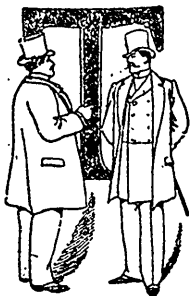


FIRST STEPS IN BEE-KEEPING,

"Keeping Everlastingly at it Brings Success."

Questions Sent in Bearing Upon First Steps in Bee-Keeping Will be Dealt With in This Department By the Editor.

CARE IN WINTER.



HERE is undoubtedly as yet a great deal about the winter management of bees which is mysterious- We can however depend upon it the laws in this matter are as fixed as upon the wintering of any other stock upon the farm.

It is absurd for us to throw the blame upon an improper source and the sooner we face the music and admit the blame does not rest with nature but ourselves the better. Let us discover the conditions under which bees should winter, not a portion but all, and then, study if we are following them out and an immense step toward the successful keeping of bees will be taken. On Saturday last I came across a young man who had not yet winterpacked his bees and it was his intention to winter outside. It would be necessary for him to lift his hives and then pack about them during cold weather and at a time when it would be impossible for the bees to have a cleansing and quieting flight. Again the bees or the inside of the cluster owing to cold will have lost a portion of their vitality. We know how a good milk cow will fall off in her flow of milk by a few nights exposure to cold, yes even one night. Other animals are also injured but because we have not an immediate way of finding out as in the cow we pay too little attention to it. The loss from exposure is often greater than we think the loss from disturbing bees at a time when they cannot fly is much greater. Individual cases may be pointed to in which bees have been wintered with success under almost all conditions, but that is no argument. We have known people to fall enormous distances and escape death, but on that account none of us seek that method of travel.

Remove quietly all dead bees from the entrance. It is safe to try and keep the temperature of the bee house or cellar at about 42°. I keep the thermometer suspended at about the centre of the bee cellar and it often runs higher. Yet my cellar was not specially constructed for a beecellar and although I have prided myself on successful wintering, I am willing in this respect to yield the palm to Mr. S. T. Pettit, and his article in the October number is worthy of careful study. Anything which will disturb the bees such as noises, light or foul air, should be avoided. If a hive begins to show symptoms of moisture inside it is well to treat it.

If you can get at it without disturbing other bees put a good chaff cushion on top of the quilt and frames and as a rule this will improve matters.

QUESTIONS

I wish to ask you a few questions. Last fall a neighbor gave me a swarm of bees that he was going to kill he took all the honey and gave me the bees. I took them and fed them one dollar's worth of sugar. They wintered and swarmed once, I hived the swarm in a new hive with good foundation starters, and they had what I thought was foul brood but it has all disappeared. The old colony has never had anything wrong with it. Now the question is will *foul brood* go away in the fall and return in the spring. I do not think now that it was foul brood.

Pine Orchard, Ont.

A. B.

Foul brood as the name implies is a disease which attacks the brood and therefore as far as its active work of destruction is concerned it ceases in the fall of the year when the queen ceases to deposit eggs and the young bees have passed the various stages of growth. Yet the disease or germs of the disease remain present. Look carefully into the cell bottoms of the comb and if you find towards the lower side of the cell bottom decayed matter of a coffee color you are fairly safe to infer it was *foul brood*. If not it was probably chilled brood or the brood has perished from some other cause.

If you did not see any dead brood in the combs during the latter part of the breeding season you are quite safe to take it for granted it was not foul brood.

ITALIANIZING

What is the cheapest manner of Italianizing nine colonies the next season and get no mixture with common drones?

NEW BEGINNER.

The best way for a "Beginner" will be to buy tested queens from a reliable breeder.