

of feeding sugar to bees; one of which is, to make the sugar into candy by kneading a little honey in with it, till it forms a stiff dough, as it were, or it can be made into large cakes of soft candy by boiling it just right in a little water, when it is laid over the frames for winter stores. During winter, the moisture arising from the bees collects on the candy, which moistens it to such an extent that the bees can lick it up, thus giving them a supply of food. However, during a cold spell it often happens that the bees fail to cluster on the candy, and the severe cold keeps them from leaving the cluster to reach it, so that starvation occurs, which is not satisfactory to the apiarist, hence this plan of feeding is not practised, only as the bees have been neglected till cold weather prevents any other way of feeding. When a colony has a few pounds of honey in the hive to "bridge" over these cold spells, this way of feeding is very satisfactory for the purpose intended. The second plan and by far the preferable one, is to make the sugar into a syrup, which is fed to bees in feeders during the warm days of September or October, so that they can store it in their comb, and cap it over the same as honey. As I have so many letters asking how I make this syrup, I think the editor will publish the matter again, even if he has already published the formula twice before.

Put 15 pounds of water in a vessel that will hold about 25 quarts, and bring the water to a boil. When boiling, slowly stir in 30 pounds of granulated sugar, so that it will dissolve, instead of settling to the bottom and burning. Now bring to a boil again, when it is to be set from the fire, and 5 pounds of good honey stirred in. This gives about 50 pounds of feed, of about the consistency of honey, the same being the best for winter feeding of any I know of.

BEES DROWNING IN FEED.

Still another correspondent wishes to know how he can feed his bees syrup without their sticking fast and drowning in it. To obviate this a very narrow feeder must be used so that the bees can cling to the feeder on each side; or a float must be provided for the wide feeder. A feeder which is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch wide will always drown bees unless the float is used. One of that width and under, needs no float, for the bees are never out of the reach of one side or the other of the feeder. As the larger part of those feeding bees use any thing that they come across for this purpose, the common six quart milk pan is probably more largely used than anything else. I will tell the readers how I used this successfully. To use such a pan as a feeder, however, the hive must have a

cover of depth enough to go over the pan, otherwise the bees from the outside would get at the feed and cause trouble. Set the pan on the top of the hive, and fill it with syrup, after which pull up two or three handfuls of the short grass about the hives, and scatter over the syrup for a float. Set up a piece of a section or chip against the side of the pan, so the bees can easily climb over to the feed, when a hole is to be opened to the hive below, by turning up one corner of the quilt, or removing a slat in the honey-board, for the bees to come up through. I now scatter a few drops of the feed down through the hole and over the chip, and put on the cover, seeing that all is tight about the joints, so that no bees can get in from the outside. As these pans hold about 20 pounds of feed this once feeding is all that most colonies require.

UNITING BEES.

Another correspondent wishes to know how it would do to unite two weak colonies of bees for winter. This is the proper thing to do; for two weak colonies, kept separate, will consume nearly twice the stores which both would unite, and very likely perish before spring, while if put together they would winter as well as any large colony. The way I would proceed in such a case would be as follows: If one of the queens is known to be feeble or inferior, she is killed so that the best one may survive, when both colonies are smoked freely, I pound on top of the hive as I smoke them, so that the bees may fill themselves with honey, after which one is carried to the stand of the other, and both hives opened. I now select out of both hives the combs containing the most honey, setting them in one of the hives alternately, so as to mix the bees as much as possible, thus causing them not to fight, and also to mark their location anew upon their first flight afterward, so few if any return to their former home. After the hive is filled with comb, close the same; and after putting a wide board in front of the hive, reaching from the ground to the entrance, shake the bees off the remaining frames, taking one from one hive and the next from the other, thus mixing the bees as before. Take everything, which would look like home, from the old stand, storing combs, hives, etc. away for another year and the work is done.—G. M. DOOLITTLE in Gleanings.

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