

keepers, and what more interesting object lesson can be imagined than a class watching their teacher after school hours, handling the frames of a hive, and how many useful lessons can be drawn from the life of the honey bee.

MAY EVERYBODY KEEP BEES.

As to this question I do not know that I can do better than give the opinion of Mr. Allen Pringle, a gentleman well known to apiculturists in Canada, especially as they are so nearly in accord with my own. Speaking of bee-keeping for farmers he says: "There are many—very many—people in the rural districts of Canada amongst the farmers and others who could keep a few colonies of bees to their own advantage and that of their neighbors. They would thus be benefiting themselves by producing honey for their own use, and benefit their neighbors by securing fertilization to their fields of clover and orchards of fruit."

On the general question of "Who may keep bees," he remarks: "As to who ought to engage in bee-keeping and who may engage in it, these are questions which each individual has the natural right to decide for himself, so long as he keeps within both the moral and the civil law. When the latter excludes him from corporations he has no right to violate it, and when the former excludes him in honor from pre-occupied ground he has no moral right to violate that either. With these two exceptions anyone, I should say, has the right to put his money into the 'bee business,' try it, and come out a richer or a wiser man, as the case may be."

PRIORITY OF LOCATION.

How many bees may be kept in a certain area, and if a bee-keeper already established has a "claim" to the district, are unsettled questions with some. This relates more directly to "specialists"—men who keep a large number of colonies—and will not concern the average bee-keeper. Common sense will tell you whether your locality is overcrowded with bees, and, if so, but two courses are open—to seek another opening or not enter the business. Experts have estimated that from a hundred to a hun-

dred and fifty colonies are all that can be kept profitably per square mile. But much depends upon the season, and in a year such as this (1888), twenty-five colonies to that area would be more than sufficient. To me it seems that this question of priority of location bothers some more than it need. There are those who make comparison of bee-men and store-keepers, etc., but such comparison is not applicable. The success of the store-keeper depends upon many things—the quality of his wares, his prices and mode of doing business, his capital, address, manner, etc., and having a majority of these he may step into a field already fully occupied and still do well. The apiarist's success depends mainly on his system of manipulating and the honey-gathering qualities of his bees. With these points in view no practical man will seek entrance to a section of country already comfortably occupied.

In Canada, with our vast tracts of country unoccupied by bee-keepers, we are, in our lives, never likely to be troubled on the score of overcrowding.

BEES CLOSE TO HIGHWAY.

This is a question which is frequently asked, and there are some who are under the impression that it is necessary to keep bees a distance from the road in order to prevent them becoming troublesome to passers by. This depends entirely on the surroundings. Bees may be placed within five feet of the public highway without interfering with travel or troubling anybody, or they may be one or even two hundred feet away and yet be troublesome. If there was no fence in front of the hives and the bees could fly to and fro very low, a horse tied at the fence or passing along the road might be stung by them. A fence or trees planted so that it would be necessary for them to rise up from the hives and pass over the obstruction; or in towns or villages, if they were placed in a yard where they would have to pass over the house-tops, they would never interfere with anything on the street, but it is only where they fly straight out from the hives and keep low that any danger is to be apprehended. I have had from one to five hundred colonies in one apiary right in the centre of a village, and have run within