

Thoughts andComments

ON CURRENT TOPICS

By a York County Bee Keeper.

EARLY SPRING FEEDING FOR STIMULATIVE PURPOSES

In two recent issues of the American Bee Journal, that excellent authority on apiculture, Mr. C. P. Dadant, has articles bearing on this question.

Mr. Dadant very strongly advocates early spring feeding to stimulate the bees, when nothing is coming in from the fields stipulating however, that the same should be done in a judicious manner. Mr. Dadant may be right, nevertheless, methinks that in our locality early feeding is very apt to act like the proverbial "two edged sword," and bee-keepers, especially beginners had better err on the safe side and leave the bees severely alone during March and April, provided of course that they have plenty of stores. During period named, have noticed that the bees generally have all the brood they can take care of through the changeable weather incidental to this part of the year. The only time that I regard as essential to feed for stimulative purposes, is between fruit bloom and clover, at this period it is hard to over do the matter, and one has the satisfaction of knowing that every bee reared at this season will be of use in the prospective honey season.

WILL CELLAR WINTERED BEES FOR- GET THEIR FORMER LOCATIONS?

It is quite orthodox to say that where bees are brought from the cellar in the spring that they will not go back to their former location provided they are placed on another stand.

However, as I proved to my own satisfaction this spring this rule like nearly all others, has exceptions to it. A couple of colonies that had been left in a remote corner of the yard last season, were when brought out of the cellar and placed in a different location among the rest of the hives. They were taken out of the cellar in the evening and as it happened it was two days before they had a flight. Dozens of bees from the two hives mentioned came back to the old stand, flying aimlessly around completely lost. Don't know if this is a common occurrence or not, however it seems to me that it would be quite risky to set a whole apiary in a new location when taken from the cellar, as we often hear that it is perfectly safe to do. Possibly the noise attendant to a large number of bees flying might attract stragglers back to the new location, and even if there was considerable mixing up there would be no real loss, as one colony's loss would be another's gain.

QUALITIES OF THE CARNIOLAN BEES

Am inclined to think that all who have the "real article" will agree with the most of what Prof. Benton has to say (April C. B. J.) in regard to the Carniolan bees. From my limited experience with them I feel quite sure that they are the quietest of all bees, and no doubt as Prof. Benton states, adverse reports as to this quality, are caused by bee-keepers having carniolans that have "other blood" in them.

They are the greater bees to build up fast in the spring that I ever had in the yard. Even a spring like the present one will not prevent brood rearing from going on rapidly in a hive ruled over by a Carniolan queen. They are not as conservative as Italians and strong colonies need watching to prevent starvation during

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