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THE BEES THAT DID NOT SWARM

There's trouble in the bee yard,
The bees are acting queer,
They're pouring from the hive mouth,
and darting far and near;
So Robbie you must hurry,
And give a quick alarm;
The men folk all are working
Away back on the farm.

Now "paw" must leave the mower,
The team will have to stand;
We'll have to trust them this time,
There's lively work on hand.
Come Johnnie, drop your grass scythe
And Tommie leave the rake,
And make a bee-line homeward—
Make haste, for goodness sake!

Now, Jennie, get the dishpan,
And Tommy, get the saw,
And Johnnie run like lightning
To Jones' after "maw."
She's awful good at swarming,
And, mind you, what I say,
She'll turn them in a jiffy,
Though half a mile away.

But here she is a-coming,
So give it hot and fast;
Now she is here to help us,
We'll get them done at last.

See, there they're breaking cluster,
They've left that highest bough,
They're going where they came from,
We're sure to get them now.

Now rattle on the dishpan,
And hammer on the saw,
And keep the cowbells ringing,
And yell a wild "hurraw,"
Now keep the din a-going,
Be lively, do not stop
Till you will far outrival
The roar of Spion Kop.

They're circling round the orchard!
They're going in the hive!
I knew that we would get them
As sure as you're alive.
I've done some dandy swarming
Since first I kept a bee,
But that was far the smartest
I ever chanced to see.

I've heard the names of great ones
A few I can recall:
There's Hutchinson and Cogshall,
And Holtermann and Hall;
But all the greatest bee men
I ever heard, or saw,
Combined and put together,
Ain't good as me and "maw."

Reward to those that labor!
Success to those that fight!
Eternal songs of praises
To vallant men of might!
But who can sing their praises,
Who heard the first alarm,
And showed such zeal in hiving
The bees that did not swarm!

WM. MOORE.
Little Current, Dec. 25, 1905.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By J. L. Byer.

Warming a Bee-cellar.

In January "Review" Editor Hutchinson cites the case of a farmer who kept his potatoes from freezing during a protracted cold spell by burning charcoal in an old kettle in the cellar. He thinks the plan would work O.K. in warming up a bee-cellar, providing there was no danger of asphyxiating the bees, a point on which he is in doubt. Methinks the most of cellar-winterers are not worrying much this winter how to warm their cellars, but if Friend Hutchinson, or any one else, can tell how to cool the cellars when the outside temperature is above the normal for cellar-wintering, they will confer a favor on a good many apiarists, judging from reports to hand.

Personally, we only have 20 four-frame nuclei inside; not in a cellar exactly, but where they get abundance of air at all times, providing it is necessary. Yet at date of this writing (February 21st), with a muggy atmosphere and temperature of 45 outside, the bees are doing a lot of "squawking." As to how they come through finally, after their peculiar method of wintering, hope to tell "C. B. J." readers in the near future.

[Why not use ice for cooling the overheated cellar? Don't you think it would be just about as practical as charcoal for heating?—Ed.]

Maeterlinck's "Life of the Bee."

Dr. Miller, in a "Straw," calls attention to the fact that recently Dr. Felix Adler, in addressing the Chicago Ethical Culture Society, condemned in no uncertain tones the

books and plays of Maeterlinck. Dr. Miller says, in reference to the "Life of the Bee," that in this work there is some of the "rotteness" referred to by Dr. Adler. Personally, and, no doubt, in common with nearly all who have read the book, I was at first captivated by the beautiful composition and brilliant style of the writer, but after more mature thought, am forced to agree with Dr. Miller, who says that the work is the more dangerous "because insidious, so beautifully clothed that good men have read the book and praised it without stint, without ever noticing the evil that was in it." The greatest apologist of Maeterlinck's will have to admit, at least, that the standard of moral ethics he holds up are not of the highest.

Selling Sections by Piece Instead of Weight.

In Christmas "Gleanings" that excellent authority on comb honey production, Mr. Crane of Vermont, has a strong article in favor of selling comb honey by the section instead of by weight, and, incidentally, at the same time, putting in a strong plea for the use of plain sections and fence separators.

In fact, Mr. Crane intimates that his conscience would not allow him to sell by the piece if he was using the old-style sections and separators, owing to lack of uniformity in weight of sections of honey thus produced. He does not, like some, claim that he gets more honey by using plain sections, but he is positive that he gets better-finished sections and much more uniformity in the matter of weight, and says that it is a surprise to him that others have not seen their value and adopted them. While not a comb honey producer, yet if I was going into the business, don't know of any other single authority that would be apt to influence me

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more than Mr. Crane, whom I have always regarded as one of the first-grade comb honey producers of the continent. However, after making all allowance for his alleged defects of the old-style sections, I cannot understand how the majority of our cousins across the line persist in putting the grocers to the trouble of selling sections by weight. 'Pears to the writer that it would take a good deal of persuasive eloquence to educate (?) Canadian grocers to sell by that system.

[Times ago this journal was decidedly against the plain, no-bee-way section, but from observation and personal experience the present Editor would say that he rather likes them. They are a neat section, and, being capped close to the edge, they look plump and full. We do not think that they would be any more uniformly filled than the four-piece, which gives a full-width bee-way. This, in our mind, is where the advantage is in both of these sections. Mr. R. H. Smith, whom you know as a leader in comb honey with us, uses a four-piece section, with side-pieces $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wider than the top and bottom, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, or half a bee-space, on each side; the other length he provides by a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch cleat in his fence separators. This gives his sections very much the effect of the no-bee-way, and the cappings being $\frac{1}{2}$ from the edge, insures safety in packing and shipping.—Ed.]

Hershiser's Bottom Board.

In a recent issue of the "American Bee Journal" Mr. Hershiser seems to establish beyond doubt that it does no harm to have entrances of hives screened while in the cellar, provided sufficient space and ventilation is given under the hive, as is the case when using the bottom-board he has patented. If such claim is correct, if we were wintering in the cellar, I cer-

tainly would use something constructed on the same principle, as the comfort that would be derived in carrying the bees to and from the cellar would amply pay for the extra trouble in getting the bottom-boards made.

Something for Queen-breeders.

In January 25th "American Bee Journal" Mr. Hasty, speaking of the small nuclei that some of the Texan queen-breeders use in having their their queens mated, tells of a plan whereby he can even beat their record. It is as follows: "Say, I have an invention whereby a virgin and a couple of small horse-flies are baby-nucleated in a glass bottle. Cut the cork so the queen can get out and in, but her companions not." Returning to seriousness again, Mr. Hasty says further that he confesses a feeling towards the baby nuclei, somewhat as a porcupine feels when he sees a dog.

Red Squirrels as Jokers.

