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## NOTES AND COMMENTS

By J. L. BYER

### Feeding of Sweetened Water From Cappings.

In December C. B. J. the writer commented on Alexander's opinion as to quality of honey vinegar made from the washing of cappings, and although a very serious objection to Mr. Alexander's plan of feeding sweetened water from cappings came to my mind at the time, for want of space I did not mention it. I refer to the danger of scattering foul brood through the apiary. Mr Holtermann has stated the case so tersely in Gleanings, I cannot do better than copy what he says. After quoting a correspondent who had written that Alexander's plan was a "ray of sunshine," Mr. Holtermann says: "Thanks! Not for me until foul brood is no more in the world. One known or unknown diseased colony in the apiary may infect all the sweet water, and 'the ray of sunshine' become a very thunder-cloud to break over your head. I have known large apiaries ruined by one dose of feeding back honey. To feed back honey is unwise and dangerous. To feed back honey from cappings increases the danger of infection." Some may say that they are sure there is no

foul brood among their bees. While this may be so, if there is any foul brood in the vicinity, I doubt if we can ever be positive in making claims like that, and personally I prefer to preface such claims with "not to my knowledge." To illustrate what I mean, let me give the following experience: Four years ago a yard of bees was for sale near us, and, in company with the inspector, we visited the apiary and inspected every colony, thoroughly examining every comb. Although we found a few colonies diseased, yet I decided to take the risk of buying 34 very strong, healthy colonies. As it was near the first of June, I felt reasonably sure that no disease would break out in the healthy colonies, particularly as no robbing had taken place. However, I decided to keep a close watch, and towards the close of the clover flow I found the genuine article in four colonies. At the close of the season I examined all again and found nothing, but the following spring, in fruit bloom, I found slight traces of disease in two colonies. Needless to say, I would likely have rued the matter bitterly if I had washed out the cappings and fed the sweetened water to all the bees. While my other two yards are "above suspicion," yet I wouldn't think of such a thing as feeding them any honey back, the benefits gained being not proportionate to the risks involved.

### Crating Sixty-pound Tins For Shipping

Possibly all dealers prefer to have the 60-pound cans crated. To be sure,

It is not safe to ship liquid honey in any kind of cans unless they are well crated. But for buckwheat honey I certainly would not think of going to the trouble of crating the tins if the honey was granulated when sale was made. The freight is cheaper, of course, on the crated cans, but the difference is not enough to pay for the crating. What buckwheat I had this year, most of it was sent to Montreal. The freight on uncrated cans, first-class, is 50 cents per hundred pounds, and on crated second-class, 44 cents per hundred pounds. That would be 60 cents on the 1,000 in favor of the crated, but 60 cents would not nearly cover the cost of crating the 16 tins necessary to hold the 1,000 pounds of honey.

Speaking of the Montreal market, it is surprising what a difference there is between Toronto and Montreal in the demand for buckwheat honey. I presume at present one could easily dispose of 50,000 pounds of good clover honey in Toronto at a good price, but it would be a puzzler for the writer to sell 500 pounds of buckwheat there at anything near its market value.

#### Closing Entrances of Colonies, Wintering Outdoors.

Taking his cue from Hershiser's idea of confining the bees in the hives while in the cellar, Editor Root has gone a step farther and made a lot of wire-cloth screens to close up entrances on hives left outdoors. The idea, of course, is, that on days too cold for the bees to fly without great numbers of them being lost, the bees enticed out by the warm sun will fly against the walls of the wire cage, and on feeling the cold air will crawl back into the hive and rejoin the cluster again. In theory the thing works out beautifully, and Friend Root, in December 15th Gleanings, waxes quite enthusiastic over results of his experiments with the cages up to that date.

However, in January 1st Gleanings he is not so sanguine, and I should think by his attitude that he is preparing to declare in the near future that the idea does not work out as well in practice as in theory. In commenting on Dr. Miller's remarks on the idea, Mr. Root says: "The more we test these cages for outdoor bees, the more we feel uncertain of their value. I am fearful that they may do more harm than good; but if the bee-keeper could be on hand at the right time, and take them off before the bees know they are confined, and keep them in at other times when they ought not to come out, why, they should do more good than harm." I believe the average bee-keeper will decide that there are too many "ifs" and "buts" in the road to take chances by trying the plan on a very extensive scale the first time. Personally, would much prefer to stand by the well-known plan of leaning boards up over the entrances. This effectually stops the sun from shining into the entrances, and I don't think many bees will be enticed out in unseasonable weather. Of course, if no one happened to be around when a suitable day for a flight came, the boards would be a disadvantage, but not to the extent that the wire cages would be. Have known large yards to be left with the boards in front during a fine warm day and no bad results to follow. Would not, however, recommend any one to take chances in this way; the occurrences mentioned were caused by the owner being unavoidably absent at the time. As to the advantages of having bees confined to the hives while in the cellar, opinions of cellar-winterers seem to vary greatly. While Mr. Hershiser claims to have had good results in using his bottom-board, particularly designed for closing the hives while in the cellar, other bee-keepers unhesi-

tatingly concluding especially the other, as it only fair to can make out, have ever to simply theor Friend Hershinchinson gives in an editoria concluding as bottom-board but I think it vantages will Dear me, but even if I were dare to "sit" on board like that there was no personal contact hiser for at least How to Use th

Just as I am this issue a letter one of Ontario's requesting me to February C. B. J. press. The writer take him about a wax from old steam presses as a half a day with From what Mr. have reported, I estimate of the presses are not fr modulus operandi will as briefly as proceed to melt up I take it for granted is familiar of the Gemmill up no space in d tion of the Gemmill stove in an outdoor kettle outdoors ca weather a warm r the warmer the be the press, a wash

tatingly condemn the plan. Not being especially interested one way or the other, as I winter outdoors, I think it only fair to say that as near as I can make out, none of the "dissenters" have ever tested the plan, and are simply theorizing. This much in Friend Hershiser's favor. Editor Hutchinson gives his views on the subject in an editorial in December Review, concluding as follows: "The Hershiser bottom-board is a harmless invention, but I think it costs more than its advantages will warrant one to pay." Dear me, but W. Z. has nerve! Why, even if I were so disposed, I wouldn't dare to "sit" on the Hershiser bottom-board like that, unless assured that there was no possibility of coming in personal contact with Friend Hershiser for at least a year or more!

#### How to Use the Gemmill Wax-press.

Just as I am concluding "Notes" for this issue a letter is handed me from one of Ontario's well-known apiarists, requesting me to give my method in February C. B. J. of using the Gemmill press. The writer claims that it would take him about a week to get as much wax from old combs with his two steam presses as I am able to get in a half a day with the Gemmill press. From what Mr. Greiner and others have reported, I have an idea that his estimate of the capacities of the two presses are not far out, and while the modus operandi is simplicity itself, I will as briefly as possible tell how I proceed to melt up old combs into wax. I take it for granted that my correspondent is familiar with the construction of the Gemmill press, so shall take up no space in describing the same. Construction of the Gemmill press, so shall take stove in an outbuilding or an iron kettle outdoors can be used. In cold weather a warm room is a necessity, the warmer the better. In addition to the press, a wash-boiler, dipper and

tins for the wax are required. Put the boiler with soft water on the stove, quantity of water to be judged by the amount of comb to be melted. When water is about boiling, commence putting in the broken comb, stirring continually, as heavy, pollen-filled pieces of comb will sometimes stick to the bottom and burn. The quantity of comb that can be dissolved will depend on size of boiler, but it is not wise to fill too full, as there is more danger of the wax boiling over. When all is thoroughly melted, it is best, if possible, to slip the lids of the stove under the boiler, as there is no use in allowing the melted comb to become too hot. A person, however, can avoid this by putting in a dipperful of cold water occasionally, a pail of which should always stand near the stove to be used in case of emergency. I forgot to mention that it is necessary to have a kettle full of boiling water, the use of which will be explained later.

If the press has not been in the house for some time, it will be necessary to warm it thoroughly with hot water before using it, as a cold press would have a tendency to chill the melted comb. Have the press placed as near the stove as possible, remove the follower, place the burlap in the form and proceed to dip the melted comb and water from the boiler into the press. Quite a large quantity of free wax and water will, of course, run off before pressure is applied, but keep on dipping till the form is nearly full, then fold the burlap nicely over the top and place the follower. As to the burlap, it wants to be big enough, yet not too big; a little experience will be better than a page of written instructions as regards telling any one the proper size of burlap to use.

