

swarms; all gathering stopped on July 20th. But why the difference? Well, the shed mentioned was arranged for to have boards on the front at nights and cold days with special orders not to jar or shake the bees. The friend failed to see the point so nailed them up and ripped them off again until my arrival, though they rushed out by the thousands to protest and die unheeded. Can the likes of him keep bees? Not much. I purchased one more from you and what I had made 27 for winter, but storage stopping on July 20th nearly all wanted some to give enough for winter but sour feed and diarrhoea invaded the ranks and I faced the music. On June 1st following 5 more was added to the number for the war. By the following spring though \$55 graced the pile just 11 toed the mark. On June the 1st and 51 dollars the pile with six added made 17 for winter following. Last spring clapped the climax, and they tripped the light fantastic to the tune of 5 until August while the stock I got from you in June politely and quietly added 8 unto the number making 8 for the winter and 51 for the boy. How our backs did ache in carrying them in. All having a full head of stores, ever so, past the nineties. One stock, on June 1st, had not more than a teaspoonful of bees from which I took 26 lbs. and had not an ounce less than 75 lbs. when put in on Oct. 25th and 26th. I did not remove the surplus cases just to know, you know. But who ought to keep bees? Well I should think it madness to give up with the experience and expense wistfully inviting renewal. I therefore cheerfully renew as I hope to do many more times. More especially as it includes your very liberal premium. (P. S.) And don't forget that ever welcome foot note, the spice to the pie. Yours Truly,

WM. TIPLING.

### PAINTED VS. UNPAINTED HIVES.

FRIEND DOOLITTLE GIVES US SOME VALUABLE FACTS IN REGARD TO THE MATTER.

**A**S THE season of the year for painting hives is drawing near with us here in the North, and has probably already come to our brethren of the South, I thought a few words on the desirability of our doing so might not be amiss at this time. It will, I think, be admitted by all that hives look better and will last longer, if painted, than if left unpainted; but I mistrust that \$15.00 a year will sustain more hives if spent for lumber alone than if spent for paint and lumber. Yet when we take the looks into consideration, probably there is little difference in favor of either, providing that the bees would do as well in one as in the other. In this respect, I consider the

unpainted hive much better suited to the wants of the bees, and contend that bees will not do nearly as well in painted hives as they will in an unpainted one. Wherein is an unpainted hive better than a painted one? Principally in this, that, if properly covered, it will keep the bees dryer at all seasons of the year, and, owing to this dryness, they are consequently much warmer. As unpainted wood is porous, the moisture evaporates through all parts of the hive, keeping the bees warm, dry and quiet, thus avoiding an undue consumption of honey, as well as bee diarrhoea. Several years ago I had a number of box hives, some of which were painted, while others were not. I set them out of the cellar about the first of April in as near an equal condition as could be. In the morning after every cold frosty night, there would be water running out of the entrance of those that were painted, and on tipping them up the the combs were found to be quite wet near the outside of them, or next the walls of the hive, while those in unpainted hives were dry and nice, no water ever showing even at the entrance. Those in the unpainted hives increased in numbers faster, and swarmed from one to two weeks earlier, than did those in the painted hives.

"But," says one, "I use corn-cobs, cut straw, forest-leaves and other absorbents in the top of the hive, to let the moisture out, by letting any excess that may arise pass through them and out at the top of the cover." This will help some as far as moisture is concerned, but if not done on a scientific plan it will let out much of the heat by such a direct-draft process, which should be retained in the hive. Even if done properly, I cannot help thinking that hives will keep bees better if unpainted, because in this case the moisture passes out of the hive in all directions. Paint is useful only so far as looks and durability are concerned, and is positively injurious as retarding the evaporation of moisture. This is the result which I have arrived at after years of experience and close observation with single-walled hives, and I believe the damage is greater by far than the cost of a new hive occasionally, where ordinary hives are used.

So far I wish it understood that I have been speaking only of such hives as we used a quarter of a century ago, and not of the chaff hives of the present day. With the advent of the chaff hives came a new era in bee-keeping, and the case with these is entirely different along this line of painting, than with the single-walled hive. With the chaff hive the moisture is driven through the first wall, which is always of unpainted lumber, just the same as it would be in case of an unpainted single-walled hive after which it lodges in the chaff or other packing, from which it passes out slowly through any crack or crevice that may exist in the outer shell, and more largely about the joint in the top of the cover and between the cover and the hive. I use a cap or hood six inches deep on all of my chaff hives, while directly over the bees is a sawdust cushion, which is only four inches thick. This cushion extends out over the chaff packing only an inch or so on all sides, or only sufficient to make sure that all the upward ventilation that can possibly exist must pass through this cushion.