

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

ISSUED 1ST AND 15TH OF EACH MONTH

D. A. JONES. - - - EDITOR

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Publishers CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BEETON, ONT.

EDITORIAL.

Chas. F. Muth & son's catalogue for the current year has been received.—Address Cincinnati, Ohio.

We regret to learn that friend W. H. Hodgson of Hudson, Que., has been on the sick list for some time past.

We have received Mr. F. W. Jones' catalogue for 1892. It is neat, easily understood, and the quotations given for apian supplies reasonable.—Address Bedford, Que.

Now is the important time to look after bees—there is no time in the year that attention is so necessary. A great many imagine that bees will take care of themselves in the spring, and require no attention. It is a great mistake to give them unnecessary attention, keeping the hives open, thus allowing the brood to become chilled—disarranging the clusters or brood nest. In examining hives in the spring first see that they have a queen, and if not they should be doubled up with the weakest colony; or if it is the first or second day of being set out of winter quarters the queenless colony may be divided up among one another, or three other colonies, as bees when set out from their winter quarters usually have the same scent, and may be doubled up or combs exchanged, with queens or honey from one hive to another.

It is better to do this on the first day, but we have done it on the second day

with perfect safety. If they had marked their location and placed guards at the entrance to keep out robbers, it is then more difficult to unite.

Having ascertained that all your colonies have queens, next see that they have plenty of honey. If not, they should be fed, or the stores equalized. This may be done by taking combs of honey from those that have too much, and placing them in hives where wanting; where solid-capped honey is given next to the cluster, it is better to break cappings by rubbing over a stick or knife, mashing them slightly so the bees can get at the honey more readily. The hives should also be examined to see that there is no dead moulded bees on the bottom boards, or between the combs. Any such should be removed, and if you have one extra hive to start with you can exchange combs to a clean hive, then clean the hive and put the next combs in it and so on until you are done. In this way about two minutes is sufficient to exchange the combs from one hive to another, and have the bees all in order, as by placing the fingers between the combs properly, about three combs may be lifted out at the same time and placed in the hive from which they are taken. Even though the weather is a little cool, by lifting several out at a time quickly and placing them in the clean hive, no chilling of brood will occur.

Another point, bees should be tucked up as warm as possible in spring, and no heat should be allowed to escape unnecessarily; right here, let us say that we much prefer flat covers for hives, as it makes a much warmer hive in spring or fall, or should anybody have an old fashioned gable end cover having a space between the cloth and the roof of the hive, they should get inch boards cut the size of the top of the hive, and lay down on top of the cloth or quilt and thus prevent the escape of heat, which will assist in brood rearing in unfavorable weather; but those who give their hives more protection than simply one board in spring will be the gainers.

Great care should be taken not to leave entrances open too wide, and in fact when the days are warm and nights cool they should be open sufficiently every morning to allow the bees an opportunity to work without being crowded, and then the entrance should be