Now apply pressure, very slowly at first, to avoid wax coming up between follower and form, as it will do if pressed out too fast, as the wax can-

not escape fast enough through cleats on sides of form. Keep putting on pressure at intervals until the screw is down about as far as it is possible to make it go, then take off the pressure, lift out the follower, open up the burlap and thoroughly saturate the mass with boiling water from the tea kettle, which has been mentioned before. Now fold back the burlap, place the follower and apply pressure again. The mass of slum gum should not be over three-quarters of an inch thick when the work is completed. To remove the slum gum in the burlap, I have found the quickest way is to lift out the form, follower and slum gum, walk outside, turn the form upside down on a board, and place one of my No. 7's on the mass, dislodging it instantly. Have another piece of burlap ready, so that while you are putting in next batch in the press, your assistant can be shaking the slum gum from piece of burlap No. 1. By so doing much time is gained, and, by the way, when you or your assistant have burned your fingers while handling the mass of slum gum out of the press, you will begin to see how absurd is the claim that the "melted comb is apt to get chilled while in the press." The foregoing is as simply as I can state the methods used when Mrs. Byer and myself extracted 71 pounds of nice wax from old combs in a little over three hours. As to how well the work was done, would say that I run the slum gum from which 83 pounds of wax had been taken on a previous occasion through a steam press and obtained 1½ pounds of wax. Am expecting to try the Hershiser press on about 200 pounds of slum gum on hand in course of a week or so, and shall be glad to report results at my earliest opportunity.

Markham, Ont.

Annual  
Convention

Ontario  
Bee-keepers'  
Association

#### BEE-KEEPING AS AN OCCUPATION FOR WOMEN.

(Paper by Miss M. B. Trevorrow.)

As a rule, to the woman who has had no practical experience with bees, if she thinks of the subject at all, bee-keeping stands for honey, large profits, studies in natural history, and stings, the latter being probably considered the surest and most objectionable adjunct of the business, but a few years acquaintance with the bee-keepers' pets will teach her that stings are but insignificant incidents in the bee-keepers' life, that honey is not always sure, nor profits always large, but the study of the nature and habits of the bee, can be depended upon at all seasons of the year to yield a fund of interest to any woman who engages in this occupation.

The story of my experience with bees is probably my best means of showing what bee-keeping may be as an occupation for women.

I started bee-keeping in 1900 with one colony, for which I had paid \$5. They did not swarm or give any surplus honey during the summer, were weak in the following spring and gradually dwindled away till the hive was empty. I purchased another colony for \$6 in May of 1901. When they swarmed I divided the bees and brood in the old brood chamber putting half into a new hive and alternating each with frames of foundation. From the swarm I received 30 lbs. of surplus honey. For the spring of 1902 I had three colonies, which gave me so little trouble that I thought I could manage a couple more, so I purchased two more strong colonies for \$15. When they started to cast first, second, third and fourth swarms, I began to have some idea of what bee-keeping meant, having double brood chambers on eight-frame Langstroth hives. The swarms were large, and when two swarms issued at the same

time I had end double hives a new ones before turn, the queen heard of 20 swar time in large ya were enough for five colonies gav tracted honey an the end of the colonies and 140 them. I had 30 of 1904, five havi They yielded abo spring of 1905, I the weak ones v strong ones, they honey and increas 1906, the numbers being queenless a go alone. They honey this year a this fall.

As to stings, my experience with stings business. It was w colonies. They see make a record of 2 that season, and v take the honey off interference with th vigor, that I left ran to the house when I got there, "I ing about getting u never be able to sta as this. It is too m did not like to be l bee so I fortified my another attack by and wrists with long succeeded in taking since that time I ha handling my bees, e queens I use gloves v cut off. I know th gloves is not looked the professional bee- it comes to a questio eat, wear gloves.

There are other t with the occupation t agreeable, the stickin uncapping, extracti pouring into cans, w the male bee-keeper t

time I had enough to do to lift the double hives away and replace with new ones before the bees began to return, the queens being clipped. I had heard of 20 swarms issuing at the same time in large yards, but two at a time were enough for me just then. Those five colonies gave me 928 lbs. of extracted honey and increased to 16. At the end of the next season I had 35 colonies and 1400 lbs. of honey from them. I had 30 colonies in the spring of 1904, five having died in the cellar. They yielded about 2,600 lbs. In the spring of 1905, I had 33 colonies when the weak ones were united with the strong ones, they stored 4700 lbs. of honey and increased to 49. Last spring 1906, the numbers decreased to 40, five being queenless and four too weak to go alone. They yielded 1600 lbs. of honey this year and I have 59 colonies this fall.

As to stings, my first serious experience with stings nearly put me out of business. It was when I had only five colonies. They seemed to be trying to make a record of 200 lbs. per colony for that season, and when I attempted to take the honey off, they resented my interference with their plans with such vigor, that I left the hive open and ran to the house saying to the folks when I got there, "There is no use talking about getting used to stings, I will never be able to stand such punishment as this. It is too much for me." But I did not like to be beaten by the little bee so I fortified myself against having another attack by covering my hands and wrists with long, heavy gloves and succeeded in taking the honey off. Ever since that time I have worn gloves in handling my bees, even when clipping queens I use gloves with the finger tips cut off. I know that the wearing of gloves is not looked on with favor by the professional bee-keepers, but when it comes to a question of gloves of defeat, wear gloves.

There are other things connected with the occupation that are not very agreeable, the stickiness of the honey in uncapping, extracting, weighing, and pouring into cans, which has won for the male bee-keeper the title of "Lick

"Thumbs" is one of its mildest miseries, so easily reduced to insignificance by the use of water, as to be scarcely worth mentioning, only, we are treating of bee-keeping as an occupation for women, and she who takes it up is sure to find that this feature certainly belongs to it.

She may expect too, considerable hard work and heavy lifting, for in handling 8 frame Langstroth, one of the smallest hives, there are many 50 lbs. lifts, and if she be incapable of lifting that amount, a woman is likely to be handicapped by her inability to move or carry a full hive or super, or a 60 lb. tin of honey. It is well enough to depend on outside help for big days when carrying in supers of honey for extracting, or in weighing it or in crating for shipment or conveying bees from the yard to their winter quarters, but for the common everyday work of the apiary which requires much muscular exertion, the woman who aims to become an efficient bee-keeper cannot afford to depend too much upon outside help.

Bee-keeping may be looked upon as a healthy occupation for women in comparison with many of the avocations to which she is called, wherein exercise, fresh air and sunshine are denied her. It is true there will be times when the humidity of the air and the intense heat of the sun, aggravated by the exercise she is forced to take, through the excessive activity of the bees subsequent upon these weather conditions, may lead her to exclaim, "Why was I ever born to be melted like this," but these conditions usually last for only a few hours in a day and not very frequently through the season, and there are so many rare, beautiful, days to enjoy during the honey harvest, that one forgets the discomforts of a few hot, damp, wilty hours, in the pleasure of those when air and sun and bees combine to make the bee-keepers' life worth living.

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ness is the melting of old combs. It is hard sticky work to cut wired combs out of the frames and put them into the extractor. It is difficult for a woman, to lift the lid, handle, screw and press off the extractor, without getting upon a chair, even though she be tall and strong, and this has to be done every time the extractor is filled with combs. The heat, steam and odor of hot wax, pollen, etc., make this one of the most objectionable features of bee-keeping, but as house-cleaning with its dust, disorder and discomfort, while in progress, proves such a delight to the house-keeper in its results, so comb-melting amply repays the bee-keeper by the improved sanitary condition of the hives and from what we learn from conversations with experienced bee-keepers, items in bee journals and deductions from papers read at conventions on the subject of healthy, disease-proof colonies, the renewal of clean new foundation in the hive forms a very important factor in insuring healthy conditions in the apiary. The possibility is that if woman with her natural housecleaning proclivities should invade the realm of bee-keeping, this branch of the business would be well attended to and the problem of foul brood solved without any other formula.

There are many things in connection with bee-keeping that a woman can work at with genuine pleasure, take that of opening up a few crates of bee supplies and transforming the neatly-made and precisely-fitted pieces into hive bodies, bottom-boards and covers, frames with top, bottom and sides of white clean wood that fit each other like a charm and fit the hives just as perfectly. Then there are the folding of sections, the wiring of frames and imbedding wire in foundation, etc., all neat, clean, fascinating features of the business.

My advice to the woman who wishes

to take up this work would be to spend a season with an experienced bee-keeper, if she has the opportunity, paying strict attention to every detail of the work. She would gain thereby much knowledge that if won by her own experience would cost her dearly. An instance in point of this, I had been told to put an empty super under a large swarm to give them room to cluster and prevent them from swarming out again. I only grasped the one idea, "Put the super under," and did not note that it should be taken away at a given time, the consequence was that a colony did not make as much honey in the supers and in the fall when I strove to take out what I supposed was an empty hive body, I found a peck or perhaps a half-bushel of troy-ble accumulated there in the shape of combs built towards all the points of the compass, young brood in all stages, hundreds of bees crushed between combs that had fallen when the hive was lifted off and a possibility that the queen was killed in the general mix-up. To have seen this done properly would have saved me time, trouble and expense.

In conclusion, this record shows that a woman may expect the little busy bee to gather honey for her at an average yearly rate of 81 pounds to the colony. That stings may be subject to her will stickiness also; that hard work, heavy lifting, excessive heat and disagreeable odors must be born with fortitude; that careful attention to detail is imperative and that there are many things in bee-keeping that are calculated to make it an attractive and enjoyable and also profitable occupation for women. (Applause.)

