

hive, but on the side of the hive opposite of the cluster of bees. This came about by allowing the combs to remain in the hive during the Winter the same as in the Summer, which was right the opposite from the directions I have just given, for the bees, when left to themselves, have the least honey in the central frame. As they cluster here for Winter, they soon eat all the honey above them, when they begin to move toward one side of the hive or the other for stores, and when all the stores are consumed on that side, they must starve unless the weather is warm enough to admit of their carrying honey across to the brood nest, for by this time a brood nest has become established. By placing the combs of honey as I have recommended, the bees begin Winter on one side or the other, instead of in the centre, and as they consume the stores, move toward the centre, so that when the brood nest is established in February, the bees are right in the midst of their honey. As soon as I get the bees properly provisioned for Winter, the space behind the division board is packed with chaff, and if in chaff hives to be wintered on the summer stands, a sawdust cushion four inches thick is placed over the quilt above the hive. The cushion is made in a box-like form, out of ordinary cotton cloth, and is filled with fine dry basswood sawdust, saved during the Winter while I am sawing sections. Basswood sawdust I find superior to anything else, inasmuch as it is a non-conductor of heat and cold, and will, if occasion require, absorb nearly its bulk in moisture, thus keeping the bees dry at all times, while most of the other packing recommended allows of a partial conduction of moisture in and about the hive. Thus the bees are prepared as far as all have honey enough. If any are deficient in stores, the quantity they need to be fed is noted on the piece of section, and a little stone placed on the cover to the hive in such a position that it tells me that said colony needs feeding. As soon as the brood has hatched out I feed them the required amount. For a feeder I use a pan, basin, or any dish which is set in the cap to the hive, when the feed is poured in, after which a handful of grass is pulled up and scattered over the top to keep the bees from drowning. Now turn up one corner of the quilt a little and place the piece of section from there to the top of the pan for a runway for the bees, after which a little syrup is dropped on the section and down on the corner of the quilt. Close the hive and in twenty-four hours you can take the feeder away and use it on another hive, for it does not take a good colony even that length of time to carry down from ten to twenty-five lbs. of syrup. For

feed I prefer the following, after trying everything else I ever read of. Take fifteen pounds of water and bring it to a boil, when thirty lbs. of granulated sugar is to be poured in and stirred for a minute or two until mostly dissolved, when the whole is allowed to boil. Now we remove it from the fire and pour in five lbs. of good honey, stirring enough to mix. When cool, it is ready to feed. This gives a feed which will neither candy, nor granulate, as does nearly every other preparation of feed ever tried. After having all these fed and fixed, I try to let the bees alone until Spring arrives, (except to carry them in the cellar about Nov. 10th, which are to be wintered there), but I love the little pets so well that my curiosity often overcomes me, and mild days in Winter often find me peering in to see how they get along.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y.

Thanks, Friend Doolittle for your very able article on Wintering. It requires no comment; anything from you is eagerly sought after by everybody. We have learned something from this article that we never knew before—that basswood sawdust was the best for cushions on top of bees. We tried it on several occasions for packing and found when moisture came in contact with it unless there was enough heat to drive the former away, it moulded apparently more readily than pine and much more so than cedar. We have found cedar sawdust, especially when it is very fine, to be very valuable as a packing. We burn tons of beautiful white basswood sawdust from our section saws, which is almost as fine as dust, which would according to Friend D. be valuable for packing purposes. We always imagined that the softer the wood that the sawdust was made from, the more readily would it resist the cold and retain the heat.

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#### HONEY PLANTS.

**H.** H., St. Thomas:—Do not think this is the "Simpson Honey Plant." It is a stranger, and with so small a tip of the plant, it is quite impossible to identify

it.