The joke was on the writer, and it came about in this wise: At the Altona yard the farmer with whom the bees are built the extracting house, 12x18, by sheeting up with half-inch siding and lining inside with heavy building paper to make things bee-tight. Previous to attending the Ontario convention, we visited the place while preparing the bees for winter, and everything was O.K. Imagine my chagrin on my next visit, some two weeks afterward, to find that during my absence four squirrels had found their way in and totally destroyed all the paper, not one square foot being left without a hole in it. As the most of the paper was carried away, presumably to paper a house of their own, have had no chance of seeing how they figure as paperhangers, but for taking off the article, I can assure all enquirers that they can do the job par excellence.

Having been making an inventory as to what it will cost me to sheet up the house inside with cheapest grade of matched lumber available, find it will cost me about \$12, so you see, after all, it was quite a practical joke. By way of explanation as to how I know exact number of culprits, would say that we know of four sudden deaths in the red squirrel family, and as no further signs have been seen of others, would conclude that we had the full number of offenders.

Wax Presses.

Mr. E. F. Atwater, in passing opinion on the "Miller" wax presses, has the following to say re the German and other steam presses: "the machine is a hopeless nuisance when the comb is melted in the machine, but by melting in a large kettle or tank the capacity of the press is increased manyfold, and the steam within the press assists in maintaining the proper temperature." I have used nearly all kinds of presses and at the risk of getting my hair pulled, want to place myself on record as agreeing entirely with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Atwater. While the steam presses are all right with the man who has a few colonies, how any extensive producer can fuss with them alone, is beyond my ken; but here again "tastes differ."

[We are pretty well agreed that the steam wax presses are not by any means perfect, but they have been better than anything we have had in wax extractors. We all welcome with open arms anything that is really an improvement.—Ed.]

Is Prolificness in Queens Always Desirable?

Mr. Dadant in American Bee Journal discussing their early experiences in the matter of queen rearing says the following three things were always

taken into consideration, viz.: Purity of race; prolificness and gentleness. When I say prolificness, I mean largest honey production. These two things always go hand in hand." So good an authority as Mr. J. B. Hall would object to so radical a claim, for I remember correctly Mr. Hall lays greater stress on longevity of the bees produced. Be that as it may, certainly my largest yields have always come from colonies headed by more than ordinarily prolific queens. In speaking of different races of bees, Mr. Dadant mentions the Carniolans as a slight variation of the common black bee. Begging pardon, Mr. D. in reaching such a verdict, am forced to believe that you never had any genuine Carniolan stock. Come to think of it, it would hardly be reasonable to expect such pioneer champions of the Italian race of bees, to readily see the good points of any other race.

Developing the Home Market.

Since reading friend Hand's article in February C. B. J. have been scratching my head and wondering if he meant me when making those odious comparisons as to how honey crops are disposed of. While I don't fill the bill in quite a few respects such as selling my honey for six cents and other minor details, and admit (and probably others will also) that with a little padding the shoe can be made to fit tolerably well. But say, friend Hand, wonder how much honey is used in York Co., anyway? We know of one house that uses 75,000 lbs. annually. Beat that if you can.

We had the pleasure of spending a pleasant time with Mr. Hand in September, and from the way good windows showed up in the matter of honey, can assure readers of the C.

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J. that Mr. Hand practices what he preaches.

Changing Convention Programs.

Shameful! Is the verdict reached by the jury, after hearing of the annoyance caused our "fleaologist" friend by the British Naturalists' Association. Mr. Pettit was present at the Chicago Convention. Is it possible he is giving the N. B. K. A. a thrust? How thankful we should be that nothing like that would occur with our own Ontario Association. Seriously, friend Pettit, are you not afraid of being tried for contempt of court? The aforesaid jury allow you to go on suspended sentence this time, pending your good behavior in the future.

York County, Ontario.

A MANITOBA BEE-KEEPER'S REPORT.

The past season has been a splendid one for bee-keeping in Manitoba. I had five colonies, increased to six, and got 1,093 pounds of honey, besides raising a number of queens. I think that having good queens had something to do with my success. I purchased a "red clover" queen, and this summer I extracted 297 pounds from the hive she was in. I believe also in having plenty of honey in the hive for winter, as the bees will push brood-rearing in the spring for all they are worth if they have lots of honey. I have been selling my honey at from 10c to 12c a pound.

My bees are in eight-frame Langstroth hives, but I find them altogether too small. The queens keep laying until October, and it is almost impossible to get enough honey into the brood chamber when cold weather comes on, and, besides, the bees seem inclined to swarm, and swarm again when they get their brood nest filled.

The past two wet summers have been favorable to the growth of clover, especially white clover. Alfalfa will grow with us, but the bees do not seem to work on it much.

C. LANGILL.

THE GRANULATION OF HONEY:

Translated from the French in "Les Abeilles et les Fruits."

(By Morley Pettit.)

In What Does Granulation consist?—

Honey that is harvested liquid and properly ripened will almost always granulate in a time which varies according to the blossom which has produced it, and the temperature and condition of the surrounding air.

The honey of sanfoin and lucerne granulate more rapidly than those of linden and fruit trees.

Good honey properly harvested has a granulation which makes it resemble finely ground table salt. Honey candied in coarse, irregular grains is of inferior quality.

Causes of Granulation—Honey harvested in July candies less quickly than that which is harvested in September. Some honeys harden in a fortnight, others take several months. The cause of granulation seems to be cold. When honey is slow in solidifying it is a good plan to put it in a cold, dry place, but never in the cellar with the idea of keeping it fresh.

Means of Hastening Granulation—We have just given one of them. The best method in our opinion is to mix into the liquid honey a little honey that is already granulated, and stir the mixture violently.

The formation of crystals takes place spontaneously in many substances, but it is always more rapid when some already formed crystals are placed in the liquid. Then they only have to reproduce themselves, whereas they would be born quite alone only under certain favorable conditions.

Some Causes Which Hinder or Retard Granulation—Honey put into poorly sealed vessels, in a damp place, absorbs moisture from the air, becomes thin and almost valueless.

Honey harvested too soon, before it is capped, contains too much water and candies with difficulty.

When honey is not sufficiently ripened it should be put into tight vessels and set up high in a dry, healthy room; that is a room without bad odors. It should be kept at a temperature of 30° to 35° Centigrade (86° to 95° Fahrenheit.)

Preservation of Straw Mats.—To increase the durability of straw mats, it is sufficient to soak them for 48 hours in a solution of sulphate of copper, made in the proportion of one pound of the sulphate to two gallons of water. Then dip them, half drained into a whitewash mixture of lime and water. for a couple of minutes.

THE GATHERING OF WATER BY BEES.

(From "Les Abeilles et les Fruits.")