The President in opening the discussion on the paper said that he considered the reading of a paper by a lady a most pleasing feature of the meeting, and that, though several

the ladies present to speak or give bee-keeping, he had heard the paper consider their criticism on it.

The ladies, however, anxious to open

The President will be any objection to criticising the paper, and probably things brought out to a better way of

Mr. Hershiser—of criticism, one of the things, and one thing. It is in the spirit of criticism, one would speak regrow's paper.

There are, unfortunately, women who think to take part in a paper. I am glad this paper, it shows what have the ability to have. There was a Buffalo, of my acquaintance, about 100 colonies, rather unfortunately kept working with the living for herself. Her husband lost his sight and he did the work as the bee-keeper.

He grew frail and died and went down until the left of them. We have beekeepers throughout the country, Miss Miller's sister, Miss Miller, never bee-keeper, them quite as thorough as myself. We come occasionally, and I am sure that ladies are taking an occupation. I am sure that ladies if they will attention to it. Of course

the ladies present had been reluctant to speak or give their opinions on bee-keeping, he hoped now that they had heard the paper read they would reconsider their decision and give their criticism on it.

The ladies, however, did not seem anxious to open a discussion.

The President—I do not think there will be any objection to the gentlemen criticising the paper. It is an excellent paper, and probably there may be some things brought out which would point to a better way of keeping bees.

Mr. Hershiser—There are two kinds of criticism, one that points out deficiencies, and one that points out merits. It is in the spirit of the latter that I would speak regarding Miss Trevor-row's paper.

There are, unfortunately, too many women who think they are not suited to take part in a convention like this. I am glad this paper has been presented here, it shows what may be accomplished. There are a great many who have the ability who do not think they have. There was a lady bee-keeper in Buffalo, of my acquaintance, who had about 100 colonies. Her family was rather unfortunately situated, and she kept working with these bees and made a living for herself and family. Her husband lost his sight. Before he went blind he did the heavy work, and she was the bee-keeper. After a time she grew frail and died and the bees gradually went down until there was nothing left of them. We have many lady bee-keepers throughout the country. Dr. Miller's sister, Miss Wilson, is quite a clever bee-keeper, she understands them quite as thoroughly as Dr. Miller himself. We come across others occasionally, and I am very glad to see that ladies are taking bee-keeping up as an occupation. Here is one open ladies if they will but turn their attention to it. Of course, the lifting part

of it is an objection to their working with it, but if they will look around they will find help and let an inexperienced person do the heavy work.

Mr. Dickenson—I would recommend the lady to employ some help in the lifting. I think ladies can show excellent management in the way of keeping bees, but the problem of lifting hives is a difficult one; it would be well to have that overcome by employing some help. They would find it money well invested to pay a good price to get suitable help. I myself have tried as much as possible to keep away from hard work. Hearing such a paper read I consider the lady that could write such a paper quite capable of managing a yard.

Mr. Byer—I think that is one of the best papers I have ever heard read at our convention, and I hope we shall have more ladies on the programme next year; there is nothing in that paper to be criticized. As regards this matter of lifting, I have one of the best of helpers, but not to do the heavy work. I do that myself. Ladies can get someone for the heavy work just as I get someone for the lighter work.

Mr. Deadman—Speaking about heavy lifting, I think this can be avoided by using a proper hive. Also, if you use a small wagon instead of a wheelbarrow you will save yourself a lot. By forethought the lifting can be easily avoided.

Mr. Craig—I am very glad indeed that the executive placed this paper on the programme. We have hitherto, as an association, very much overlooked the ladies' part in our work. We know the excellent help afforded by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Scott and others, and I consider they are well worthy having a representative place on our programme.

Mr. Timbers—This point of bee-keeping for women is, in my opinion, an important one. I always make a

point of reading the bee paper to my wife, and she says what I read will do in theory, but not in practice. I shall certainly read this report to her. I think when she sees what this lady has accomplished in bee-keeping, she will consent to become a bee-keeper herself.

Mr. Hershiser—As to heavy lifting, I like heavy lifting. When I go round and have to lift the hives to find out how much they weigh, if there is enough for winter I feel pretty highly exhilarated over the situation.

Mr. Roach—I think we should cultivate the idea of ladies going in for bee-keeping. The ones who help me often draw my attention to mistakes in the yard. If they cannot do the heavy work, they can do the light work, and it is very important that we should have their help. I have had two and found in both cases that they gave me most efficient help. I should have missed colonies but for their observation.

Mr. Holmes—I think, sir, from the evident interest that has been taken in this subject, that it is certainly a very pleasing matter that this paper has been presented. It is very beneficial and far-reaching in its results, as it will come out in the public press, and will be published in our annual report, and I therefore hope that the results will be an ambition created in the minds of the ladies in this land, if not only to manage bees, but to perhaps manage the bee-keepers a little better. This is a most excellent paper and has indeed been a pleasure to me.

Mr. Taylor—It is one of the most interesting papers I have heard for a long time. It seems to me that bee-keeping is practically in its infancy. We have a field open for ladies in the light work, and it opens up a greater area for our bee-keeping than ever. This paper is most interesting to all

present, and I am very much pleased to hear such a chorus of approval. The young lady is well worthy of filling the position she has undertaken. She deserves a great deal of congratulation for having broken the ice.

Mr. Couse—It was my pleasing duty to write Miss Trevorrow, inviting her to write a paper. I wrote her that the committee would like her to do so. She replied that she did not consider herself capable. I told her the responsibility would be mine and the committee's; that we would take all blame. Now, the committee is ready to take the blame.

#### QUESTION DRAWER ON RETAILING HONEY.

(John Timbers.)

Q.—How would sugar barrels do for candied buckwheat honey,

A.—If they will hold the buckwheat honey until it is candied I think they would be all right.

Q.—How can I get 10c per pound every year for my extracted honey?

A.—Put nothing upon the market but first-class quality, and in good shape, and get your customers to depend on you from year to year.

Q.—Is it advisable to sell buckwheat honey to customers used to clover honey, even if difference in quality explained to them?

A.—I would never offer buckwheat honey to a customer unless he asks for it. If they ask for it, yes, but I would not offer it. Some customers require buckwheat honey, and provide it for their own table, whilst others prefer the white honey. I am retailing buckwheat honey at 9c and other at 11c.

Mr. Hershiser—I would like to see Mr. Timbers if he considers buckwheat honey as good as the white honey.

Mr. Holtermann—He is perhaps afraid if the fellow tried buckwheat

honey he would like the white honey.

Mr. Hershiser—Good?

A.—It is a matter

Mr. Hershiser—comes to you and

wheat honey, why at the same price.

The bee-keeper has that buckwheat honey

good and therefore at a good deal

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higher price?

Mr. Byer—I had a change in the clover

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one so already. I have used several that

of buckwheat honey would knock out the

honey, and I do not think it advisable to sell

balls down the market.

Mr. Roach—There being accustomed to

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wheat honey around the last two years

large stock of it, and now I like it more

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come and ask for buckwheat, and when I

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Mr. Holtermann—They handled 30,000 pounds

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ON RETAIL Mr. Byer—I had this year a short  
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used to clover wheat honey around my place at all,  
e in quality at the last two years we have had a  
ffer buckwheat large stock of it, and I began to use  
nless he ask and now I like it much better than I  
it, yes, but thought I ever could. Customers will  
ome custom- me and ask for basswood or clover  
ey, and pre- honey, and when I say I have only  
, whilst oth- buckwheat, they take it, and then they  
I am retu- at to like it and come back for more.  
at 9c and am sure if buckwheat honey was  
ed more frequently it would be  
ed as well as clover honey.

Mr. Holtermann—This year I have  
ould like to handled 30,000 pounds of buckwheat  
onsiders buck- honey. Last year I handed more. It  
as the w- very important that buckwheat  
ey should be well ripened. The  
e is per- ference in flavor between green and  
ried buckw- well-ripened buckwheat is more mark-

ed than between green and well-ripen-  
ed clover honey. You can go to many  
places where buckwheat honey is pro-  
duced, and it is preferred there to  
white honey. I am not saying it is  
superior. It stands on its own merits.  
It is expected and liked in a great  
many places, and the more it is used  
the more it is liked, and for that rea-  
son I see no objection to offering buck-  
wheat honey to a person who may  
ask for white, if you have not got  
white. It may not be advisable to load  
them up with it, but I would advise  
them to buy a small quantity to test it.

Mr. Timbers—With regard to what  
Mr. Hershiser said about charging the  
same price for buckwheat as for the  
other, I would not like to give the  
same price for buckwheat honey, and  
would not have cheek enough to charge  
it.

Mr. Hershiser—Just because it has  
become customary to sell it for less,  
and of course we have to do as the  
others do.

