

none of the above need be resorted to, as when colonies are packed on their summer stands, and they go into winter quarters with hives well filled with honey and pollen, and a fair sized colony of bees. There are fine days in this locality through the winter, on which bees can fly. In the month of February, or even January, I always hail one of these fine days with delight, the shading boards are lowered from in front of the hives, and every chance given the bees to come out along about mid-day, there is generally about as big a buzz along the rows of hives as there is in mid-summer. This is repeated every fine day until spring, when the shade boards are taken away. Every time the bees fly they uncup fresh cells of honey, which has the effect of stimulating the queen to lay. This early brood rearing is what tells on the prosperity of a colony, this in the spring being kept up, and the hives well packed, there is not the slightest chance for what is called spring dwindling. On this account, and for other reasons, I take my chances on open air wintering every time, keeping them on the same stand all the year around. I have no fault to find with cellar wintering, but having heard so much about spring dwindling at times when bees are set out of the cellar, I greatly prefer the open air method.

Oshawa, Ont., March 10th, 1897.

Apicultural Notes :

A Few Plain Words on the Price of Honey.

—BRITISH BEE JOURNAL REPORT.

[2786.] In "Notes by the way," B. J., February 4 (2771, p. 45), Mr. W. Woodley refers to a matter which affects all bee-keepers who have embarked in the business with a view of making a profit: therefrom, viz., the decline in the price of honey. If we compare present prices with those of ten or fifteen years ago, there is indeed a big difference: and when we take into account what is now going on in the bee world, it does—to use Mr. Woodley's words—"make one wonder what the prices will be ten years hence." There are, however, so many matters in everyday life to worry and harass one's mind that it would, I think, be unwise to add to our troubles by worrying about things which may or may not happen ten years hence. At the same time it would be equally unwise to shut our eyes to facts with which we shall sooner or later have to deal. Bee-keeping, during the last ten

years, has made rapid strides, and is still on the increase, which of course, we are glad to know. We who now belong to the craft do all that lays in our power to extend the art of bee-keeping and enlist recruits into our army. We complain of the price of honey being low, but at the same time willingly subscribe to one or more societies whose main object is to extend the bee-keeping industry, or, in other words, bring us competitors. We throw open our apiaries and workshops to pupils free of charge; make known ideas which are the outcome of years of hard study, hard work, and the expenditure of hard earnings. We also give freely to any and all who care to benefit themselves at our expense. Then we send our representatives to the County Councils and through them impress upon the said Councils that if they wish to do us bee-keepers a good turn they cannot show their good feeling towards us better than by voting the largest sum of money they possibly can, to be spent in a way which will bring us the utmost number of competitors, and in our anxiety to accomplish those ends we paint matters in the brightest of colours. If we have ten hives of bees, one of which gives us 100 lb. of surplus honey in one year, while the other nine do nothing, we very carefully keep the latter nine in the back-ground—that is, we say nothing about them, or very little at all events, and what we do say about them is never repeated. The one thing we harp on is the wonderful return of the one hive. We talk about it years after it happens and everybody we tell it to talks about it also, and if our friend, the lecturer, happens to hear of it he drums it into the ears of every audience he is privileged to address. Well, the outcome of all this is a constant increase in the number of bee keepers, so that year by year the honey dealer finds a widely-extended source from whence to draw his supplies; with the natural and inevitable result of lower prices. There are a few bee-keepers—myself amongst the number—who begin to wonder how far distant the day is when we shall be called "The Society of Fools," and whether we as members thereof will ever be alive to the wisdom of abandoning philanthropy in favour of utility and common sense? Were I to stop here I should probably be called a pessimist, selfish, and a host of other unpleasant names which I trust I don't deserve. But I always like to look at both sides of a question, and having said thus much on the somewhat gloomy side of bee-keeping, let us see if anything can be said on the bright side.

In the first place we will take the reduced price of honey, which, if it will only re-