How Much Time do Bees Spend in Drinking Water?—It is all the more interesting to reckon it because we know that between the temperatures of 50° Fahr. and 104° Fahr. the workers pass successively from an almost dormant state to the most active condition, and that as soon as they find warm water in the watering places they call those who have not seen this boon.

Mr. George Gendot, who has studied the watering of bees, writes in "Abeille Bourguignonne" as follows:

"The way in which bees conduct themselves at watering places according as the water is warm or cold, has suggested to me the idea of recording the time occupied by a bee in filling its crop with water at different temperatures.

"The following figures have been obtained by observing ten bees in each case from the instant they alighted on the watering place till they took their flight to return to the hive:

Temperature in degrees Fahr.	Time in Seconds
50.....	178
59.....	147
68.....	87
77.....	62
86.....	42
95.....	38
104.....	29
113.....	24

This table will enable bee-keepers to estimate the loss of time they might save to their bees by having in their apiaries watering places where the water would at least be warmed by the sun.

According to the results obtained to experiments by Mr. Astor (Revue Internationale, 1889, page 254) a bee gathering nectar containing 75% of water at a temperature of 50° to 55° Fahr. takes 3 minutes and 40 seconds to go back to its hive, unload and return to the flower. Let us suppose that a bee gathering warm water takes the same time. We see from the above table that a bee gathering water 50° Fahr. will take 3 min., 40 sec. + 2 min. 50 sec. = 6 min. 38 sec. for a trip, or say nine trips to the hour. Whereas, if she gathered water at 113° Fahr. she would take 3 min., 40 sec. + 24 sec. = 4 min. 4 sec., or about 14 trips to the hour.

"The experiments conducted by M. de Layen showed him that the greatest quantity of water consumed by colonies in one day was 6 16-18 quarts, about 30-100 pint each.

"Mr. Astor gives as the greatest consumption in one day 7 92-100 quarts for 50 colonies, about 32-100 pint each.

"My twelve colonies drank on May 11, 1905, 9 45-100 pints or 79-100 pints each.

"In Mr. Astor's yard in April and May, 1899, 50 colonies drank 40 26-100 gallons, or 3 22-100 quarts each.

Mr. Astor's bees have certainly

drawn from his watering places all the water necessary for brood-rearing.

This enormous quantity of water which is indispensable to each hive makes clear the fact that the gathering of it must be one of the principal causes of spring dwindling when it is either too far from the apiary or is too cold.

It is wise then to have water placed out for the bees and to have it as warm as possible, at any rate not cooler than 113° or 122° Fahr.

SMALL OR LARGE BROOD CHAMBERS—WHICH?

By R. C. Aiken.

On page 267 of the "Canadian Bee Journal," Mr. F. P. Adams discusses the subject of contracted brood-nests for comb honey. I wish to say that he has almost identically my ideas of the subject. It is not so much a question of contracting the nest as it is of having strong colonies. A contracted chamber will very often get surplus from weak colonies that otherwise would not touch the super, but that is just about all that can be said in favor of the plan. The great fault is in allowing the bees to swarm when they ought to be in the supers, and, having swarmed, the very thing we want, surplus honey, is defeated. Better double colonies until we do get the necessary strength; therein lies the secret of securing the best results in honey.

The control of swarming is the great stumbling-block in bee-keeping. Get that settled and you will then be master of the situation with but a fair measure of general knowledge of the business. I think that nearly all writers on the subject of forced swarming (so many people are in calling it "shook" swarming) advocate frequent examinations to determine if the colony is preparing to swarm, making the swarm only when

they have already begun preparations for natural swarming. This is wrong and too fussy. And, what is more, if these colonies are forced at such time only it often is too early or too late—may come in the midst of a flow, when the colony should be right in the very best of regular work. It is not at all uncommon for a large percent of the colonies to swarm before they are strong enough to do the best work in storing surplus, yet most people hive these swarms into an ordinary-sized chamber and expect them to do super work, and it seems many do the same thing with forced swarms. The proper time to swarm is just when the flow starts, and no waiting for natural swarming or preparations to swarm. It is for the control of swarming that we make the forced swarms, because, as indicated above, the natural swarming weakens the colony too much for surplus honey, yet if we attempt to keep them together by ordinary methods, or by the milder methods of coaxing by shade, room, etc., we have too much tinkering and too much interference with the work of the colony, then fail to get the thing sought for—control. We must use more harsh or decided methods; swarming is nature, and we must put the bees in somewhat of the condition nature would have them in. These natural conditions are a lot of bees of all ages, together with a queen, but not having either brood or honey, and, better, no comb. In these respects a swarm is a swarm, whether forced or natural, but when we force them we make them just as big as we want them, large or small, depending on the work desired from them. You see, it may be a baby nucleus, a small swarm that will just nicely work a brood chamber, or a rousing big one that will do business in both brood chamber and in supers.

I do not believe there is any method

yet devised by which we can take the swarming instinct (desire) out of bees (a colony) when conditions are right to develop it, and the conditions are just those that are the best for putting up the honey, as the conditions become just right for honey storage and you have all the necessary factors for swarming. Now, if we swarm them and leave them without brood, just as a natural swarm would be, you have fixed them sure; that is all that is needed, and that forced swarming does.

But in some fields there are conditions that bring about the swarming desire before the flow that gives the surplus comes, and there we must make variations of methods to suit locality. This locality question is no humbug, yet it in no way interferes with principles--bees one place will do just as bees in any other place will, it is the difference in conditions that makes the difference in results. This being true, all we want to know is bee nature and then apply the method that brings the results desired UNDER OUR OWN CONDITIONS of locality or of season, for scarcely any two seasons are alike.

The control of swarming outside of the regular flow when they are not storing surplus, is a different thing from the control when a strong flow is on and surplus work going on. In the full flow the conditions are intensified in almost every factor, better feeding, more eggs to lay and less place to lay them, the greater activity causing greater heat and discomfort, combs filled with honey make a still more crowded condition, which is still more aggravated by full honey sacks that so swell the mass of bees that they actually need--I say actually NEED more room than they did possibly only two days before, when there was little or nothing being gathered. Under the less intense conditions previous to the main flow they will yield

to milder methods of discouragement. At this time we may give much brood-chamber room, which of course will not interfere with the super storage since it is not going on at all. Much ventilation may also be used. In extreme cases, where there seems to be almost a mania to swarm, we can divide if need be, holding the colony so reduced in numbers that they will not swarm. Then, too, if there be almost nothing being gathered, yet the colonies are very strong and the weather hot--just enough of swarming factors present to cause swarming fever in many colonies, just rob them of most of their stores, bringing them to a semi-starvation condition and that usually will hold them.

