

year we took a step forward, as we thought, and asked members to report the number of pounds they had to sell wholesale, and a list of the names of those having any considerable quantities were mailed to large buying firms, who wrote the bee-keepers, and we trust many sales were thus effected. If out of this discussion any further suggestions are made that the committee could arrange to work out, I am sure they will be gladly received.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Do you consider it essential that bees have a fine day and a flight the first day they are put out of the cellar?
2. What do you think of the quarantine station plan proposed by Messrs. Chalmers and McEvoy for the treatment of foul brood?
3. Do the majority of bee-keepers in Ontario use a cloth or quilt over the frames, or a honey-board?

A BEGINNER.

#### Reply

1. No, it is not essential. If the day is warm, bees are apt to rush out without marking their position. Many get chilled and never return, and there is great danger of a bad mix-up when they do return. We think it is best to set them out on a cool day (not a cold day), when the weather gives promise of improving; then when the fine day comes, the bees will come out gradually as the morning slowly warms up. They have a chance then of marking their position, and mixing is avoided.
2. The idea is a good one if some practicable plan can be devised whereby it can be conducted.
3. We cannot say whether a majority of the bee-keepers use a cloth or a honey-board. Practices of this sort depend very largely upon the trained habits of the bee-keepers. For ourselves, we much prefer the honey-board. It prevents the condensation of moisture in the hive, and allows a bee-space over the top of the frames—a very important consideration in early spring, when brood-rearing is going on.

Prompt care of the bees in the spring, with plenty of prepared supplies, means increased crop of honey.

### HOW TO OBTAIN BENEFIT FROM BEE JOURNALS

[By LEON C. WHEELER, Barryton, Mich.]

There is much good to be had from the reading of bee journals. In fact, no progressive bee-keeper can afford to do without one or two journals devoted to his business, and if he can read four or five, or more, he will receive benefit in proportion.

Still one must be careful how he takes up with every new idea in the manipulation of bees. When reading an article along the line of some new idea you expect to incorporate in your work, the first consideration should be: What is the writer's location? Are his seasons divided off about the same as yours, or are they perhaps two or three weeks earlier than yours, or perhaps later?

For instance, when E. R. Root of Medina, Ohio, or Dr. C. C. Miller of Marengo, Ill., tell us we should set our bees out of the cellar at a certain approximate time in the spring, we of Northern Michigan and of Canada should remember that the seasons down where Mr. Root and Dr. Miller live are at least two weeks in advance of ours in the spring, and act accordingly.

When some of our well-known bee-keepers of those States, and perhaps a little farther south, tell us that bees will winter finely in single-walled hives, wrapped in paper and left on their summer stands, we must remember that their winters are materially different from ours farther north. They have some cold weather down there, perhaps some times nearly as cold as we do up here, but they do not have such long sieges of it, and it is a well-known fact that it is not so much how cold it gets as it is how long it keeps it up, that makes the difference with bees wintered out-of-doors. Too long a siege of zero weather will sometimes cause the death of a colony, simply because they cannot become sufficiently warmed to change the cluster to fresh stores, and they will actually starve with plenty of

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