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OUR OWN APIARY.

WE told you on page 75 that when we completed the examination of those in clamps and packed in various ways, we would report. We have now examined them all. One clamp was packed in chaff as follows:— a platform was made long enough to hold about fifty hives, allowing them to be set about two inches apart. This platform was raised six inches above the ground, resting on scantling; boards were then put up in front and behind about eight inches high. The shallow box thus formed, (8 inches deep and 4ft. wide,) was filled with chaff and a second floor laid over those portions on which the hives were to set, thus giving eight inches of dry chaff packing under the hives; boards and posts were then placed in front and rear. The hives were set about two inches apart on this platform the lids removed, entrances left open and two quilts placed on top of each colony. We next made spouts to fit the entrances to the hives. These spouts reached to the outside of the clamp in front small notches being cut in the bottom front board of the clamp to allow the spouts to pass out; thus securing a continuous entrance for each colony. Boards were then placed in front and behind, leaving about 12 inches in front and 16 inches behind, as spaces to be filled. Dry chaff was packed tightly in these spaces, also placed about 18 inches deep on the top of the hives. Now you will observe that the hives placed in the clamp were 2 inches apart, twelve inches from the front of clamp, 16 inches from the back with 18 inches of packing on top and 8 inches under. The posts and boards in front of clamp

were about 2 feet higher than the back. A slanting board roof was then placed on the clamp, (leaving a space between chaff and the roof,) the steepness of which prevented the wet from getting through to the packing. The bees in this clamp were found in finer condition on examination than those in the bee-house, although those in the latter came out in very good condition, but they seem to have lost more bees by flying out, dropping on the ground and dying, while those in the clamp lost very few, the bottom board of some hives not having a spoonful of dead bees on them. Our other clamps were packed with straw and sawdust, the size and shape of the clamps being about the same as the one we have just described with the exception of being so much longer, some of them holding from 80 to 90 colonies each. The hives in these were placed about the same distance apart as the first and having the same quantity of packing all around, but for these clamps we could not procure good dry sawdust, and we were forced to take it from a large pile which had been lying in the mill yard all the summer and had become thoroughly saturated by the rains. As it was also impossible to procure chaff we had to use this, but in order to prevent the bad effects of the damp sawdust against the hives, we packed about 3 inches of dry straw tightly around the hives. If the sawdust had been dry we should not have used the straw. In spite of the long severe winter one clamp that contained about 80 colonies when examined had but three dead ones, one having been very weak and the other two from queenlessness. The rest were all in fine condition, yet not in quite as good condition as the ones taken from the same yard and set in the bee house; as we told you on page 75 of the JOURNAL that one only had died in the bee-house. Had this sawdust been dry, we feel certain that those in clamp