

# The Canadian Bee Journal.

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## OUR OWN APIARY.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

**T**HIS morning (November 14th) one of our men after mixing up some arsenic, granulated sugar and flour in equal parts, as mentioned on page 451 in "our own apiary" started off to the outside yards to place it in the various bee-houses to destroy all the mice before the bees are set into winter quarters. Small quantities will be placed on pieces of paper and laid in the bee-houses where they can get at it conveniently. This will destroy every one of them in from one to three days, and sooner if they find the poison. Next week we expect to set some of our bees in clamps if weather is favorable. We shall winter the majority of them in our bee-houses, which hold from 150 to 400 colonies. We will use the same clamps as last year, and will take the hives from various portions of the yard, so as to have a fair average, enabling us to test the difference between clamp and in-door wintering pretty well. While we are writing this morning it is snowing and has been since 6 o'clock. This is the first we have had this season and expect it will not remain with us long as lightning was reported on the evening of the 12th, which is said to indicate open weather for some time. By the way, we wish our friends in northern latitudes,—as Canada, Michigan, Wisconsin and Maine,—would report to us the date of the latest thunder and lightning in the fall and the earliest in the spring also whether sheet or chain lightning. For a long time we have noted the latest and earliest dates of the thunder and lightning in fall and spring with the following results. It is generally from three

to six weeks, sometimes longer, after the last lightning before winter sets in, and early lightning in the spring indicates a late backward season. We never like to see thunder storms early in the year. We are of course speaking only of our own locality.

### ANOTHER KIND OF CLAMP.

One of our assistants who has been with us for years, and who has also kept a few colonies on his own account has wintered his own bees on the following plan: He selects a high piece of ground usually dry, and sandy, if possible; digs a trench, throwing the earth all to the north or west of the same as the case may be, about two feet deep—sometimes three—and about four feet wide; along the front and back of the trench he places posts at suitable distances, and on tops of these are placed cross timbers to support the roof, leaving a space between roof and bottom of trench of from three to four feet; then he packs about one foot of straw at back of trench and six inches on bottom; places the hives on stringers keeping them about six inches above the ground; next the space from top of hives up to roof of earth clamp is tightly filled with straw and about one foot of straw is placed in front. Boards, slabs, planks, or timbers as the case may be are laid over top of posts, and down back and front of posts to earth. We nearly forgot to mention that there is a board put up in front of hives above the entrance leaving an air chamber in front of hive about one foot wide by ten inches deep, or say a foot square; this air chamber runs the entire length of clamp which in his case is about 100 feet long, and holds about 50 colonies. The air chamber is connected at both ends with an air ventilating pipe which runs about one or two hundred feet from each end of clamp to the east and west giving a direct circulation of air in front of all the hives from outside