

We have frequently known similar cases and in almost every instance the cause could be traced to spring dwindling and too much room in the hive for the bees to keep warm, they becoming discouraged. Sometimes we have known it to occur for want of stores and occasionally from foul odor and bad stores.

SWARMING IN.

We fully agree with you in reference to second, third and after swarming. That should not be allowed, except in exceptional cases, unless increase solely is the object, and even then we think it is questionable whether it would not be better to keep stronger colonies and fewer of them.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

HIBERNATION.

WHEN W. F. Clarke first promulgated his hibernation ideas nobody scoffed at him more than I. "Oh," said I "the raving of an egotist. Let him trot out his facts and then we will believe him." But, the facts, however, were presented under my nose rather unexpectedly, and the letter of Daniel McFayden establishes the theory completely. Like Mr. Fulton and other benefactors and discoverers, Mr. Clarke had to endure derision, but now I opine more than one of us will have to doff our hats and acknowledge our errors. I return thanks to W. F. Clarke for presenting his ideas on the subject in his usual forcible style, and our warmest encomiums are due to Mr. McFayden for not holding a fact of such momentous importance to us northern bee-keepers. Henceforth southern bee-keepers will not have a corner on us northern boys as regards wintering, and bee-keeping will be more profitable than in the sunny south, owing to proximity to markets. But I would suggest to prospective bee-keepers in aristocratic Canada and democratic America that unless they are prepared to peddle their honey like Mr. McKnight, and advertise it like the quack medicine vendors that it would be more advantageous to all if they embarked in another profession, because advertising and peddling, to my mind, are the two best flood-gates at our command for letting off the dammed-up waters of honey production.

Some two years ago I sent for some bees down south, which I purchased very cheap. The bees were, to all appearances, dead. About half were in the bottom of the box, and those

on the combs seemed to be in a good way to join their apparently lifeless companions. Of course, I supposed that they froze on the journey, as the weather was cold even if it was May. I threw the lifeless on the ground in a heap and placed the hive containing the others close to the stove in hopes of the warmth thawing them out which it did in the course of some twenty minutes. On flinging the hives outside, I was astonished to find that their companions were reviving under old Sol's invigorating rays and, with a few exceptions, came to life and went about their household cares. Mr. R. Semple, of Cheboygan, wintered his bees the last four winters by piling snow on them, without any loss. The hives which are constructed on the box hive style, have roomy and well ventilated upper storeys, and I am inclined to think they hibernated before our big northern snowfall arrived, which generally occurs about the 15th of December.

Some of our mossbacks up here manage to keep their fruit and vegetables in good condition all winter by double-walled log huts, also single walled log ones, made of logs of the largest diameter. One thing is certain that Northern Michigan is ahead of Southern Michigan for outside wintering, owing to the abundance of snow. I have found the Heddon strain very hardy, good honey gatherers and excellent comb builders, but as Friend Heddon claims that the pure German is superior in comb-building, I will try some queens of that race, as the Germans must be better adapted to this climate than the Hybrid, and of course, more so than the Italian. The quality of rapid comb-building which the German possesses seems to me to outweigh the longer *lingua* qualities of the Italian.

I am glad that Friend Hutchinson has brought out a book on a subject to which he seems to have given special attention—"The production of comb honey." He is one of the most perspicuous writers in the profession, making things very plain to the dullest comprehension. His work, no doubt, will contain some later experience with the Heddon hive, which I regard as the hive of hives. The prolific pen of Friend Pringle seems to me to take in all that can be said on the subject of appropriating the products of another's brain. I am acquainted with one editor that was discharged from the staff of an influential daily for plagiarising, and we should in like manner withdraw our patronage from agricultural plagiarisers. Brother Jones, you were the first one that initiated me in the mysteries of bee-keeping some eight years ago, and I have not forgotten the fine lot of honey.