

the block. This block has been quite successful except in very extreme cases, but the difficulty of using such an entrance in a strong colony was very apparent as it would not allow sufficient ventilation to prevent suffocation, nor would it permit of a very strong colony passing in and out at will. Mr. Bray has now invented an introducing cage and robber entrance which prevents the strongest colonies robbing the weakest nuclei. We have tested it thoroughly and can assure our readers that from every one of the tests made we are certain that the smallest queenless nuclei can be kept very strong until fall in any apiary without being robbed out. This simple device is constructed of perforated metal; the perforations are about one-eighth of an inch (too small for a bee to pass through.) It is so constructed that it leans against the entrance, the entrance blocks closing up the space at either side. The bees in the hive pass in and out at will and outsiders are unable to enter. We shall have them on exhibition at Toronto and hope those who are troubled with robbing will examine them and approve of them.

We are doubling up all of our weaker colonies making them so strong that the bees can scarcely get into the hive, in fact many of them appear like those which were tiered up three and four stories high after the stories had been removed, they were so crowded with bees. These are the colonies we are sending out to our customers now and anyone wishing to start an apiary we will be pleased to furnish them with a good colony and give them credit until they may be able to realise something before paying for it.

Some of our friends wish to know the best way to get bees to take honey out of combs partially filled. We have spoken about this before. Where surplus combs are removed it will not do to place them about the yard. It is not safe to place them a quarter or a half mile even, from the yard, as other bees may get large quantities. A second or third story may be placed on the hive and the combs hung in them, when the bees will remove the honey and carry it down into their brood-chamber very rapidly.

We gave warning in a late issue to

look closely after your bees to prevent starvation. Perhaps it will not be out of place to repeat it again as we have found more of our colonies that are short of stores which were apparently well filled up when the honey harvest closed. There will be very few who will be able to carry their bees through the winter without feeding, and September is the time to look after this matter. We also find some colonies have stopped brooding much sooner than others without any apparent cause, or rather brood much less and are equal in strength of colony and stores, but on close examination we found that those with the largest entrances usually stop brooding first. The reason is easily seen. They keep up a more uneven temperature in the hive. All things being equal the entrance will make a difference of from two to three weeks in the cessation of brood-rearing in this section of the country.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

MORE BREVITIES.

I THINK I must register this heading, and "bar" it as the juveniles do something they want for their "very own." There are so many things in connection with bee-keeping on which I want to say just a few words, without the formality and prolixity that would be entailed by a separate article on each. My first duty at this writing will be to make

HONEST CONFESSION OF IGNORANCE.

Friends Pringle and Miller, I fear, have got me "where the wool is short" about that exploit of swarm taking in Toronto. I was "too previous," as they say in the North-west, in my chuckling over the case of queen-clipping. I may as well make a clean breast of it, and own that I know so little practically of clipping queens' wings, that I supposed a swarm would not cluster unless accompanied by a queen. We live and learn—some of us—for it is undeniable that there are those who have "skulls that cannot teach and will not learn." But Dr. Miller was a little too fast. I did not see that particular queen clipped. That, however, is of no great consequence, for I should not have known whether the job was done in a workmanlike manner or not, if I had witnessed the performance. I have a strong aversion to clipping. To my eye it is a mutilation and disfigurement of their majesties. I think the bees often regard it as such, and supersede a clipped queen. Moreover, I like natural swarming. It is a grand