Mr. Pettit—In this matter of buck-  
wheat honey, I find if the honey is well  
granulated it is much more palatable.  
When well ripened it is superior and  
can be used as table honey. I like the  
buckwheat honey as well as the white.

Mr. A. Laing—I think Mr. Hershiser  
has made a good point in speaking of  
the price of buckwheat honey. I think  
it would be a very good idea to raise  
the price. Personally, I am fond of  
clover honey, and I do not know that  
I am particularly fond of buckwheat  
honey, but suppose I was just as fond  
of it as I am of clover, why not pay  
the same price as for the clover honey?

Mr. Holtermann—It is a question of  
market values.

Mr. Laing—Of course it is. I think  
it would be a good idea to raise the  
price if we can. It is worth every  
cent as much as clover honey to those  
who like it.

(Continued Next Month.)

# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-keepers

Published Monthly by

Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Ltd  
Brantford - - - Canada

Editor, W. J. Craig.

February, 1907.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Eight extra pages again this issue.



Brant and adjoining Counties' convention held in Brantford January 29th to 31st, was the most valuable that has yet been held in connection with these Counties, and closed with many expressions of appreciation on all sides. Mr. James H. Shaver, President of the Brant County Association, opened the convention by an address of welcome to the visitors. There was a good attendance of local bee-keepers, and quite a number from other parts of the Province. From the United States we were favored by the presence of Mr. E. R. Root, editor of "Gleanings in Bee Culture," Medina, Ohio.; Mr. S. D. House, Camillus, N.Y.; Mr. W. L. Cogshall, Groton, N.Y.; and Mr. O. L. Hershiser, Buffalo, N.Y. Our American friends entered heartily into the spirit of the meeting, and added much to its interest and profit. Mr. House's address on building up colonies for the honey flow was especially valuable, a verbatim report of which will appear in these pages.

In the discussion of "Hints for present use in wintering repository," feeding sugar syrup was recommended as a remedy for dysentery, caused by honey dew or other inferior stores. The syrup, two parts sugar to one part water, to be fed by placing it in sealers, the openings covered with a piece of muslin on the top of the frames. This system of feeding was

also recommended in cases of short ages of stores; soft or Devonshire candy was found to work satisfactorily in shortages.



A resolution was passed at the Brant and adjoining Counties' meeting requesting the officers of the National Bee-keepers' Asso. of the United States to hold their next annual convention in Detroit, that city being on the frontier, it was believed that a great many Canadian bee-keepers would attend.



It has been our desire for some time to meet the wishes of quite a number who are beginners in bee-keeping by introducing a beginners' department. The Canadian Bee Journal, and we are now pleased to announce that we have been able to arrange with one of our best Canadian bee-keepers, Mr. E. Friend Hand, of Fenelon Falls, to take charge of the work. Friend Hand is not altogether a stranger to our columns, and will be welcomed as a regular contributor. He has a bright, racy way of placing things before his readers and we have no doubt but that the Beginners' Pages will be read with interest by all. Letters and questions from beginners will be in order, and will be answered as fully as space permit. Our idea is to assist the beginner who has little or no practical knowledge of bee-keeping and to write the general topics and discussions in the Bee Journals are comparatively unintelligible. Our advanced readers will not mind our devoting a page or two for this purpose monthly, and bear with our saying some things perhaps they have learned ten, fifteen or twenty years ago, but which will still be of interest, and value to the novice in bee-keeping. There will be no necessity always be beginners if you will have the "fully-fledged" beekeepers, and it means a great deal towards the success of anyone entering this or any other business to get started intelligently and on the right

Director Brown, been appointed M of Refuge at L' are pleased to lea his position Frier

ention of giving purposes running connection with tl will be rather a n have no doubt but bly. We congrat and Russell Count appointment, and v

Brown will fill the and well. The follo Prescott and Russe the friendly asso Brown family had f

"Before leaving I had to take charge of the refuge here, Mr. Bress and a well-known family, on behalf of you and Mrs. I will not forget your call from you once our esteem towards

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Director Brown, of the O.B.K.A., has been appointed Manager of the House of Refuge at L'Orignal, Ontario. We are pleased to learn that in accepting this position Friend Brown has no intention of giving up bee-keeping, but for purposes running a large apiary in connection with the institution. This will be rather a new feature, and we have no doubt but it will work admirably. We congratulate the Prescott and Russell County Council in their appointment, and we are sure that Mr. Brown will fill the position faithfully and well. The following item from the Prescott and Russell Review indicates the friendly associations that the Brown family had formed around their old home:

"Before leaving his old home in hard to take charge of the House of Refuge here, Mr. Brown's friends took occasion to present him with an address and a well-filled purse. Mr. Emery Houle, on behalf of the gathering, read the following address:

To W. J. Brown, Esq.:  
 "On behalf of your many friends here, we take this opportunity of calling on you in order to show our appreciation of the many kindly services rendered by you to us all, both in private and public life, and while we regret very much your departure from among us, we cannot but join in wishing you and Mrs. Brown, and your family, many years to enjoy the duties of your new office. Hoping that you will not forget your old friends here, and that we may have the pleasure of calling from you once in a while, you will please accept this gift as a token of our esteem towards you.

"On behalf of your friends,  
 "EMERY HOULE."

†  
 An explanation of the lateness of this issue, our readers will regret to learn that a serious fire occurred in the bee-keepers' department of the Goold, Shapley & Muir Company on the morning of February 11th, which, besides the loss effected, has upset their plans and purposes very considerably. Owing to the injury done to the wood-

working part of their building and plant, delays would naturally occur, which might seriously inconvenience their customers and agencies who are depending upon them for the season's supplies, and as a number of large orders are already on hand, requiring immediate attention, it was decided on the part of the company to negotiate with some reliable Canadian firm, fully equipped with wood-working machinery, for the manufacture of these goods. In consequence of this, a sale has been consummated to the Ham & Nott Company of this city, who are extensive manufacturers in the wood lines, and who have large connections throughout the country; all the Goold, Shapley & Muir Company's interests in the bee-keepers' supply business, together with the Canadian Bee Journal. The new company will issue their circular to bee-keepers, with catalog and price list, within the next few days, and operations will be commenced at once.

We can heartily recommend our successors, Messrs. Ham & Nott Company, to the bee-keepers of Canada, as business men of fidelity and enterprise, and who will no doubt make a success of this business, as they have of other lines. We desire to thank our bee-keeping friends for their patronage and confidence during these many years that we have been doing business with them, and we wish them every prosperity as the outlook for the industry increases and brightens in the Dominion.

†

We would draw special attention to the enclosed circular from the Secretary of the Ontario Bee-keepers' Association. It will be of interest to subscribers who are not yet members of the Association, as well as to bee-keepers who are receiving this number as a specimen copy. We would rejoice to see the Ontario Association double its membership before the end of the year, and an effort is being made in that direction.

The Department of Agriculture is taking an interest never heretofore shown in the bee-keeping industry, and have declared their readiness to help in any way that will be for its advancement. This, of course, must be done through organized bee-keeping. Let us all help.

### Brant and Adjoining Counties Bee-keepers' Convention

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 9 a.m.: "Labor-saving Methods and Appliances," discussion to be opened by Mr. F. J. Miller, London; Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, in the chair.

Mr. Smith—As the time is past for the opening of the session, and as Mr. Cogshall is not here, I think we might go on with our business. The first item on the programme for discussion is "Labor-saving Methods," etc., by Mr. F. J. Miller, but as Mr. Miller has not yet arrived, and we expect him very soon, probably it might be as well to go on with the questions. Is there any subject you might like to take up? I have one question here that might be considered while some of us are thinking about a subject.

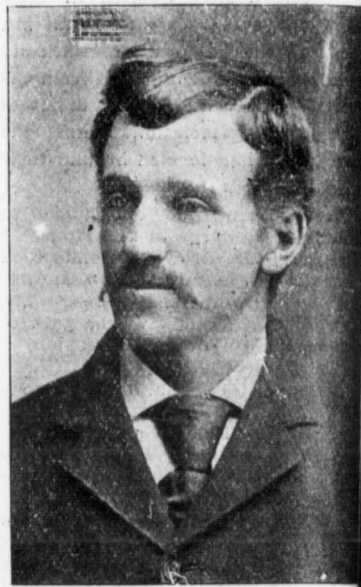
Q.—Which is the most profitable for beginners—to manage for extracted or comb honey?

Mr. S. D. House, Camillus, N.Y.—I would say extracted honey for beginners.

Mr. O. L. Hershiser, Buffalo, N.Y.—It is quite a difficult question to answer to the satisfaction of every beginner, and to the satisfaction of the experienced bee-keepers as well, looking at it from the standpoint of a beginner. I think for a beginner with two or three colonies that the comb honey production would probably be the best and simplest. He has everything brought to his hand. When he purchases the hive he probably has it all fitted up for comb honey, even to putting foundation in the sections, and when the honey is ready he can take it off and prepare it for market as best he can. But with the extracted, if he is a real beginner, and a beginner with

only a few colonies, he has got a lot of expensive machinery to obtain. I think there is a great deal more to learn about the production of extracted honey of an ordinary character than there is in connection with the ordinary run of comb.

