May, 1912

IENTS

the variable winter experienced, when of temperature bring of restlessness within not conducive to suc-

LETIN ON BEE LASES

White, of the Washintomology, have just f some ninety pages erable detail the rapbody of bee disease tle of the bulletin, n the Causes of Bee tly and accurately of the work, which is uable sequel to the eady issued by the luding sentences ef f an epitome as one , afford the ordinary 1 comfort :- "Recent that American foul iting cause a specific the name Bacillus ven. The writers of that the causes for ses have not as yet lemonstrated."

'H OLD CROOKED

is far more valuable nich it is composed. rs come into posspon crooked combs, s of time give rise e head of this note. pleasantly our early when we used to riving" bees for the ps and other priminees still so common We became in this th fall of quantities which were far too he melting pot but May, 1912

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

which were cut up, all the suitable pieces being fastened together in the frames by means of tapes and skewers. It is surprising what good combs may be obtained in this way if the work is carefully and skilfully done. Then, again, pieces of such combs may be used to advantage in replacing patches of drone comb in one's brood combs. As Mr. Doolittle says in "Gleanings" every inch of worker comb is valuable.

INCREASING COLONIES

There is a very decided upward tendency in the price of bees and at the present moment it is a problem with many bee-keepers as to whether it would not be better to make increase from their own colonies than to pay the enhanced prices and at the same time incur the risk of importing disease. The following very excellent method of making increase described in Gleanings by Doolittle will commend itself to many :--When the colonies begin to grow strong in brood and bees, and before they contract the swarming fever, take two frames of emerging brood from any strong colony, or one frame from each of two colonies, putting them in an empty hive together with two frames partly filled with honey, having the two frames of brood between the frames of honey, and putting a dummy next to the comb on the vacant side of the hive. Before putting them in the empty hive, all bees should be shaken and brushed off in front of the hives from which they were taken, so that no queen will be taken from her colony. The space left vacant by thus taking these combs out is filled with frames of comb, if possible; if not, with frames of comb foundation. Now select another of the stronger colonies. Put a queenexcluder on it temporarily, and place on it the hive already prepared, having the two combs of emerging brood, which should be allowed to remain two or three hours, during which time the young bees will come up from below in sufficient numbers to care for the combs and brood. After this the hive should be placed on the stand it is to occupy. Queens should have been previously reared or purchased for these colonies, so that the laying queens can be given them at dusk that night. A ripe queen cell will answer; but a week more time is lost where

such cells are given. These colonies can

now be built up in any way desired. I

find that, if they are made a little in advance of the swarming season, as soon as the queen begins laying such colonies will build from two to four nice combs of the worker size of cells, if frames having starters are given them. But it is usually best to use frames filled with foundation. I have made colonies in this way with perfect success, clear up to the time of the blooming of buckwheat. There is no need of natural swarming for increase when we can make as many colonies as we desire in so easy a way. But such plans as these are made possible only through the advent of the queen excluding metal."

POLLINATION OF HARDY FRUITS

The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society for March contains the results of investigations carried out in order to see (1) how far ordinary fruit flowers will set fruit without visits of bees and other insects to the blossoms: (2) to what extent fruit will be set by flowers pollinated with their own pollen; and (3) whether fruit blossoms, when pollinated with pollen from another variety, will set fruit more plentifully or of higher quality than when fertilized with their own pollen. In order to prevent entrance of insects or of pollen blown by wind, muslin or paper bags were used to enclose the flowers. The results obtained are summarized in the Journal of the Board of Agriculture (England) as follows:

Gooseberries, Red and White Currants —When insects were excluded, practically no fruit was formed. They proved, however, all self-fertile, i.e., they set fruit perfectly when pollinated with pollen of the same flower or variety, but the pollen is sticky and cannot be transferred from the anthers to the stigma without mechanical means, such as is provided by visits of bees, etc.

Cherries—Not a single fruit set when insects were excluded. Attempts to fertilize flowers with their own pollen resulted in the formation of fruit in many cases, but except in the Morello, none 2