Right here, let me still more emphatically endorse what Mr. Adams says about tinkering and fussing before the flow begins when we are getting ready. We can afford at this time to do lots of it, and it will pay; but when the main flow comes, then we must turn everything to one point, that is storing surplus and doing it right. Only strong colonies with a big S will do this. If we have had to divide before this to hold them from swarming now is the time to double them, and as we usually just at this time have all the swarm conditions and in the tense state we must use heroic methods, just swarm them, putting enough bees to a hive with starters only that you will get the results sought for, thus you absolutely control and become master.

I say use starters, foundation too expensive altogether, and doesn't do the good except when the flow is very free, when it will enable them to get combs ready sooner. With starters the most of the combs will be worked and the next spring the drone can be culled out and used for chunk honey extracted by the machine, or put in

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weak colonies to have the stores used in brooding, thus the drone surplus can be disposed of without loss; rendered into wax they pay.

Increase I would always make by division, and make it when conditions and time will permit, and when surplus cells can be had from swarm or forced conditions. Make nuclei and do it as early as can properly, the earlier the better; at least try to have the nuclei so that they have the benefit of the main flow, to build up and put in stores. Made before the flow they will be so much surer to get stocked up with honey, then they have the rest of the season in which to brood up.

Size of Hive.

I favor a large hive. I am adopting after a long and extensive experimental process, a hive after the Heddon ideas of a divisible brood chamber. My frame is 5x16 inches, outside measure. The width of the hive is the common 8 frame measure, in other words the body is 5 1/4 deep, 12 wide and 16 1/2 long, inside. Two such body parts, with 8 frames each, make the same capacity, as the regular 8 frame L hive, 3 of them make 12 L capacity. So while I use a hive that can be instantly reduced to even 4 L frame capacity, it can in like manner be made any other size in multiples of 4 L frames. This hive I recommend to be used in 8 L frame (2 sections) during the flow, at all other times unless cellar wintered using 3 sections, or 12 frame capacity. I cannot discuss this hive at length here, it carries with it so much that is not understood by the average apiarist that it would take a long article devoted to it to make plain its uses and methods of management that should go with it. There are some changes in methods needed with such a hive, the common ideas in some points are not applicable to this hive, yet the meth-

ods necessary are simple enough when understood and very easy to learn, and the reason why very plain when once shown.

I am not advocating the casting aside of old hives and the adoption of this one. I do say that there are some most valuable ideas and principles to be applied in the use of a divisible brood chamber hive that cannot be to advantage with present hives, but one cannot cast aside the old simply to obtain better results with the new. I now believe in cutting down all ten frames to the 8 frame width; but as an 8 frame is not large enough, I do advocate using two of them, one on top of the other except during the flow. It is possible and also probable that an 8-frame hive straight will be all right in some places; but while this is true it is also true that where the regular one story 8 is good the divisible chamber can be made to do better. I do not profess to know all about this subject, but I have learned by experimentation that there is a whole lot we do not know, and that there can be a decided advance over present hives and methods. I am writing of experience, and not theories unproved.

This article must come to a close, but let me again emphasize the facts Mr. Adams gave expression to, except immediately during the main or surplus flow, hives should be large. And, during the flow we must have the undivided attention of the bees in super work, and storing, in rousing big colonies. I started with these ideas more than 30 years ago, and have used them in thousand upon thousands of cases, and know they are sound.

Loveland, Colo.

There's a heap of difference between the qualities we display and the qualities we possess.—Chicago Record-Herald.

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Devoted to the Interests of Bee-keepers.

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Editor, W. J. Craig.

Brantford, March, 1906

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The winter has been extraordinarily mild for our climate, and so far as we can learn, bees have come through in good shape, but stores will need early attention; don't let us forget or neglect. Reports from the Southern Counties say that clover has suffered from the frequent thawing and freezing. With no snow to protect them the plants have "heaved" badly.

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Cultivate the Home Market. There seems to be a growing feeling among Ontario Bee-keepers, that Canada with her great incoming population is likely to be able to consume all the honey produced for a long time—not much danger of over-production.

†

"Canadian Beedom," in "American Bee Journal," has the following to say about the Brantford and District Convention:

"One of the most wide-awake conventions it has been my privilege to attend was the District Bee-keepers' Convention held at Brantford, January 24 to 26. There were no elections of officers or other routine business—just straight "bee-talk" throughout the sessions. The program simply showed subjects for discussion with no names attached and each session had a new chairman, who varied the order of proceedings to suit his ideas. Besides the threadbare subjects of winter and

spring management, newer ones were introduced, such as "Implements used in the apiary," referring to smoker, comb foundation, brushes, bee-escapes, etc. Withal, there was a freshness and informality to the discussions which made them both interesting and of practical value.

†

For stimulative spring feeding, a frame of sealed honey laid on its side on the top of the frames in the brood chamber, but raised, say $\frac{1}{4}$ " to allow the bees to pass under, was highly spoken of at the Brantford convention. Mr. James H. Shaver and others reported very satisfactory results from this plan last season. The system is followed, and we believe originated with Mr. William McEvoy of Woodburn, Inspector of Apiaries for Ontario.

Mr. H. G. Sibbald says he usually resorts to close spacing in spring for to stimulate brood-rearing. The closeness of the combs compel the bees to uncap and use the stores.

†

The opinion of the meeting was divided (as usual) over the subject of Spring Feeding. Mr. John Newton, quoting Mr. J. B. Hall, said that "a real good letting alone" was usually the best, but that often there was wisdom in feeding a little between fruit bloom and clover. To the question whether sugar syrup is equal to honey for brood-rearing, Mr. Pettit replied: "Not quite, and besides, we should avoid the very appearance of evil." Mr. Shaver considered it equal to honey if there is pollen in the hive. Mr. Wm. Couse told of his losing a great many queens one season after feeding syrup.

Messrs. Alpaugh and Smith, believe in supplying pollen substitutes. From their observations in Jamaica would be inclined to think that much of the spring dwindling, on that island at least, is caused by lack of early pollen

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Mr. R. Smith remarked at the Ontario Bee-keepers' Convention that some people became tired of honey because they used it in a wrong way, viz., ate too much of it at a time. Very true, friend Smith. If people would use honey in moderation, like cheese, or like butter, spread on bread, they would like it and continue to like it, but one cannot eat it wholesale with a spoon like stewed fruit without blunting the taste and disordering the stomach.

Mr. Smith takes as a morning nip a couple of teaspoonfuls in a cup of hot water before breakfast. We have tried it on his recommendation, and have found it excellent as an appetizer. It is sedative, and for children, in this way, it is also slightly aperient in effect; better than patent medicines.

