

I don't know just how much you mean by "so much." But it may be because "so much" of the instruction is given by men not smart enough to make themselves understood by the average amateur, or because the average amateur is not smart enough to understand "so much" of the instruction given.

But could you expect anyone to know enough to answer everything plainly when such a man as Darling is let loose to ask questions.—MILLER.

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FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### BEEKEEPERS' REPORTS.

Mr. C. Thielmann, Thielmanston, Minn., U.S., writes us under date May 1, 1893, as follows:—

"Bees in this part of the country have wintered poorly,—a good many have died, a great many are still very weak and getting weaker on account of the cold, wet and stormy weather. We have had a long winter, with a great deal of snow, which generally disappeared, however, by 1st April. On the third of that month the barometer showed 71° above zero, when most of the bees in this vicinity were set on their summer stands, after having been cellared for about five months and having had no flight since the 15th October.

"Before this our bees had generally a good flight from the 5th to the 18th of November, just before they were cellared. During the winter many more than usual came out upon the cellar floor; toward the latter part of the season a good many suffered from diarrhoea. My own bees all came through alive except one colony out of three hundred, but a few of them swarmed on the first day I set them out on account of the cold, snowy wet weather. From the 3rd to the 10th of April we had nice warm days, and the soft maples came into full bloom. Since then the bees could not fly safely, and considerable brood, which was dragged out by the bees, was observable on the alighting boards. On the 20th we had a snowfall of over twelve inches in depth, a considerable quantity of which is still left, and as we have had

two or three additional inches of a fall to-day, it is difficult to tell when it will disappear. During this period the thermometer, most of the time, showed about the freezing point; but on the morning of the 22nd, it was down to 12° above zero, which killed the soft maple and elm bloom entirely. This has been the coldest and longest continued spell of poor weather at this season of the year that we have experienced since 1857. It has been a hard season for the bees, as they cannot raise brood enough to replace the old bees which are dying daily, and it will consequently leave the colonies very weak in three or four weeks hence; and many will dwindle away altogether.

"All the clovers look healthy, but are backward; so are our pastures. Nothing of any kind is to be had outside yet for stock. A few have commenced to seed, but so far the ground has not been fit for its reception, and it is difficult to say when it will be. A good deal of soft snow fell last night and to day, and everybody is discouraged. As a rule our seeding time extends from the 12th to the 24th of April for small grain; but since the 10th nothing could be done for the bees. It was not safe to open a hive even to see if they had food enough, as every experienced beekeeper knows that, unless absolutely necessary for feeding purposes, to open a hive in cold windy weather is really to do damage to the inmates. The Saturday afternoon of the 28th was an exception; it was pleasant and warm enough to examine the condition of the hives; but there was very little brood, and but very few eggs to be seen."

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Mr. Geo. Nicholson of Wallbridge, Ont., writes:—"In the spring of 1892 I put six colonies on their summer stands. They increased to fifteen during the summer, and I extracted about two hundred pounds of honey. I lost four colonies during the winter and have now eleven in good working order. I am young at the business as yet, but I like to work with them."

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Mr. T. J. Cole of Bowmanville writes:—