

changes and improvements which have from time to time been made in apiculture.

Quinby on the "Mysteries of Bee-Keeping Explained" was my first text book and was purchased December 2nd, 1863. Then came Langstroth on the "Hive and Honey Bee" purchased 18th February, 1864, so that as you will observe, I had studied up apiculture before I went into the pursuit at all. The above books are still in my possession and nothing affords me greater pleasure during my spare moments, than a perusal of both. Why, I read them so much, when I took the fever, caused by my frequent visits to my uncle as already mentioned, that I almost knew them of by heart, as the saying goes.

Now friends let us have more statistics with the proofs, as well as to the first use of movable combs, and introduction of Italian blood into Canada.

Stratford, Ont., Nov. 1, 1897.

Spring Management.

—BY A. FYFE.

A FEW HINTS TO BEGINNERS.

The safest rule for the bee-keeper would be to set bees out on the first appearance of natural pollen and not before, unless your bees are restless or affected with dysentery, and in such cases set the effected colonies out for a cleansing flight some bright warm day. After your bees have had a good fly, look through each colony and see that all is right, fix them up cozy and carry them back to their winter quarters until pollen appears. Among the first to yield pollen, are the swamp willow and soft maple. In setting out bees select a day which you suppose will be warm and favorable, a southeast wind is preferable; proceed to bee-house or cellar, close the door after you allowing no light unless it be from a lantern, close the entrance of each hive so that no bees can get out, as soon as you have done this, open the doors and commence carrying them out, if possible have the ends of the combs next to your body, by doing so it will prevent the combs from swinging and disturbing the bees. I use a hand barrow for carrying out bees. You can make one in a few minutes. Set each colony on the

summer stand with end of stand raised one half inch, put on the cover, open the entrance to one bee space or if your colonies are strong, regulate entrance accordingly. I prefer setting out one-half of my bees the first day alternately on their stands, and the remainder next day. The day after setting out your first colonies if the weather is warm and bees flying pretty well, examine each colony to ascertain if they have a queen. Should you find any queenless, unite them with your weaker colonies, clean all dead bees and dirt from combs and bottom of hive, give each colony just what combs they need. For immediate use space the combs one and a quarter inches from centre to centre, put in your division board, two are better if you have them, one on each side of the combs which can be held in their place by a few small nails. Fill in behind with chaff or sawdust, put plenty of quilts on top of combs, old newspapers are excellent for retaining the heat. The warmer you keep the bees, the better for brood rearing. Contract the entrance well and if your bees have plenty of honey, leave them alone for ten days or two weeks. If the nights are cold close the entrance, especially weak colonies. Open them again in the morning so as to allow the bees to fly. Would not practice the spreading of brood in spring, but simply add combs as needed; placing combs next to the brood, keeping the outside combs containing pollen next to side of hive or division boards. Keep a thermometer in your beeyard and never attempt to examine a colony of bees when the temperature is below 60°. Exposing the combs to a lower temperature is apt to chill the young brood. If you have quite a number of colonies, I would advise you to make or purchase a folding bee tent. From past experience I find it one of the most useful inventions of the day, I couldn't do without it. Should your bees commence robbing, attend to them at once by opening the entrance throw down loosely some dry hay five or six inches deep, so that the air is allowed to get in at the entrance, then take a pail of water and sprinkle it over hay, bees and all. The robber bees will have to crawl through the wet hay, getting their bodies and wings wet before they get to the hive. The notion of stealing honey is all taken out of them and instead of trying to enter the hive, they crawl back and return to their own hive and try to lead a more honest life. The hive containing the robber bees should be treated similar to the one being robbed.

Harriston, Ont.