

soon enough than to lose many by setting them out too soon. We do not now set our bees out nearly as early as we formerly did having found that those set out later usually do better.

### SETTING OUT BEES.

**A**s you are well-aware, the bee-keeper's first concern in spring is when to set his bees on summer stands, so as to be safe from spring dwindling, &c. But the question is how are they to be got there with the least annoyance to, and smallest loss of, bees. Would I impose too much on good nature by asking you to explain, through the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, how you proceed to remove from winter house? Do you close the entrances of all before lifting, and do you set out the whole on the same day, or do you take part from the repository on different days; if so, how can the remaining ones be kept quiet while the first lot are being carried out? Objections arise in both cases. In the former too much excitement in the yard, in the latter the first set out would be somewhat confused by the surroundings being changed when the after lots were placed on the stands. Do you ever set out at night? My bees, I consider, are wintering well. • Two or three colonies had dysentery quite bad in January, but appear to be perfectly rid of it again, and are wintering as well as any. Have lost three colonies out of 174, one of which had fertile workers in the fall, (of course it's doom was sealed), the other two most likely lost their queens and then went to nothing as they had plenty of stores. The last Italian queen I bought of you is dead after laying for four seasons; she is now preserved in alcohol. Most of the bees in this part have wintered outside and in houses, but those not well packed have "gone the way of all flesh."

D. CHALMERS.

Poole, April 6th, 1885.

The way we usually set out our bees is as follows: After pollen has appeared we select a day which we suppose will be warm and favorable. If the sky is red when the sun is setting it is considered an indication of the following day being fine. Next morning, if the appearances are favorable and the weather is warm enough, with the wind South, South-East or South-West (but not if in the North or West), we proceed to the bee-houses, entering them and closing the

doors after us, allowing no light to get in, and place the entrance blocks on all the hives. As soon as we have done this we open the doors and commence carrying them out, setting each one on the summer stand on which it is to remain. We usually have assistance enough to carry from 150 to 300 colonies from the repository in about an hour. After all are set out we then open the entrances just sufficient to allow the bees to get a flight. Should the day be very warm and the bees seem inclined to enter some hives more than others, as some are liable not to mark their proper location when leaving the hive and will settle with any colony or colonies where the most bees appear to be flying, it is rarely necessary but we always have our smokers charged and ready, and sometimes when we find them clustering too much on one hive we either set a smoker down and allow the smoke to pass near the entrance and scatter the bees, or puff a little smoke around. By this means the bees are prevented from entering hives which they should not. Occasionally some hives will get more than their complement, but should they be unequally divided, we exchange the hives which equalizes the number of bees, as bees may enter any hive when they are set out, without loss of queens. In setting out early in the morning or late in the evening very little trouble is experienced, but setting out at mid-day, especially if there are many hives in a yard, some colonies will lose many of their force by the bees going to others, but by exercising a little care in smoking or exchanging the colonies in the yard his difficulty will be obviated. If you have a few old pots or pans in which to put fuel to make a smoke, they may be placed so that the wind will carry the smoke in the direction required, and prevent the bees from clustering where you do not want them to, and you will soon see the benefit and the effect produced by the smoke.