

cleansed and prepared for the second, and so on. Frames, bees, and all, can be lifted out, one at a time, the adhering dead bees on bottom-bar brushed off with a feather or wing, and gently placed in a clean hive, when the familiar hum of joy and satisfaction will soon ascend to your ears.

But, above all, keep the brood-nest warm during the chilly days and nights of spring. This is rendered imperative by the rapid disappearance of the old bees at this time, and the consequent diminution of the natural heat in the hive, which *must* be retained by proper packing and contraction of entrance, or 'chilled brood,' and possibly the loss of the colony, is the result.

'Stimulative' spring feeding 'as a supposed necessary part of spring management is not now so much practised as heretofore. While it may be advisable in some cases of inferior queens and backward brooding through deficient stores, it is not at all necessary with good queens and abundant stores.

At the time of overhauling and cleansing the hives my practice is to take away empty frames of comb and crowd the bees up into snug and smaller quarters, leaving the colony on two, three, four, or more frames according to its strength. These may be replaced in the hive from time to time as required.

What is called 'spreading of brood' in the spring to hurry up brooding is unsafe with any but the experienced, and is not to be recommended. When adding needed frames from time to time, I prefer to leave the brood-nest intact and make the additions on each side of it. The frames thus added generally contain more or less honey, and it is often desirable to uncap, or partially uncap, that side facing the brood, when the queen will promptly do her part. When the temperature and other conditions justify and call for it, a frame of honey may be thus uncapped or abraded and placed in the centre of the brood-nest to be filled with brood. This is about all the spring stimulation necessary, or safe, where there is a good queen and plenty of food. But the queen ought, in my opinion, to get abundance of room and have full swing up to the beginning of the heavy flow, when her area ought to be curtailed; but about this 'contraction of brood nest,' which is a disputed point, in next letter.

ALLAN PRINGLE in B. B. J.

TO THE DEAF.—A person cured of Deafness and noises in the head of 23 years standing by a simple remedy, will send a description of it FREE to any Person who applies to NICHOLSON, 177 McDougal Street, New York.

From the American Bee Journal FEEDING.

THE FIRST POLLEN GATHERED FOR THE SEASON.

BEES gathered their first pollen on March 15, amid general rejoicing. It is meet that they should rejoice, with the first new bread of the season, after living on canned goods so long. This new, fresh diet will impart new life to the denizens of the hive and they will awake from their drowsy slumbers, and no more "folding of their hands to sleep." Spring-time has come, and "the voice of the turtle is heard in the land;" the elms are flowering, and yielding pale-yellow pollen, and catkins are appearing on the willows, which will soon yield honey and bread. All Nature rejoices, and the "Old Man of the Woods" arouses from his slumbers and shakes the snow from his mantle.

The queen, being fed so generously by her subjects, will commence her arduous labors of rearing a large family. It is to be hoped that she will not be too ambitious, and lay more eggs than the bees can cover. To day (March 18) is quite cool and chilly, and the bees will contract the cluster, to keep warm, and if in doing so the larvæ are unprotected, they must perish. I remonstrated against our bees being removed from the cellar during the warm days—although they were loud in their demands for a flight—fearing that the weather might change to cold, and that the cellar bees might be attacked with a spell of "spring dwindling;" while those that had passed the winter upon the summer stands would not be affected by it, being more hardy from exposure. Therefore fresh air was admitted more freely into the cellar, and their loud demonstrations ceased, and only their quite, happy hum was to be heard.

SPRING FEEDING OF BEES.

I will take back all I ever said about stimulative feeding in early spring. Localities may differ in this respect, as in many other things, but I am convinced, by repeated trials, that it is a decided injury here. It excites bees to activity, and they will fly out in inclement weather, in search of water and mineral salts, and perish, and their death prove a serious loss to the colony, at a time when their services were most needed. More young bees may be reared, but at a time when their services are not worth so much to the commonwealth as the old ones are.

Feeding rye-meal, ground-oats, pea flour, or unboiled wheat-flour in early spring, as a substitute for pollen, is advocated by many, the food being placed in shallow boxes, in sunny