

The Canadian Bee Journal.

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OUR OWN APIARY.

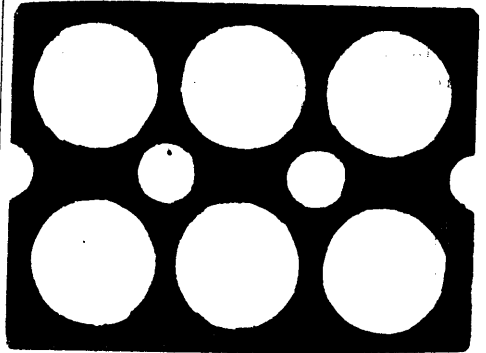
FALL PREPARATIONS.

THE bees that we moved to the new location thus far seem not to have secured enough stores to keep them, although there is abundance of bloom in the locality. This is the poorest year for fall honey we have ever had. About the close of the honey harvest basswood ceased to yield, and there has been no weather favorable for the secretion of honey for the last four weeks. We are not discouraged yet although the frost has destroyed all the more tender flowers. A few days of fine weather may give us some honey from the more hardy flowers, such as mint, golden rod, boneset, etc, although honey gathered so late or when the weather is cold, has a tendency to be very thin, and unless the bees are strong and crowded up closely on the comb it is questionable whether it would be ripened down thick enough to make good winter stores; but we intend to use any that may be so gathered and in order to make it suitable for winter food will mix sufficient thick granulated sugar-syrup with it that no bad effects may arise. Late in the fall or even anytime during the cold weather when bees are ripening and sealing their winter food, the hives should be so arranged that all the heat can be utilized to the best possible advantage. The entrances should be closed up very closely during the cold weather, leaving the least possible space for the bees to pass out and in, the covering over the frames should be so arranged that the moisture in the shape of vapor can pass off. It is very important that the stores be well ripened. It is best to have them in a liquid state with the least possible moisture. Thin syrup or honey capped over

by the bees (even though the colonies be strong enough to winter) will produce so much more vapor in the hive that they often become injured with dysentery. The thicker and finer the stores the less heat is required to pass off the surplus moisture from the abdomens of the bees. Great care should be exercised in securing such stores as will leave them in the best possible shape to withstand their winter confinement.

BENTON'S SHIPPING CAGES.

WE have received queens from our Friend Benton in a cage which we think is so near perfection that it should be described. In our opinion it is the most perfect cage that we have ever seen for shipping purposes. It is small and light, and provision appears to have been made for every possible emergency likely to arise in connection with the shipment of queens from Palestine and Cyprus, or from any point in the East to this country and we see



no reason why on this principle they would not go safely to any part of the globe. To Friend Benton we think is due the credit of solving this difficulty of shipping queens by mail from the East to America. Many times have Friend Benton and ourselves talked this over when together, and he believed then that he would yet be able to accomplish what has now become a fixed fact. The post office and quarantine regulations heretofore have kept back this enterprise