

of comb can be extracted or fed back to the bees and the comb made into wax.

If there is not enough suitable comb to fill all the frames it will be best to fill the empty ones with comb foundation and cut the foundation to reach within one eighth of an inch of each end of the frame. If you cannot afford to use so much foundation, put a strip of any width as a starter—half an inch or wider—along the centre of the under side of the top bar of the frame so as to give the bees a guide by which to build their comb straight in the frame and to make sure that they will be straight put each frame containing starters between frames of comb if possible, but do not separate the combs containing brood until warm, settled weather, or the brood may get chilled. As soon as the bees have fastened the comb securely in the frames which will be from one to three days, the wires should be removed.

#### OUR LINWOOD LETTER.

For the Practical Bee-Keeper.

Dear Sir,—I am pleased to find that you have decided to issue your paper monthly—three months was too long to wait for so interesting a paper as you have so far been able to lay before us. I am somewhat of an enthusiast in apiculture and devour everything of that kind that comes within my reach.

I do not know of anything in particular that I could say just now except it be some of my experiences in Bee keeping. I belong to a class of religionists who believe it is always of some profit, not only to others, but to oneself to relate your experience.

At this season of the year all Bee-keepers have something to say as to the condition of their apiary. How they have wintered, and as to the result of the different modes of pre-

paring them for winter, whether inside or outside.

I now winter all on the summer stands, and my success last year and this year has been fairly satisfactory. A year ago out of some fifty colonies, my only loss was in Queens. This spring out of some seventy-five colonies I have not as yet detected loss of any Queens, but three colonies have died, two of these were in fine condition, both as to the size of the colony and the quantity of stores. Others were somewhat short of stores but not exhausted. One had been slightly affected with diarrhea, but the others were clean and the conditions seemed most favorable for proper wintering, and I was at first somewhat puzzled to determine the cause of their death, and I am not certain that I have yet determined it, but the only cause I can think of is in the manner of packing these particular colonies. I use the Richardson hive, and on all the others I left the honey board, on simply turning the button on top to allow a slight ventilation into the cushion above. On these three, and perhaps one or two more, I removed this board, placed some sticks across the frames, then spread a thin cloth over and covered with about a foot of forest leaves which were not pressed down. Now I fancy there was too much upward ventilation, which allowed the heat of the hive to escape, and in the very severe cold of about the 1st of March they simply perished. All my other colonies seem to be in fairly good shape.

I may have something to say in a future issue. In the meantime wishing you success in your venture, I am yours,

A. BOOMER.

Linwood, March 16th, 1894.

#### PETER PIPER'S NEWS NOTES.

Sweet clover is a good honey plant—a very good honey plant, but its