‡

Speaking of patent medicines reminds us of Bulletin No. 113 of the Inland Revenue Department, Ottawa, just to hand. The chief analyst reports Peruna as containing 40% proof spirit, considerably higher than the strongest port wine, and about two-thirds that of the ordinary grades of whiskey, and says that "it becomes a question whether it can be legally sold by druggists without a liquor license." Samples of a number of other prominent proprietary medicines showed a large percentage of alcohol. The same authority says that in the "New Hampshire Sanitary Bulletin" it is stated an order has been issued by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue Treasury Department of the United States requiring dealers in certain patent medicines to pay a revenue tax as liquor dealers." Surely it is high time for prohibition along this line.

‡

The discussion on "implements Used in the Apiary" at the Brantford Convention was not the least interesting number on the program, and almost a

full session was spent over the subject. Bee brushes, smokers, bee escapes, etc. were considered in their order, and needless to say there was a great variety of "preferences," which would give one a slight idea of the difficulties of the sinners, the supply dealers. Take, for instance, the bee brush—the following were among the things championed for this purpose: A goose or turkey wing, Coggshall's bee brush, a feather, a whitewash brush, a green cedar bough, a brush of hair, a paper hanger's brush. In smokers the majority preferred the smoker spring to be on the outside of the bellows, the bellows to taper to the hinged end and the nozzle to telescope sufficiently to hold it securely.

A variety of material for smoker fuel was recommended: Cedar bark, maple bark, small hardwood blocks, coarse planer shavings, decayed wood, etc. Mr. Alpaugh of Galt uses a mixture of shavings, decayed wood and maple bark, and prepares it ahead. He says that in order to obtain the best smoke from this mixture, it should be moistened slightly before using, as the dry material when ignited consumes its own smoke. Maple bark fuel is extremely hot and holds fire long. Mr. R. H. Smith recommended cotton rags saturated with saltpetre for lighting.

For comb foundations, the majority considered the Langstroth sheets $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 sheets to the pound as generally satisfactory, and that the sheets should be large enough to touch the side bars of the frame and come within $\frac{1}{4}$ of the bottom bar, as weed process foundation made from good wax and properly wired will not sag enough to buckle. Section Foundations should fill the sections, and should be made in sheets so that it can be cut in these sizes without waste, say $3\frac{3}{4} \times 16$, instead of $3\frac{3}{4} \times 15\frac{1}{2}$, as is generally supplied, even though it might mean less sheets to the pound. Messrs. H. G. Sibbald and J. H. Shaver preferred for fastening foundation in the section a block to centre the sheet and hold it in place, then attach it all around with melted wax, applied with a camel's hair brush.

Mr. C. Edmondson wires his frames loosely, and when imbedding draws the strands down the centre, thus forming a kind of truss for the support of the foundation.

ANNUAL MEETING ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Discussion on Marketing of Honey.

Mr. R. H. Smith—I brought some samples along just to show you some of the varieties that are put on the market. As far as appearances go, you will notice there is not very much difference in this light, but if you go to sample it you will find a very great difference. This is what we call a No. 1 article (shows glass of honey) and here is another sample from the same combs where you would think it was a different article altogether.

Now, I notice in the last issue of "Gleanings" one of the writers advocates a system that we have been following, that of not putting any inferior honey into our No. 1, but to sell it for what it is. Keep them separate and sell them for what they are. Many, I believe, will extract honey out of combs only half-capped and mix it up with No. 1 and that only produces a No. 2 article after all. So try and have the quality right. Here is another sample, and I may say it is one of the main causes of destroying the confidence of people who buy honey in stores. This is a sample that I picked up in a store, as you see it has the name of the firm on it. I have had that for three years. I just keep it as a curiosity. Now, as I said, that is one of the principal causes of dissatisfaction. When you approach a person to buy some honey they will tell you that they bought some in the store the other day and they didn't like it, and I don't wonder at it if it is like that. That is one of the causes that there is not a larger demand. With regard to the statement that the wholesale men could buy honey from Jamaica at three cents a pound, I

don't believe they could get it for any such price, because they can get at least that price for it there, and they couldn't lay it down here at much less than a cent a pound, and the duty is two cents a pound, so you can see for yourself. With regard to the British market for honey, I was over there some two or three winters ago, and I made a number of enquiries as to the possibility of putting honey on the market and I found that the Britishers were not educated to the use of honey except as a medicine. They will buy these small quantities at a higher price just to use as a medicine or just occasionally. They don't use it as we do in Canada. Another reason why the market has failed there is that while we have a grand market for our dairy products and animal products, those things can be produced here very much better than in many other countries, but honey can be produced in other countries. There is a good deal shipped from Chili and Australia and the West Indies. There is a good deal of a lower grade honey sold there, too, though at a much lower price. But I think with the growing population and the growing market in the west, if we improve the quality we won't overstock the market. I think the price of honey is lower than any other article in proportion to its value now so it will probably not go any lower in price.

The President—Mr. Deadman of Brussels will now open the discussion on this paper.

Mr. Deadman—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,— Mr. Smith spoke in connection with the disposal of honey about the difficulty of living a long way from the market, and I think that is a difficulty with a great many. If we adopt the way of going around the country and canvassing we find that the market is limited, although the farmers buy in large quantities, when

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they buy. Sixty pounds to them is perhaps no more than ten pounds in the city. The bee-keepers in the country say that the customers who buy from them usually buy in large quantities. If we live near a city it is a great advantage if we use it right. Mr. Smith says that the best advertisement is a good article, and I suppose it is. If we put up a good article we needn't trouble about it much. If the customers get the idea that you put up a good grade of honey, it is a good thing for you. If it was a question of preventing swarming many of us could give something from our experience, but very few of us have had much experience in marketing honey. We have had experience on one particular line and not on another. I might say that my first experience was in the sampling line and I believe that is the best way of disposing of honey or rather of working up a market for honey. That is the way the patent medicine men adopt. I was in the drug business, and during that time we disposed of a great many of the remedies in that way. I never knew a drug to sell yet that wasn't sampled. Now sampling is a good thing, and I believe it is the best way of introducing your honey. I did this only on one occasion, and you might say my experience is very limited, but I didn't need it since. But if I had honey and wasn't working in a wholesale way, and I wanted to dispose of that honey I would go into a city and I would sample in that city. This may be done in different ways. My own experience was with a little dish like that. (Shows small dish). An ounce of honey is enough for a sample. You can estimate the cost, it is very little, indeed. In sampling with a dish like this you have to go back for it, and that helps you to sell some of the honey. But I would put a circular in

with it with some explanation. Some say you should bottle it and talk about it. It is a good plan to go with your own honey. That is true. No one can talk about your honey like yourself, but as far as sampling is concerned it would take too long to explain it. If you leave a sample in the house, they will sample it, and then they will read your circular. The plan I adopted was I went back again the next day. One of the difficulties I found when leaving the sample was that the lady was not in and you could not talk to her. But if you leave a sample it will do its work some time. Give them a little time, because it is not advisable to go back the same day. You can easily understand if you go to a housewife she wouldn't care to invest without consulting her husband. And that is right. But you don't want to leave it too long. And then the way I did, and I think it was a very good plan, was to leave cards all ready to fill out: "Please send me so many pails of honey," so many five-pound pails and so many ten-pound pails, and all they have to do is to fill in the name and the quantity. Or you can deliver it right there if they want it. If you want to sell honey to the trade get them to put the name of their grocer on that card. The only city I sampled was the city of Winnipeg. That might be an exceptional place, but I have been told since that that created a market there. The manager of a large departmental store there wrote me to go up and he would give me an order.

