taken out of it.

Mr. Post: Mr. Brown, It was an oversight on my part that you were not called on to open the discussion on this paper. Mr. McEvoy sprang to his feet at once and I was really greatly taken up with the paper myself.

Mr. Fixter: I think there is a great deal in what Mr. McKnight said about

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