

placing their theories before us, so that the novice in bee culture can scarcely derive any benefit therefrom. In my mind there are several reasons why this error occurs. In the first place, some take this course to advertise their own theories and inventions, taking good care that none but themselves will reap the benefit of their experience.

In the second place, the space devoted to such information is far too limited, and instructions are so condensed that the new beginner has to seek blindly what the writer really intended. This, I think, is the great cause of so many failures. In trying to put into practice such limited information, Mr. Darling's timely paper may be the means of remedying this defect; but after all, a practical experience is what is needed most. In conclusion, let me say that I had the pleasure of a visit to the village of Beeton last spring, and, while there, was taken through the factory and bee yards of the Beeton Manufacturing Company, where I enjoyed a pleasant chat with D.A. Jones, the great bee king of Canada, who, though not interested in the company, was kind enough to show me around the town.

Sanford, Ont JAMES BEST.

#### DRAWN COMBS FOR NEW SWARMS.

W. Z. Hutchinson is an ardent advocate for the use of foundation alone in brood chamber, where comb honey is the end desired.

His theory seems to be that a new swarm naturally runs to wax making; and if no chance is given them to indulge therein, they fill up the brood chamber with nectar, and don't utilize the sections; when, if they were given the opportunity to draw up foundation in the brood chamber, the queen would use it for egg laying, and the bees would utilize the sections for surplus stores. Such has not been my experience; but as I am one of those who only keep a few bees for recreation, probably my experience is of no value.

When I first began keeping bees, away back in 1864, among the first things I learned was the fact that bees never rear

brood in comb more than seven-eighths of an inch thick; that is in cells more than seven-sixteenths of an inch deep; while for storage of honey, they would draw out the cells as deep as room was given. Knowing this fact, I did not "catch on" to the value of the same for many years. But at last I got the idea "through my wool," that the way to get surplus stores where I wanted them, was to allow the bees to follow their natural instincts; that is, to give them only such cells in the brood chamber as they would use for brood, and at the same time give them deeper cells above the brood chamber, so that they might follow the natural instinct that always leads them to store all supplies above their brood. This I found easy enough to do, simply by spacing the combs in the brood chamber, just bee space apart, and using combs only seven-eighths inch thick. The first season I tested this matter with two colonies only, and found it worked in practice just as I had theorized it would. The next year I ran all my colonies, some seven or eight, in the same way, with the same result. Having thus, as I thought, proved the theory by actual experiment, I wrote up the matter both for our own journals and for the *British Bee Journal*. Like all new ideas it was met with opposition and scorn by many beekeepers. Not by all, though, for one or two were foolish enough to test the matter, and in their correspondence with myself, thanked me for giving them the idea, and informed me that it worked with them just as I had stated it did with myself.

That the result above stated will follow in every instance, I will not say; but it has proved itself, with myself and with others, to work in a large majority of cases; sufficiently so to prove the rule by the few exceptions. This, however, is not the only point gained by working in this manner. It places natural swarming more nearly under control than can be done by any other method, and to my mind is an illustration of the fact, that our brains were given us, not to attempt to control, or change natural instinct in the