

odor. "Where did this come from?" he carelessly inquired of his rose-growing confrere. "Oh, it is an offshoot from some cuttings we imported from Germany," the man replied. It was evident to Mr. Field that the other did not in the least comprehend the value of the new plant. After some talk Mr. Field bought the cuttings he had seen for \$5. A year thereafter, when he had propagated his new purchase, and become convinced that he had a new and very valuable variety of rose, which he named the American Beauty, he sold his find for \$5,000, the most wonderful result of the investment of \$5 on record. Fields invested his easily-earned \$5,000 in lands near the city, which in a little less than three years were sold for \$50,000. Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. In this instance it certainly was:—Washington Post.

Brace and Burr Combs.

JAMES HEDDON.

The brace-comb muddle has been occupying very much attention among our bee-keepers the past two years, and now just as the more sanguine ones imagine deep top bars and close spacing amounts to a preventive, and will bring more advantage than drawbacks (which isn't true) forward comes the G. M. Doolittle (the master of 60 colonies of bees, on an average) and tells us that brace-combs are of great advantage as wax ladders, encouraging the bees to enter the surplus receptacles, and when properly manipulated are an exceedingly small trouble. Why we don't know anything about any such a performance, or instinct in bees, as to shy the surplus receptacles when there is any honey coming in sufficient to cause them to go above with common arrangements. We are well aware,

that with a hive properly arranged and properly manipulated, the brace-comb problem is nine-tenths bug-bear. In our early days of bee-keeping, about 20 years ago, we got frightened at this supposed awful brace comb, and tried everything (wide and deep top bars included) to do away with them, but nothing did it, entirely; but since we have learned how hives should be constructed; and what not to do in apiary work, we know that the extra cost and weight of the wide and deep top bars is an over-balancing consideration against their use, in so far as they really do tend to prevent the building of brace combs. Bro. Root says Mr. Doolittle is nearly always right, but in this case, in advocating the use of burr-combs and brace combs as an inducement to the bees to enter the sections, he is afraid he might mislead bee keepers.

Now we think very differently from Bro. Root; that Mr. Doolittle is "nearly always" wrong and in all sincerity we ask if anyone knows of anyone who is a strict adherent to Mr. Doolittle's methods and chosen implements and fixtures, that ever did succeed? We are sure we couldn't succeed with their use, neither do we know of any one who ever did. They succeed best on paper. Some one may say "Isn't this statement a little harsh?" Never mind, ask first if it isn't true, and if not we will attend to the harsh part after that fact is settled. If it is true, we propose to be honest, brave and outspoken enough to call attention to this truth, that is of so much importance to bee-keepers. More than one reader of this journal well remembers that at a convention of the North American bee-keepers' association, held in Chicago, some ten years ago, a successful honey producer, (from either Wisconsin or Minnesota) arose and told the convention how cheaply he could raise large yields of extracted honey, "thanks to Mr. Doolittle." We arose