Mr. Holtermann—Mr. President, I have had a good many years' experience in connection with the supply



JAS. H. SHAVER, Cainsville,  
President Brant Co. B. K. A.

business, and I know how the beginner usually starts. In producing comb honey he can, of course, start for money—I quite agree with that explanation—but when it comes to saying that it takes less experience to produce comb honey than extracted of suitable quality, I do not see it in that way. I have actually seen a man who produces the supers the wrong way up on a stand and I have seen them turn the sections inside out, and then they found that the super was not the right size.

I have known that honey supers were put on to put them on was over. If a produce good comb more serious mistakes were made, extracted, because it is for the extracted, he may still be a fair article in the but if they put so is not a section of this stuff is put on who produces it is the man who hard money. Mr. Hershiser the danger in producing not being produced is a tendency to be honest, I think that who has a few stocks do that than one will As a rule, the market few stocks of bees a great deal longer on who is a specialist. In this market three sold for 25 cents, I have also and I know who is making any Answer—The super Mr. Holtermann—

Mr. J. L. Byer, Ma experience, for years been putting honey which I conscientiously ripe, and a good from the large production smaller bee-keepers, time to attend to the left on. Do not let this upon the little is the large production is guilty.

Mr. House—I have been produce comb honey number of years, and

has got a lot to obtain. I deal more to on of extracted character than with the ordin-  
President, 2 years' exper- th the supply



Cainsville, B. K. A.

ow the beginn producing com e, start for le with that e comes to s experience an extracte ot see it in t seen a man ay up on a b arn the secte hey found t right size.

I have known them to put on comb honey supers without foundation and to put them on after the honey flow was over. If a man is going to produce good comb honey, he can make more serious mistakes than in the extracted, because if he puts the super on for the extracted, if they do not fill it, he may still be able to produce a very fair article in the way of extracted, but if they put sections on, and there is not a section that is filled, when this stuff is put on the market the man who produces it is losing money, and the man who handles it generally loses money. Mr. Hershiser also speaks of the danger in producing extracted of its not being properly ripened. There is a tendency to that, but, to be quite honest, I think that as a rule the man who has a few stocks is less liable to do that than one who has a good many. As a rule, the man who keeps but a few stocks of bees leaves the honey a great deal longer on the hives than one who is a specialist. I have seen upon this market three sections of honey sold for 25 cents, and I guess others have also and I would like to know who is making any money out of them.  
Answer—The supply dealer.

Mr. Holtermann—I don't know about that.

Mr. J. L. Byer, Markham—In my experience, for years bee-keepers have been putting honey on the market which I conscientiously believe to be unripe, and a good deal of it comes from the large producers. With the smaller bee-keepers, through lack of time to attend to these duties, it is left on. Do not let us try to shelve this upon the little fellow. I believe it is the large producers who are generally guilty.

Mr. House—I have been learning how to produce comb honey for quite a number of years, and I have not yet

made it an entire success. I believe the beginner can produce comb honey, but, at the same time, the man who folds the sections wrongside and puts the supers on the wrong way, I would not have much faith in his extracted honey, or the way he would put it on the market.

Mr. Hershiser—I have no personal feeling about this matter as to whether beginners should produce comb or extracted honey. It is more a matter



CHRIS. EDMONSON,  
Vice-President Brant Co. B. K. A.

for discussion than anything else, and I feel that it is necessary to take one side or the other. I know there is a great deal for beginners to learn about the handling of extracted. I will just mention a little incident to illustrate. I have kept bees quite a long time, and the party who owned the land where my bees are located also kept a few colonies and produced a little honey.

I was not at all responsible for the way they did it, but one day the man's wife was telling me about her experience in liquifying. She had perhaps 200 pounds, and she said she had taken a great deal of pains in liquifying this honey to get it nice, but it always got dark, and it seemed strange to her, as she heated it up strong and took it off the stove as quickly as possible.

Mr. Holtermann—There are just as many mistakes made about comb honey. Go to some of the stores and see the honey, the sections covered with propolis inside and out, and they will be as likely to store them in the cellar as anywhere else. Of course, there is two sides to that question.

The Chairman—From what I have seen I would say that a beginner would be better to start with section honey. There is not much difference in quantity, and he will certainly get a much better price for the section.

Mr. C. Edmonson—I think a man starting with ordinary intelligence had better start with comb honey. I do not mean the dullard Mr. Holtermann speaks of, who put the supers upside down, of course he would make a failure of anything, but with ordinary intelligence a man had better start with comb. I have seen extracted honey put on this market which may have been thick enough, but the color was not very good.

Mr. Holtermann—Haven't you seen sections like that, too?

Mr. J. H. Shaver—As a rule, you take a beginner with a new extractor, and he is extracting every day. I would advise any beginner to start with comb honey. They just "monkey" with the extractor all the time.

Mr. Arnold—I used to extract every day to save the trouble of uncapping.

Mr. House—I cannot agree with that. It takes more time and experience to produce comb honey than extracted.

That is all there is to it, for with the extracted you can leave it until it is full, but with the comb the swarm will abscond.

Mr. L. Beaupre, Simcoe—I think a beginner wants increase, and he cannot get it as well with extracted honey.

Mr. W. A. Chrysler, Chatham—They want experience, and there is where they get it.

Mr. Holtermann—That is what they will get with comb honey as a rule. They put the sections in the supers with small starters, and they get a lot of bees and very little honey. If you ask them how they are getting along, they say: "Oh, fine." "Have you had any swarms yet?" "Why, I have had several already. I have had three or four swarms from the one hive." But when you ask how much honey they have got, you find they have not got very much honey. One might suppose that they intend to eat the bees instead of the honey. Unless you have been in the supply business, you have no idea of what goes on.

Mr. Hershiser—I think it would be a good idea to put this to vote, and in view of Mr. Holtermann's experience he can have three votes.

The Chairman—Those in favor of beginners running for extracted honey please signify.

Mr. Hershiser—The vote is pretty well divided.

Mr. Holtermann—I have a resolution which I think will be heartily endorsed by those present. It is in connection with the question we have just been discussing. It is this: That we, as bee-keepers, knowing something of the care and attention necessary, while we would encourage men to go into the bee-keeping business with adequate knowledge and a proper understanding, and willing to devote a certain amount of time to it, it is our opinion it is not well for people to go

into the bee-keeping business prepared to go into it calling the swarms and experience and experience lines, in order

Mr. Hershiser—So, I would see

The Chairman—I heard the motion

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Mr. Byer—Pe

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into the bee-keeping unless they are prepared to give that branch of their calling the same time, thought, labor and experience that they do to other lines, in order to succeed in them.

Mr. Hershiser—Is that a motion? If so, I would second it.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Perhaps Mr. Holtermann will write it out.

Mr. Byer—Personally, on the spur of the moment, I cannot see that it would do any great amount of good. As a rule, when people look into any industry, if there are some restrictions about it they begin to get suspicious, and think we are trying to discourage their going into it. I think it is a question whether it would have any influence.

Mr. House—I think that point is well taken. There seems to be an idea that there is a great deal of money made at the business. Get a colony of bees and get rich quick. That is where people are misled and they undertake something they are not qualified to do, and unless they are qualified they had better keep out.

Mr. Chrysler—I have had a chance to see some of the results of people going into bee-keeping, being in the supply business for quite a number of years, and I will say that there are nine failures to every one success.

Mr. Simmons—I have a good many people come to me wanting to buy bees, and when I discourage them they go to some one else and he sells them the bees, and I don't, every time; but these people are pretty nearly every one of them out of it now.

Mr. Laing—I think Mr. Holtermann's resolution is a very good one indeed, and the probability is it will be the means of good instead of injury. People want to find out something in connection with the bee business. Mr. Holtermann has yards standing all over the country, and people come to

the conclusion that he is making money, and they think if he can make money so can they, and they don't know anything about it. They only see one side of it. In order to make a success of bee-keeping one has to understand the business, but a whole lot of people don't seem to credit that until they get four or five hives of bees, and then they begin to find it out. It is better for us to see that they find it out sooner.

Mr. Hershiser—I think this resolution probably will be a good indication of our feelings toward our friends who might contemplate taking up the business, but it is my belief if I were to advise any of these gentlemen here, if they were new beginners, and I to tell them what a precarious business it is and that they were not likely to succeed, they would say that I did not know them as well as they did themselves, and they were going to try it anyway.

Mr. Holtermann—This is the motion: "That we, as bee-keepers, would give all encouragement to men to enter the bee-keeping business; but in our estimation it is not well to engage in such unless the parties going into it are prepared to give it the same study, care and attention that they would to other branches of agriculture in order to succeed."

The Chairman—I think every one will be in favor of this resolution. It is really an important thing. What is your pleasure?