In using a sample dish of that kind you would want to go back the next day. The first order may not pay you financially, although it likely will if you manage it right, but we suppose that you will get other orders in the future, and you certainly will. One mistake the bee-keepers make is, you

don't put honey high enough. You go to a house and offer honey at a wholesale price. That is a mistake. When you are selling honey that way you want your retail price so that you will have a profit. If you sell to a merchant you have to sell to him so he can have a profit and so with the wholesaler. I spoke to a farmer friend about selling honey and he wouldn't give a cent reduction on the retail price. If the retail price is ten cents you should give it to the grocer, for eight cents, and the wholesaler the same.

Here is another sample bottle. It would hold a quarter of a pound. that would not cost you more than 3½ cents. If you leave that sample in you should get an order for a ten-pound pail from every second house you leave it in, anyway, and the profit would pay for that easily. The beauty of that is, you put them up at home and you carry them in a basket and put them in as you go along. Now, in Toronto here you could single canvass a lot, all the honey you would care to deliver. With a bottle like this I would recommend not going back as you did with the dish, and if you leave your name on that bottle it is a standing advertisement for you. But if I left a sample of that kind, I would leave a blank postcard with my name and address, and all they would have to do would be to put a one-cent stamp on it and have it filled out. Have your other literature, but have it impressed on them that you are going to deliver on a certain day, and ask if they would like a ten-pound pail. The orders you would get if you only got one in five would pay you eventually. One party in Winnipeg said to me, "I like the way you do business; you keep up the quality and don't reduce the price."

Here is another bottle. (Shows.) That is a ten-cent bottle. It retails

for that in Toronto here. If you sold that at a private house you would get ten cents for it. In leaving a bottle like that I would mark it as a ten-cent sample of honey, and you tell them that you will call on a certain day and take their order, and you leave your cards or literature or blanks to fill out, and get your pay for the sample if they wish to keep the sample; if not, you take the sample back. Now, it seems to me there isn't one house in Toronto that wouldn't keep a sample, that would probably pay you for your trouble. You might work it that any person taking a ten-pound pail would get their sample free. I just throw these suggestions out. But in selling honey. I think selling from sample is the best way. Some one mentioned about advertising. That is expensive work. The local papers don't cost much, but they don't go far enough, and it doesn't reach the people like a sample. In reaching people I don't know any way better than sampling. In the first place, we want a first-class article, and in that way we get our name up. There is one thing about that education part, if we can only educate the people about the honey. In all my travels I never met a man, unless he was a bee-keeper, that could tell how clover honey differs. They know that one man has bees and another man has bees, and one man's honey is better than the other, but they don't understand how clover honey itself differs. Once get them to understand that there is a difference in honey, the longer it is left in the hives, and so on, and you will have no difficulty in selling your honey.

Mr. J. W. Sparling—Mr. President, this marketing of honey is an old, old subject. It is over 20 years ago now since I first commenced to read the American journals, and then they were looking forward to the time when it

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would be universally used; it was going to be cheap, and the people were going to use it daily. That time will never come from the very nature of the article. Honey is a sweet, and, like all sweets, it cloy on the appetite and you get tired of it. It is not like butter or cheese or beef. They don't cloy on the taste like a sweet. If a person has a sweet constantly before them they are bound to tire of it. Every one does; and that is why I say that honey, from its very nature, can never be an article of daily consumption. Of course, the sale can be worked up, and people will buy a little, and then they will drop it for a while and then take it up again; but you can't keep people eating honey all the time.

Mr. Gemmell—I would like to ask Mr. Deadman with regard to adulterated honey in Manitoba, did you find any trouble about Ontario honey, about its being supposed to be adulterated? I understand there is an idea among the Manitoba bee-keepers that the Ontario honey is adulterated. They say that tons and tons is being sent up adulterated, and is being sold as adulterated. If I understand it right, it is the Manitoba bee-keepers who are circulating the report. A gentleman of my acquaintance went into a couple of stores there and told them he would give \$200 to any one who could find a pound of honey from Ontario adulterated. He thought it would be a good idea if this Association would pass a resolution setting forth that the report was in circulation out there and they wanted to give a denial to it, and send it to the daily papers in Winnipeg.

Mr. Chisholm—I market quite a good deal of honey in the city of Belleville, and my idea is to give your customers a good quality, and I never fail to get them to like it as a rule. I

know I hold my honey up to ten cents a pound for either five- or ten-pound lots. For smaller lots I realize a little bit more. Then, if I sell it wholesale to retailers, I give them a fair reduction, but probably not as much as I hear some people talking of. I give them about ten per cent off. Then I have no trouble in my retail work.

Speaking of the adulteration of honey in Winnipeg, I may say I am confident, as far as I know, it is done. I have a son out near Winnipeg, and he would sometimes get honey from the stores because he had been accustomed to it at home, and when he got it he would say, "That isn't like the honey at home; there is something wrong with it." I am confident, as far as my knowledge goes, that there is tampering with it after it leaves the honest bee-keeper.

Mr. Gemmell—Then you think it is done in Manitoba? You don't think it is done here by the merchants?

Mr. Chisholm—I don't know much about the merchants here that sell it, but I know men there that buy it by the carload.

Mr. Gemmell—Of course, there is some adulterating being done, and it is nothing but right for the Ontario people to let them know if they buy it in the right places they will get it all right. I have sent out some honey to Manitoba, and my trade is increasing all the time, and I get a good, respectable price for it, and I am looking forward to having all the work I can do. I have some orders at the present time that I cannot fill—ten-pound-pail lots—just because they have got acquainted with my way.

Mr. Darling—It may be that some of those men who buy honey here take it out and mix it. There must be a difference in it of some kind. We have personal friends out there, and we send them a few cans as a present

sometimes, and sometimes an order will come from some person whom they mentioned it to. They will say, "I would like to get some of your honey; we can't get any good honey here." I thought, perhaps, it was because they had a prejudice, but I know that the same people who bought ours buy again. It is not a constant thing, but there is scarcely a year but I send out some honey there. Just the other day, I had a letter from Winnipeg asking for quotations for both honey and wax, and I told them I had neither to ship. There is something wrong, but I think it is some one out there.

