

bees just hatched out, spreading a cloth or paper in front of the hive to be strengthened, jarring the comb in order to cause most of the old bees to take wing and return to the old colony before commencing to shake down on the cloth or paper. If they are shook down close in front of the hive the few old bees that remain on the comb are liable to run into the hive, and cause the destruction of the queen. From this you will see the necessity of shaking them from four to six feet in front of the hive. After they have remained on the cloth or paper a few minutes, with a feather or brush they may be swept towards the entrance. This stirring will cause any old bees to take wing, while the young ones that have never marked their location pass into the weak colony. We once strengthened colonies containing a queen and about two dozen bees, so that they were the strongest in the yard in less than three days. But this cannot be done unless you have strong colonies to draw the young bees from and can spare them without injury.

To put the whole thing in a nut shell. In order to have good colonies before the honey season commences four points must be observed :

- 1st. Plenty of heat in the hive. (No fear of having too much.)
- 2nd. Abundance of stores.
- 3rd. Reversing the combs.
- 4th. A young and prolific queen.

If this reversing of combs is not fully understood, we shall be pleased to explain further on this subject.

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A NORFOLK COUNTY BEE-KEEPER.

**B**EING in Simcoe the other day, I took the opportunity of paying a visit to Mr. C. McInally, a young and enterprising bee-keeper, who has quite a large apiary about three miles out of town. It is a constant surprise to me in the course of my travels here and there, that I come across bee-keepers, as yet unknown to fame, who are quickly laying the foundations of success, and pursuing a course that cannot, but sooner or later, bring them to the front. If we have still a large number of old foggy bee-keepers who will never get out of the deeply worn ruts of tradition, and will always, to the end of the chapter, work by the rule of thumb, we have also many young and aspiring

spirits, who are studying, reading, experimenting, investigating, and making rapid strides toward the first form in apiculture. Such a case I have now to record.

Mr. C. McInally, when at school, sprained his back while turning a hand-spring, the result being a weakness which unfitted him for heavy farm work. So he went on with his studies, intending to devote himself to some literary or professional occupation. But, toward the close of his course, happening to "come across" a book on bee-keeping, he became deeply interested in that pursuit, and after some preliminary experiments to test his aptitude in handling bees, determined to make a business of it. His father's farm presented an excellent location, and three years ago last summer he "waded in" somewhat adventurously. The fall found him with sixty-four colonies, for whose accommodation he built a cellar on the most approved principles according to the books, and the experiences recorded in the bee journals. His wintering proved a success, as it has done the two seasons since. The spring of 1887 finds him in possession of upwards of 200 colonies, in excellent condition. At the date of my visit, April 26th, about half of his bees had been taken out of winter quarters. We examined nearly all the stocks, just to ascertain their general condition, finding them, apparently, strong in bees with clean combs, plenty of stores, and every appearance of thrift. A prettier lot of bees at the opening of spring, one could not wish to see. Two hives showed signs of diarrhoea at the entrances, but indoors all seemed right, with the exception of some smearings on the walls of the hives. The combs were unsoiled, and the two stocks were apparently, amongst the strongest in the apiary.

In the cellar, we found the thermometer standing at 52°, and the bees in a state of peaceful quietude, after an imprisonment of over five months. Removing the quilts, there were strong stocks, tranquilly awaiting transfer to the outer air. A thorough examination could not be had without removing hives, and disturbing the bees, but, to all appearance, the indoor colonies averaged pretty well with those outside, and evidently the percentage of loss will be small. From the strength of the stocks, and their abundance of stores, there is but little danger of spring dwindling, unless the weather should be unusually unpropitious:

This cellar is, by all odds, the best I have ever inspected. It is built of stone, well pointed. The ceiling is ten feet high. A sub-earth air-duct two hundred feet long conveys air through large drain pipes, and, in the coldest weather, it must be greatly modified during its passage from