The motion carried.

The Chairman—We have a paper by Mr. Miller of London on "Labor-saving Methods and Appliances." Mr. Miller will probably be ready now.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: Being at a loss to know where to start my few remarks, I may say that I am probably what might be called a "crank," on short cut methods, having

studied them and fitted in ideas from various systems, until they are now saving me the expense of a man's help during the busy working season. First, the Heddon hive gives me many short cuts in work all through the season, commencing with queen clipping, the queens are smoked to the queen excluder, and there caught without the trouble of removing frames. As swarming time approaches, a hive-lifting device enables me to diagnose and suppress swarming perfectly, and thus through each stage of the work short cuts follow. During the time of extracting there is no brushing of combs tolerated, the supers are set on end beside the hive and after setting off a certain number they are placed on a large special wheel-barrow with a 30 inch wheel and taken to the house; from here they are loaded and drawn home from the out yards where the extracting is done with a two-horse power, verticle, gasoline engine, and the honey allowed to run to barrels in the cellar. In packing the bees for the winter another specially constructed barrow, together with two three-bushel baskets, and a very large short-handled fork, enables me to pack as many colonies as two men formerly did.

Now a word for my ready helper who smokes, this is a sturdy little fellow, with a copper fire box,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in., and a lung capacity of  $8\frac{1}{2}$  by  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The cap is hinged on the left side and to prevent it from flying open under any and all circumstances while in use, it is held securely by a short piece of chain composed of very short links, one end being riveted to the cap while the other end is drawn down and into a groove, filed in a piece of galvanized iron, which is bent at right angles and riveted to the barrel, this gives an expansive fastening, thus allowing for coking, which takes place at the edges, and yet gives a secure fastening. An-

other very useful feature which prevents the grass from falling out of the cap and upon the fire, is a piece of metal bent at right angles and riveted just above the lower edge on the inside of cap projecting in one half-inch this effectually holds the grass where it is placed and prevents the necessity of frequently refilling. (Applause.)

Mr. Smith—You have heard Mr. Miller's paper. There are several new things in it with which we are not very much acquainted. Probably some of you would like to ask some questions.

Mr. Hershiser—I would like to ask how he prevents swarming.

Mr. Miller—That is the Heddon hive. The back of the hive can be lifted and a diagnosis made of the condition of the hive and if there are cells and they are preparing to swarm it shows. I take the super off, and take the top section of the brood chamber and set it upon bottom board beside the old stand, the super is then replaced on the section of the brood chamber on the old stand. In four days you can tell where the queen is. Nine out of ten times she is in the hive by the side and if she is there, swarming is controlled.

Mr. Chrysler.—Mr Miller has explained that he does not totally control the swarming. I think Mr. Miller is on the right track in the way of large crops of honey with the least amount of work. I practiced two years ago what is practically his method of securing a crop of honey and I think it is just the thing, but I want to know a little more about it than I do at present.

Mr. Miller—New introductions must be studied. Certainly I have not given all the details—it would take some time and it would be impossible to give them all. But this study of conditions will all come if you give it the attention and follow them out, and success lies with the Heddon hive as I have been practising for the last eight years.

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About two years ago I devised my appliances for saving lifting and now it is no work whatever to know just the condition of every hive in the yard. As to controlling swarming, on returning to the yard in four days after we diagnose the entrance of the new hive and will look to see if the queen is there. If not we must make a change. If she is on the old stand we must change back, but if the queen is in the hive by the side all is right. If you miss there is no harm done for four days.

Mr. Cogshall—Could not this be done with an 8-frame hive. It seems to me that these hives are too small.

Mr. Miller—Not at all. They have ten frames and I would not want less than that. Each of these compartments have the capacity of five Langstroth frames.

Mr. Byer—In case of the queen being left on the old stand and no cells would there be any danger of swarming taking place. I didn't just catch that point.

Mr. Miller—The queens wings are clipped. The bees may swarm but they will come back.

Mr. Holtermann—I want to ask Mr. Miller a question. There are a good many who are not prepared to tell anything about the Heddon hive, but is not the divided brood chamber a convenient place for queen cells. Don't you always find cells started there, if anywhere?

Mr. Miller—I never have known a colony to swarm when I saw these cells. You may overlook the cells but they are there between the frames. It is just a matter of searching.

Mr. Holtermann—You make a convenient place for cells and the advantage is, you have only to look in that place to find them.

Mr. Hershiser—I should think in this divisible brood chamber that the very best place for queen cells would be on the frame bottom bars of the upper case, but I have noticed that queen cells will be built along the end bar of

the Langstroth frames and along the margin between the end board and the comb on the inside.

Mr. Miller—I have wider end bars than the Langstroth.

Mr. Hershiser—There is another point on that paper of Mr. Miller's in reference to drawing honey home to extract. I would like to hear a little further on that. The combs would jar I should think.

Mr. House—In drawing extracted honey combs 18 miles and in self-spacing frames, I pay no attention to them I move them right on the wagon but take pains to see that the frames are crosswise of the wagon and you would not get a quarter of a pound of honey in the bottom of my wagon.

Mr. Chrysler—I would like to ask how Mr. Miller considers the half-depth super better than the 8-frame L. super for extracting. Do you manage to take the honey off quicker and get it out with less labor than with the deep L. frames.

Mr. Miller—I think with a narrow comb your knife removes the cappings so much quicker. I sometimes read of these fellows who have to work down with their knife to get the propolis off.

Mr. Byer—I can extract a good deal more honey with the deep frames than with the shallow, at least I think I can.

Mr. Holtermann—If you want evenly capped and uniform combs you must put on a super in proportion to the bees and the flow. If you give them a large amount of room and they cannot use it you will get more of the bulgy combs there.

Mr. Miller—In regard to what Mr. Holtermann says, in our case we have no bulgy combs. When the combs come back from extracting if you have a narrow comb where it has not been filled out and it is not even and straight, the next time you extract you will get

a comb there just the same as the rest, the bees will draw it out.

Mr. Chrysler—I have been thinking this matter over for quite a while, wanting to find the best way of doing things and I cannot come to any other conclusion than that the man who is not using the shallow supers is behind the times. The man with the 8-frame 10 or 12-frame Langstroth cannot take the quantity that a man with the shallow supers can.

Mr. Hershiser—I have not used a brush for three or four years. I don't use one any more. I have not even brought it out of the house for years as it is not necessary. If you shake the frames right that a man with the shallow supers can.

Mr. Holtermann—I have been hearing Mr. Miller year after year upon this subject of the Heddon hive and have also visited him, and you know sometimes when a person has typhoid fever and you go into the room you are apt to catch the disease. I will confess that Mr. Miller has put down good solid arguments to some of us people here and I would not want to say that if I were to start over again, that as a brood chamber I might not adopt the Heddon hive. I tried it when I did not know how to use it and I condemned it. It has quite a few advantages. I am not going to say with Mr. Chrysler that the man who does not use the shallow super is behind the times. I have the Langstroth 12-frame. This matter does not affect the size of the hive. It is the principle upon which it is worked. In the matter of queen cells, I have found this, that by taking the Langstroth frame and making a cut in the side sloping downward, and putting a narrow top bar in there, that the bees will build queen cells in this place, and Mr. Miller has certainly a very decided advantage in that respect. The first hive I ever saw rather amused

me. I had been working on one to raise my extracting supers, when I happened to visit Mr. Miller. Just before I left he said to me: "I have got another convenient little thing here, but do not suppose you are interested," and here he had a contrivance along the same line as I had been thinking. I got something made a little different, and I find it does the work satisfactorily. Mr. Miller has certainly some excellent methods. As far as hauling home the combs is concerned, he has yet to convince me that this is an advantage, on account of the honey cooling, but one may be so situated that it is best.

Mr. Byer—I think the Heddon hives would be a nuisance if one had to look for foul brood.

Mr. Miller—I think you are all referring to hives which have not been properly made. If I had to use it as it was first placed in my hands I would certainly condemn it to-day, but when it is properly made there is no trouble.

Mr. Holtermann—Don't you think a beginner might make more mistakes with the Heddon hive than with some of the others.

Mr. Miller—A man must decide that for himself. One can make mistakes with anything. You want to be thorough.

Mr. Arnold—How do you wire foundation?

Mr. Miller—I bridge it. Run from the lower corners to the upper at right angles, then slip in a piece of No. 14 wire, cut the exact length, and sprung in there. It makes a most perfect support.

Mr. House—I am using the same depth frame that you are and for 12 years I have been using ordinary section foundation in my brood chamber with one single wire, but the wire does very little good to the foundation.

Mr. Cogshall—I notice you do not

the trouble is the end bar

Mr. Holter great many hold of the s

The Chairn questions you subject. I ha ested in the says you war at the start; made as I ha

There was time ago about chewan and A could tell us s he is sending

Mr. Craig— trade is incre erally. The c keeper in the ing out west in has charge of t department in tended to forw that question by Mr. Smith. about western b here, as he ha out there.