Mr. Smith—I believe that is quite possible, but, as I have said several times, there are a great many beekeepers who don't produce it as good as they might, but they send off anything they can get in the way of honey. I was reading in the "Bee Journal" where a man was advocating taking it before it was capped at all, to save so much labor. Now, that may be feasible enough in a warm, dry climate like it is in California and Colorado, but it is quite impracticable in this country, but he advocated keeping it in a room where the temperature would be 100 degrees. Now, beginners might want to get quantities, and even if they didn't produce such a poor quality as this, they don't take the care they should with it, and they ship it there, and people who happen to get some of it say, "This is not like the honey we got when we were down East," and they suppose it is adulterated, where it might be only a poor class of honey. I know where this adulterated stuff is put on the market they are on the lookout for these things. The grocer doesn't want to sell a poor article if he can help it, and if you think it is, go and get a sample and get it analyzed; if those grocers are advised that it is wrong,

they don't give a second order. My one great difficulty is to produce a supply to meet the demand, and to get it good enough to keep it up to the standard, or we have to get it from others, and then sometimes at the bottom of the can it will be a very good sample and higher up in the can it will be a different sample altogether. Mr. Sparling was speaking of honey being sweet and people tiring of it. It may be so in some cases because people use it in a wrong way. We went into it to produce it for our own use, and we use it in the right way, but I know of some people, when the best honey comes in, they will take a large saucerful and try to eat it up at one meal, and they sicken themselves for the whole season. That is one line of education that might be gone into. They ought to be taught that it is a concentrated article and should be used in small quantities.

Mr. Pickett—It seems to me that the subject has resolved itself to this: That is, first produce a good article; secondly, be honest yourself, and, thirdly, try and get a good sale for it. I sold the last of mine to Winnipeg people and got ten cents a pound for it. My opinion is this, We must first produce a good article; second, have an honest man to handle it, and be honest yourself, and, thirdly, try and get it before the public with your name attached to it, so that they will know where to send for it when wanted, and be as regular in your visits as possible, so as to supply their needs, because many people do not wish to buy large quantities. I brought my last can to the station this morning to go to Manitoba, at 9c for the honey, or 10c for the honey and can included. I have never taken less than 9c a pound for my honey since I started producing.

Mr. Holtermann—This question of

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adulteration of honey in Manitoba. I think we should do something about it and I would move the following: That we notify the Department at Ottawa that it has come to our notice that the Western papers are circulating reports that the Ontario bee-keepers are selling honey that is adulterated, and that they send for samples of the honey, as we are confident that it has been done, and that we would like to find out the sources of such adulteration, if any, and that the Winnipeg papers be notified of the resolution passed by the Ontario Bee-keepers' Convention and the results.

Mr. Gemmell—I second that motion.

The President put the motion, which on a vote having been taken was declared carried.

"HIVE-MAKING EXPERIENCES OF AN AMATEUR."

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Dear Sir,—A certain young fellow, whom we will designate as "Amateur," a rather peculiar young fellow, by the way, at least so people used to say, once got the notion into his head that he would like to keep bees, and so with this object in view, he journeyed to Brantford, to the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co's establishment, and procured a colony of bees and a few necessary supplies with which to handle said bees, and he at once launched into the bee-keeping business with all the ardor of youth, an ardor only intensified by his love for nature in all her varying forms and moods, and after three seasons' experience in the bee business he finds his ardor undiminished, although he must confess that his bees have been very largely a failure (financially) due no doubt, in large measure, to his inexperience and consequent bungling methods. But though his bees brought him almost no returns financially, and although he has spent

many times more money on his bees than they have returned to him he considers that his money and time has been well spent, for "Amateur" is such a peculiar fellow that he does not consider the gathering together of a few dollars the chief end of man's existence. He does not consider himself the servant of the "almighty dollar," rather does he consider the dollar a very good servant of his, and if he can by spending a few dollars increase his own happiness, and that of those around him, if he can make himself a little better, and stronger man, mentally I mean, by spending his money he does not intend to hoard it up for succeeding generations to quarrel over or squander in riotous living. In short he does not place so very great value on the treasures laid up here below where "moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal," but if he can in the few years of this life lay up treasures "where moth and rust doth not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal," he will consider himself rich indeed, even though he may be living in abject poverty as regards this world's goods.

So, with this introduction, we will proceed to the consideration of our subject, "Hive-making Experiences." As we have said, "Amateur's" bees have not been a very profitable investment, financially, so far, but for all that, he is laying plans for still greater expansion in the future, and while he has eight colonies of bees in winter quarters now, and who knows whether there will be any by spring or not, is even now busily engaged, in his spare time in making preparation for considerable increase next season.

But to give a little more of "Amateur's" character. He is not only a lover of nature, but he is one of those fellows who enjoy "Makin' things," he

enjoys working with tools and machinery. For a few years he rode a "bike," a second-hand "ice-wagon," by the way, and a little over a year ago getting tired repairing his old "bike" for road work, he fixed it up in a different way and set it up in the shop where all the tinkering around the farm is done, and invested a little money in a small circular saw and pulled an old mower, to pieces and secured a shaft and bearings from it and connected the "bike" and saw together and proceeded to go wheeling in winter time, but he found it too much like pedalling uphill to get down to any real hive-making with his "bike," so this winter he took the saw and fixed it into another frame and hitched the horse-power to it. A horse-power, by the way, big enough and strong enough to run a threshing machine, and investing \$12.55 in lumber he proceeded in earnest to make bee-hives. After a little trouble at first in getting his saw to work right, due again to his inexperience he finally got it to running in good shape and got "onto the hang of the thing" himself, and—say, but didn't he make the sawdust fly! He enjoyed seeing that saw go ripping through those boards almost as much as he used to enjoy watching his bees busily at work, on some balmy day in June, or taking a look through his hives, and—and—perchance having a bee sit down on him rather solid sometimes.

However, after considerable manipulation of that saw and that lumber, he finally got that lumber cut into shape to make twenty hive bodies, with thirty-three supers, (he hadn't enough lumber to make two supers each) with frames, hand-holes, grooves, and all the other fringes, almost as good as he could have secured them from the bee-factory. Of course, they were not quite as smoothly and elegantly finish-

ed as a factory-made hive, and yet when he gets some of them nailed together he finds they will compare very favorably with the factory-made hives—even with respect to their finished appearance, and they haven't cost him one-half what the same number of factory-made hives would have cost.

So the result of "Amateur's experience in hive-making" is that he is more firmly convinced than ever that it pays the bee-keeper to make his own hives, more particularly if he is not particularly busy in winter, and can thereby very largely leave out of the calculation the price of labor. In passing, "Amateur" would like to express the opinion that if, as he says, those hives Allan Latham describes in a recent number of the "American Bee Journal" cost him fifty cents each, he pays pretty dearly for such cheap makeshift pretences of hives as he describes. "Amateur" considers it much better economy to go to the saw-mill and get some good lumber and make some good hives, than to spend as much money on a make-shift box that cannot, as he thinks, be anything but a source of trouble and annoyance.

