connection with out-apiaries which is

WINTER ENTRANCES AND PROTECTION FROM SNOW.

At the home apiary it is an easy matter to remove any board or other covering used as a protection from snow when a warm day comes, but with an out-apiary it is quite different. What is required then is something that will prevent the snow from clogging the entrance, and yet not interfere with the bees coming out on warm days. Formerly my hives, like most hives, have had projecting bottom boards but I have ceased to make them in that way, unless for summer use. I make them now with either the bottom board flush with the end or one half an inch shorter. To accommodate those with projecting bottoms I made a "lean-to" out of two or more boards cleated together and sufficiently wide that when placed a foot or so from the hive at the bottom would come below the cover at the top when leaned against it. The openings at each side were covered as well. This formed a large air space in front of each. I found, however, that even with these the snow would sometimes blow in and lodge near the entrance. This was happily overcome by a piece of board about a foot wide or so, slanting it against the hive and over the entrance before putting up the larger or outer one. Any snow that blew in fell against this inner board and did no harm. As I use all double hives for winter this is not much trouble and will last a lifetime. The hive I make now and which I prefer for the home yard is one that has a recess just above the entrance which answers to a portico, but is different in as much as it does not project past the front of the hive, in fact half an inch back. Where your hive is to have two inches of chaff or other packing in front it is an easy matter to make it; not only is it an advantage in that it is easily covered for winter but when the bees come in with a load they can fly to within an inch of the inside of the hive instead of having to walk three or four inches. The board I use for these I have hinged on to the front, and other than warm days and nights in the spring it is left down. For the out-apiary we want something that will not interfere with the bees flying when they desire to do so. This is accomplished by having no projecting bottom boards and taking a three-quarter-inch strip say three inches wide and about two inches longer than the entrance; this strip has a rabbit half inch by three-quarter on the lower side; one end of this is screwed to the hive so as to come below the entrance, the other end resting on a nail. The rabbit on the under side allows the bees to pass down and out. In summer it is swung back out of the way. We find this not only all that is required in winter but valuable as a protection from the cold winds in the spring. The entrance of course in addition to this is contracted to suit the requirements of each colony. Possibly I am too particular about this matter but it is worth considering. What surprises me is that "Roots A, B, C" and "Langstroth Revised" make no mention regarding any protection which is so necessary where snow is abundant. In another article we will discuss or give an outline of the time given to an out-apiary of a given number of colonies, and the profit and loss accruing therefrom in an average season in an average locality.

An Interesting Report from Leeds Co.

My locality during the last two or three years has been very unfavorable for bee-keeping—a combination