Mr. Smith—I ing some live s 24 years ago, a take a colony of would do. Of open prairie, and the wind w bees had quite until we moved t cation, and then did pretty well, of sections filled, the Fair in Bra Saskatchewan, of of it is open prai from what I have very few localities properly kept, for

~~It is~~ the top bars breaking off. The trouble is that in manufacturing frames the end bar is not heavy enough.

Mr. Holtermann—I used to break a great many top bars, but now I catch hold of the side bars as well and shake.

The Chairman—Are there any further questions you would like to ask on this subject. I have been very much interested in the discussion. As Mr. Miller says you want to get these hives right at the start; you do not want them made as I have seen them.

There was a question asked some time ago about bee-keeping in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Perhaps Mr. Craig could tell us something of the supplies he is sending there.

Mr. Craig—Of course, the supply trade is increasing in the West generally. The question is from a bee-keeper in the North, who intended going out west in the spring. Mr. Smith has charge of the Question and Answer department in The Journal, and I intended to forward it to him; possibly that question may be answered now by Mr. Smith. I think he knows more about western bee-keeping than anyone here, as he has had some experience out there.

Mr. Smith—I might say we were taking some live stock to Saskatchewan 24 years ago, and I thought I would take a colony of bees and see what they would do. Of course, it was on the open prairie, and in the month of May, and the wind was so strong that the bees had quite a struggle sometimes until we moved them to a sheltered location, and then they settled down and did pretty well, in fact I got a super of sections filled, which we exhibited at the Fair in Brandon. In regard to Saskatchewan, of course, a great deal of it is open prairie, and I would think from what I have seen that there were very few localities where bees could be properly kept, for every acre goes into

wheat and there is nothing in the wheat field unless it is weeds. I had a letter from Mr. Bowling, of Edmonton, late of Stratford; he was at our meeting last year, and from what I can learn the season out there was much the same as here. He speaks of sending a sample of honey which they put up this year, but says there was a large percentage of honey-dew. It looks as if conditions were much the same as here. Of course, there are a number of bee-keepers in Manitoba and in some localities there there is more or less white clover. They don't grow clover there as we do in Ontario. There is no red, whatever, though a few people sow the white. I fancy North Albert would be the best district.

Mr. Holtermann—When you go further west they come more or less under the influence of the Chinook winds. Manitoba can grow clover successfully. When you go to the northern part of our province clover is a much surer thing than it is here. If you go into a country where the snow lies all winter, no matter where it is, it is going to be a more favorable section for clover than where the snow only covers the ground now and then. I am sure there are 300 bee-keepers in Manitoba at present. Then the C. P. R. are irrigating one and a half million acres of land near the Rockies. I don't know how it will be, but have no doubt they will grow alfalfa there, and if they do I fancy conditions will be similar to what they are in Colorado.

Mr. Smith—I might say from the samples of honey I have seen that came from there, that they would not compare very favorably with our honey.

The Chairman—Our next question is, "If extracting is to be done to reduce swarming, what state should the super combs be in before extracting?"

Mr. Cogshall—I should say in New York State. (Laughter.)

Mr. Hershiser—I would like to say

that nothing can be done in this way to discourage swarming without detracting from the value of the honey. As I understand the question, you are going to discourage swarming by extracting, and if this is to be done before the combs are capped, I would say, do nothing in the way of extracting to discourage swarming that would injure the product. I would suggest that the colonies in a fair-sized apiary are not always of equal strength, and if some of the colonies have the brood pretty well hatched, and you do not want to extract before ripe, and want to discourage swarming, remove half the combs and place on the weaker colonies and put empty combs in their places. Then by the time your combs are well filled these will be capped, and they can be taken out ready to extract.

Mr. Cogshall—If there is any drone comb in the hives, that will increase the tendency to swarm.

Mr. Edmondson—With the larger hives there is less tendency to swarm.

Mr. Holtermann—There is a nice principle there. You will see the beauty of the laws which govern it. In the honey-flow season I often think I have much more honey than I have, for as a rule there is a lot of young brood in that hive, and in the majority of cases the bees take the uncapped honey and use it for the developing of that brood, and after all there is not so very much uncapped honey in the hive.

Q.—“Which is better, extracted or comb honey?”

Mr. Smith—I would say there should be no difference.

Mr. Hershiser—I put that question in, as there was a little discussion as to the advisability of selling extracted honey for less than comb, as some one said one could produce more of it. I do not see why extracted honey should be sold for a less price than comb. The quality of the white extracted honey is just as good as the comb honey, and

we should get the same price for it. I have been trying to sell both for the same price for some time, and I have found that the best way to do it is to put it in small packages. In about 100 cases I can sell this small package of extracted honey before I could sell one of the quart or larger packages. I do not believe in the idea of living from hand to mouth, as a great many people do, but if they see several glasses of honey, say quart, half-gallon and the smaller, they will pick out the small package every time.

Mr. House—Extracted honey should bring as much as comb, and my experience is that in the white clover flow you can get as much comb as extracted. Of course, there are instances in the fall of the year when the bees might store more buckwheat into the comb, but during the main flow or and I have decided that there should be no difference in price.

Mr. Holtermann—Don't you think in the larger cities that there is more demand for the small package. In the smaller places, where there is more surrounding country, the people will buy larger packages than they will in the city, no matter where the city is located.

Mr. Hershiser—Farmers and those who only get to town once in two or three weeks, will buy larger packages, but I don't think you can fail to notice the tendency of the manufacturers is entirely in the direction of putting their goods in small packages.

Mr. Chrysler—If you want to sell the large packages to the consumer of honey, say five years from now, sell him small packages now. You must educate the rising generation. I find it pays me well to put honey in small packages.

Mr. Craig—Mr. Hershiser, how did you manage to liquify that honey so it remained liquid? (Refers to sample.)

Mr. Hershiser—Honey slowly, greens. Then on the cover pan or water to the same. Then I put on heating keeps Q.—How for a 60-lb can?

Mr. Hershiser—can. It is no hurry. I put it in the evening, ing low, letting move some that want to be carried too hot and in frame of wood glasses rest on come in direct. You might score in direct contact

Mr. A. Laing—ers have intim would not sell cent packages. much as we can in what Mr. Ch two or three ye pail full. Plenty 10c where they The small packa for larger packa

Mr. Trinder—I pails faster than packages. A big the small packag ily can afford the

Mr. Laing.—I h that connection, b is the poorer fami smaller package e who do not know have not been ed buy the larger pa

Mr. Hershiser— people buy. You man buying a bu quite a common th

Mr. Hershiser—I liquify the bulk honey slowly, at about 150 or 160 degrees. Then I fill the glasses and put on the covers, put them in a shallow pan or water bath and raise the heat to the same temperature as before. Then I put on the labels. The second heating keeps it liquid.

Q.—How long does it take to liquify a 60-lb can?

Mr. Hershiser—Take as long as you can. It is not an operation you can hurry. I put it in a water bath, usually in the evening, and have the gas burning low, letting it heat slowly, and remove some time the next day. You want to be careful not to get the water too hot and it is well to put a little frame of wood in the bottom to let the glasses rest on so that they will not come in direct contact with the stove. You might scorch it if you let it come in direct contact with the heat.

Mr. A. Laing—Quite a few bee-keepers have intimated to me that they would not sell honey in less than 50 cent packages. We all like to sell as much as we can but there is something in what Mr. Chrysler says, perhaps in two or three years they would want a pail full. Plenty of people would spend 10c where they would not spend 50c. The small packages may be a great ad. for larger packages later on.

Mr. Trinder—I can sell honey in 10 lb. pails faster than I can in the small packages. A big family will not buy the small package, and only a rich family can afford the small ones.

Mr. Laing—I have had experience in that connection, but at the same time it is the poorer families who will take the smaller package every time. The people who do not know what honey is and have not been educated up to it won't buy the larger packages.

Mr. Hershiser—As to the way poor people buy. You never heard of a rich man buying a bushel of coal but it is quite a common thing for the poor man

to do so and they do the same thing with their living, they live from hand to mouth. Of course, that does not say that all poor people are improvident, but the majority of them are and that is why they are poor.

Mr. Trinder—You know some people say that buckwheat honey is no good. I want to tell you that in some places it is as good as white honey, but you keep condemning it and that is the reason you can't sell it. I have lots of customers who prefer the buckwheat and I am selling it in Simcoe to these men to-day and they do not want any more white honey.

Mr. Laing—We would all like to sell \$1.00 pails of honey but if we cannot we will sell the others.

Mr. Holtermann—As a rule when you educate a man down to the smaller packages it is a pretty hard thing to educate him back to the larger. People are like sheep—if it is customary to take 10 lbs. they take it, and the same with the 5 lb. and the smaller packages.

Mr. Hershiser—I would like to say that we can take a pointer from the large packing houses; they put up nearly all their goods in small packages. They do not do it because it is a pleasure to them for it is a lot of extra work, but because they can sell more goods and make more money.