So lest "ye editor" may not find space for these rambling thoughts, and lest if he should "ye readers" may not have patience to wander through them all "Amateur" will close this already too lengthy epistle, and subscribe himself,

J. D. TAYLOR,

Galt, Ont.

SIMCOE COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The Simcoe County Bee-keepers' Association will meet in Barrie on Easter Saturday, April 14th, 1906. A good program will be furnished, and all members and others interested are invited to attend.

James Martin,
President.

Denis Nolan,
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SHORT-CUTS IN BEE-KEEPING. Paper read at the U. S. National Bee- Keepers' Convention, Chicago.

(By M. A. Gill, Longmount, Col.)

In practising the short-cuts in bee-keeping the first thing to commence upon is yourself. Don't go into the battle and find that you are out of information and ammunition; be prepared and then don't worry. It is a fact, perhaps, that no class of men worry so much about the weather as do bee-men. Who was it that said,

As a rule, man's a fool;
When it's hot, he wants it cool;
When it's cool he wants it hot;
Always wanting what is not,
So, as a rule, man's a fool.

Remember that the sun is everlasting, and that the clouds are only temporary, and that it is best to turn them wrong side out occasionally; so you can see the silver lining; and when you cannot count your profits, count your other blessings. That was the only way I could get any comfort this season when, I figured up that my sales had been \$400 and my expenses \$1,500.

In giving my ideas of the "Short-cuts in Bee-keeping," I shall give them from my own viewpoint, that of working for comb honey, not with a hundred colonies, but with more than one thousand, in a climate such as is found only in the arid west.

If you intend to keep bees on a large scale, establish a large home apiary and have ample shop and warehouse where all work is done and supplies kept for the out-yards. Don't build a lot of useless honey houses at each out-yard, but get the habit of loading your wagon with a good sheet, which is always bee-tight if properly secured.

Much valuable time is lost by taking all supplies from the wagon to a honey house, then out to the bees, and taking honey from the bees to a honey house, to be again moved in a short time to the wagon. Better take

your honey right to the wagon, keeping it perfectly bee-tight (if conditions require it), thus there is only one exposure to the bees. By this plan your load is ready to go home when you are.

If you intend to keep bees on a large scale, don't turn inventor and don't adopt every new-fangled hive that comes along. I know there are many inventors who claim that if their particular fussy plans were adopted universally bee-keeping would be revolutionized.

In my opinion, the poorest hives are of recent invention, and the best practical hive ever invented was that by Father Langstroth 50 years ago, and "Glory be to his name." Yes, the simple Langstroth hive, with Hoffman frames and the more modern supers are good enough. Whatever you use, have a complete uniformity of fixtures.

When it comes to the management of bees in all climates where they may be wintered out of doors, have your winter loss the previous autumn. This can be done by killing poor queens and doubling up until every hive has a vigorous queen, a hive full of young bees and full of honey. Then in the spring, if conditions are normal, the bees will lead you along at a merry clip to keep up with your work, instead of your continually fussing with them to get them ready for their work.

In supering the bees there are three in my crew. One wheels the supers from the wagon, another puts them on the hives and the third man follows with a spirit level and a grape basket full of little wedges (that have been previously prepared), and properly levels each hive.

In the care and management of swarming is where every bee-keeper is put to his wits' ends to be equal to all emergencies. No two seasons are exactly alike, and any system must be varied to meet contingencies.

In locations where the last half of July and all of August have a sufficient flow to store surplus it is safe to shake a whole apiary from May 25 to June 10 (vary the time as conditions vary), making, perhaps, from 75 to 100 per cent increase, and seeing to it that all increase have a young laying queen as soon as possible.

You may expect such an apiary in such a locality to come up to the close of the season with as much surplus honey as though there had been no increase, and you have the increase, and, besides, the plan will enable you to place such yards "hors de combat" through the swarming season and enable you to give your entire attention to yards where the main flow of honey is earlier. Where you wish to control swarming, or increase rather, this can be done completely by the so-called shook swarming method. With me, shook swarming is the most feasible route I have found to the absolute control of increase. Any plan that requires any subsequent fussing with is not practicable with the man who is caring for hundreds of colonies and running on schedule time and visiting every colony every six days. I think many who have tried shook swarming and have condemned the plan have mistaken superseding for swarming in some cases, and in such a case it will always fail. It is surprising sometimes what a large percentage is found superseding during the months of June, July and August, where the go-as-you-please plan is followed with regard to queens.

I am not going to try to cover the ground under the title "Short-cuts in Bee-keeping," for I believe that the most satisfactory and effective work in bee conventions comes from the batteries that are always trained upon the question box.

In recapitulation, I will say that preparedness, alertness and a complete mind-picture, as it were, of all conditions in each apiary, this, together with uniformity of fixtures and a complete knowledge of your field and its flora, constitute the short-cuts in bee-keeping, and all this means work.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Q—How would you judge my cellar to be for wintering bees? Temperature very even, between 35 and 40 most of the time; never goes above 45 or below freezing point. Cistern (large) in cellar, open at top and in constant use. Cement floor.—E. A. C., Colpoys Bay, Ont.

Answer.—Bees should winter fairly well in a cellar of the above description if it is dry and dark, but I would prefer a cellar that would maintain an average temperature of at least five degrees higher. While a drop in the temperature to the freezing point may not do much harm if it does not last long, we have found that a range of from 40 degrees to 50 degrees gave the best results. The open cistern in the cellar would help to equalize the temperature, but should be covered in some way to keep the bees from dropping into it.

Q—Would you be kind enough to give me the best method of keeping down swarming and not interfere with honey-gathering. My bees swarm very rapidly. They always commence in May, sometimes on the 15th.—C. P. Glen Major, Ont.

Answer.—It is a good sign when all colonies in normal condition are ready to swarm in May. If the honey flow is good, or the hive small, they soon become crowded, and preparations for swarming are commenced by starting queen-cells.

Swarming may be controlled in various ways. There are few apiaries in which all the colonies will be up to their full strength in May, and just before they are filled up a frame of brood may be taken from the strongest and given to the next weaker, and the vacancy filled up with an empty comb. This may be repeated in a week or ten days if the weather is favorable. When all the hives are filled, a super or upper storey, with frames filled with comb, may be given.

The best non-swarming hive in use is the 10-frame or 12-frame Langstroth, and if a super be given just before they commence to build queen cells they will rarely swarm during the honey season, and the bees keep working all the time, with corresponding profit.

St. Thomas, Ont. R. H. SMITH