Mr. Holtermann—Dispose of what you can at home without cutting the prices and then ship the rest out.

Mr. Hershiser—If you can sell in large quantities do not go to the trouble of putting it in small.

Mr. Smith—In regard to liquifying honey, considerable has been said on this subject, but it might be just as well to remember that for a certain class of trade, for instance, shipping to the Northwest, the people want it solid every time.

(Continued Next Month.)

## THE BEGINNER'S PAGE

Department Conducted by E. G. Hand

The beginner needs all the help he can get; the more help he gets the better beginner he will be—providing it is real help; and the better beginner he is the better bee-keeper he will be as a rule. The more good bee-keepers there are, the better for the bee-keeping industry. The more poor "ornery" ones there are, the worse for it. I am sometimes forced to the conclusion that I am no great "shakes" of a bee-keeper myself, there are so many things I don't know about keeping bees, and don't seem able to find out. Ten or twelve years ago, when I was in the "baby class" myself, I knew it pretty well, but since then the few things I have learned have somehow or other obliterated nearly all my original knowledge. The beginner who starts out with a big stock of theory has an advantage over the one who has nothing but a log full of bees to get him going, but each has a lot to learn, the first of practice, the second of principles. All beginners need help, just the same as older bee-keepers do, and if reading what may appear in this department from time to time may help any beginner to be a better beginner than he otherwise would be, the writer will be glad that he wrote it.

The proper way to begin bee-keeping (having first, of course, contracted the bee fever, without a liberal infection of which you will not have the patience to follow the business through) is to buy a book on the subject and subscribe for one or more "bee papers." The book will teach the student most of the principles and many of the particulars of the business, and the papers or periodicals will keep him posted on

everything new that turns up; and new things keep turning up faster than one would imagine. The beginner who goes to work according to the details laid down in a book printed twenty, or even ten years ago, will, when he afterwards rubs up against the "latest improved" find that there has been a lot of things happened since the book was written, little things, perhaps, if looked at singly, but, taken in the aggregate, they make a pile of difference.

Begin, then, with theory and impatience. Read and study everything about bees you can get your hands on. Spend a winter at it. Then you are ready for the practical beginning. The best way (for the beginner) to make this beginning, is to begin on somebody else's bees—with the somebody else there to show him how. Fortunately is the beginner who is so situated that he can cut loose from everything else and spend a couple of summers working in the apiaries of the best bee-keepers he can find, who will take him on. He will learn more in this way, and learn it better, than he will in twice the time working alone, and will be then in a position to get some bees of his own, and make them pay from the start. Theory is very necessary to success, but few people are so constituted that they can or will follow theory closely—at first. They may think they are doing so, while they are making a lot of "side-steps" that will cost them a lot to unmake. As Dr. Miller puts it in a recent issue of "Gleanings in Bee Culture": "Wonderful how far one can stray away from instructions while really trying to follow them if one has a genius that way."

So, Mr. Beginner, present or prospective, if you would make a success of bee-keeping, get right to work with books and papers—principally books at first. Load up with theory for all you are worth, from now until the first of

May. Then, I spend the summer with a man who has made them I season you will tice so blended almost forget w likely have had quick" notions with stung and will be in fair success of it yo next year. If home, stay. Get one. When you will be time enc you will have t handle them and And, when it co the latter is muc the former.

Fenelon Falls,

### UNIT I

Editor Canadian I

Dear Sir,—I read  
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May. Then, if you can, get out and spend the summer and fall with some man who has a lot of bees, and is making them pay. By the end of the season you will have theory and practice so blended together that you will almost forget which is which, will most likely have had most of the "get-rich-quick" notions that you started out with stung and worked out of you, and will be in fair condition to make a success of it yourself in a small way next year. If you have to stay at home, stay. Get a colony of bees—just one. When you have them used up it will be time enough to get more, and you will have a better idea how to handle them and how to let them alone. And, when it comes to the fine thing, the latter is much harder to learn than the former.

Fenelon Falls, Ont.

### UNITING BEES.

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Dear Sir,—I read in the C. B. J. different methods of uniting bees and of introducing queens. Although I am only a new beginner, I will give you my plan; it might be of some benefit or lead to something better. I use a screen made from screen door material. It is cut the same size as the hive with strips of wood around the same as a queen excluder. In doubling up, all I have to do is to lift the cover of one hive, put on the screen, then lift the other hive body with the lid on and place it on the screen; if the weather is very warm, I go in 24 hours, raise the upper hive, take out the screen, and put back the hive and everything is all right. It is simple and easy and never fails; in cool weather it takes from 2 to 3 days to get acquainted with each other before it is safe to remove the screen. It seems to me that there is not the strong perfume in the hive in cool weather and it takes longer

for the upper colony to take on the scent of the lower one. If the colonies have at all been bothered with robbers they are more suspicious of each other.

During the swarming season if a good honey-gathering colony swarms I divide her frames up into little nucleus with one capped queen cell in each, by the time those young queens get to laying or by the end of the honey flow, it is easy to find the least profitable colonies. I kill the queen and introduce a nucleus as above.

### Fall Feeding.

In feeding bees in the fall I use a square open box, in fact, most of them are horse shoe nail boxes, and I make a float to fit the inside; it is made by strips 3-8 by 1 inch, put two cross pieces, one near each end, cut so they will slide up or down easy, then tack on the pieces lengthwise, leaving the outside ones 3-8 of an inch from the sides and the same distance apart. I have had strong colonies empty one of those nail boxes in one night. I never feed in the morning because it puts the bees in an uproar all day, when fed in the evening the bees get most of the food is stored away by morning and all is quiet. The boxes are placed in an empty super on top of the frames. I nail small pieces of wood on each corner of the box for feed projecting 3-8 of an inch below the box, so it can be set down at any time without crushing any bees. First thing I nail the nail box all round then run hot bees wax round the edges inside then I soon have a feed trough. I am wintering 70 colonies.

T. BALMER.

Burlington, Ont.

P. S. In the August number of C. B. J., page 179, Mr. Alexander Taylor asks for information concerning his bees crawling about on the grass during the month of June as though they were poisoned. I had a similar experience during June but with me it was only one colony, it lasted about a week, they acted as though they could not die and did not want to live; on lifting the cover there would be a few acting the same way on the frames. Still the colony was strong and worked away; had it been poison surely some of the other colonies would have been affected. I went around them all but could not find any others affected in the least.

## QUERIES and ANSWERS

Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith  
St. Thomas, Ont. Queries may be sent direct to  
Mr. R. H. Smith or to the C. B. J.

Q.—Please tell me the best way to requeen my bees from six Italian queens I purchased last summer. Would you give them a queen cell as soon as possible in June or July, or what time?

A.—To Italianize an apiary from choice stock in June or July, first build up your breeding colonies to the swarming point, and when they have queen cells about ripe, or ready to hatch, remove the queens that you wish to replace, and give a cell in a cell protector.

What we consider a better plan is, when honey is coming in freely and they are likely to swarm make a two or three frame nucleus from each colony that you wish to requeen, this will prevent the old colony from swarming, queen cells may be given to the nuclei the next day. After the young queens begin to lay, or at the close of the honey flow, the nuclei may be built up from the old colonies and the old queens may be destroyed. This plan gives the use of the old queen until the young queens are ready to take their places.

Q.—A Manitoba bee-keeper inquires about four colonies that he is wintering in chaff hives outside. He says the walls are 6 inches thick but he has the entrances closed with mosquito wire to keep out mice. and they are filled up with snow, not snow drifted in from outside but snow

caused by inside heat of the colonies (we presume he means frost).

He wants to know if this snow is going to do any harm to the bees, and if so would it disturb the bees if he were to rake it out.

The outside temperature keeps about zero and sometimes even considerably lower.

A.—If there is sufficient snow or frost to close the entrance, I would remove the wire cloth and snow, and leave the entrance open about three-eighths of an inch. As there is very likely to be an accumulation of dead bees in the entrance, these should also be removed, which may be done by raking them out with a piece of bent wire, without disturbing the bees very much. Mice are not likely to cause so much damage as having the entrance closed. I have found that a small opening or crack about 1-8th in under the board or quilt above the bees, and this opening well covered by packing or a cushion, would allow the moisture to escape from the hive and which would not have to be expelled by them from the entrance. Bees prepared in this way usually come out clean and dry. Care must be taken to exclude mice from the packing.—R. H. Smith.

St. Thomas.

### Medical.

For rheumatism take a bee,

Then pet it;

The sting is recommended and

You bet it

Will either cure the pain or you'll

Forget it.

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W. H. LAWS, Be

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**R. H. Smith,**

St. Thomas, Ont.

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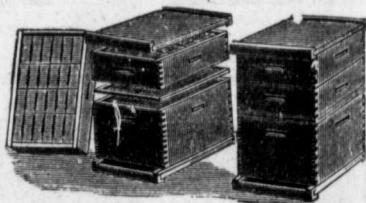
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