

FIRST STEPS IN....BEE-KEEPING.

KEEPING EVERLASTINGLY AT IT
BRINGS SUCCESS.

QUESTIONS SENT IN BEARING UPON FIRST STEPS
IN BEE-KEEPING WILL BE ANSWERED IN THIS
DEPARTMENT BY THE EDITOR.

There are again a host of questions, some seasonable and some unseasonable. We shall take up the bulk of the space in "First Steps." Before the April number of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL reaches our readers it is not unlikely that the bulk of the bees will be out of winter quarters. I favor more and more the early setting out of bees, and particularly so if they appear to be at all restless or show signs of dis-ease. Pack the hives warmly on top and adjust the entrance to a proper size for cool weather. Clean off the bottom board. Many a bee has been lost in her attempts to clean the bottom board. If the hive has a loose bottom board, which every hive should have, the bottom board can be cleaned in an instant. Otherwise, upon the first favorable day the frames should be removed and dead bees carefully taken out. See that every colony has plenty of stores and a good laying queen. I do not think it pays to unite colonies before young bees are freely hatching. I do not think it generally pays to send away and buy a queen for a queenless colony. The queen may at that time of year not be sent at once, and if she is she may be injured in cool weather or be lost in introducing.

QUESTIONS.

What should you do when you find a colony affected with the diarrhoea in the cellar, and it was too early or too cold to give them a cleansing flight by removing them temporarily from the cellar?—W. J.

Answer—I should very likely leave them alone. Hives are rarely so placed in the cellar that they can be got at without disturbing others, thus doing more harm than good. As soon as possible I would take them out of winter quarters and not return them to the cellar. Leave them upon the summer stand. Of course the weather must be favorable for a cleansing flight

just after they are set out. In the spring at all times leave your bees alone as much as possible.

Would you be so kind as to inform me what would be the best way to winter a few colonies of bees, say twenty swarms. I have not had very good luck lately in wintering them. I had a mind to build a house to put them in. How would it do. Please let me know?—J. S., Goodwood, Ont.

Answer—Sheds, stables and outbuildings I find are often used for wintering bees. I would, however, much prefer to that letting the bees take their chances on their summer stands. I prefer a dark cellar with an even temperature, about 40° temperature, and free from noise and unwholesome smells. If that cannot be secured, I would pack the bees on summer stands. Bee houses (by that I mean a house above ground and with walls packed with sawdust or the like) have begun to be unpopular. The temperature is not likely to be even and they require constant looking after. I know of quite a few which have been abandoned. I should say do not build such a repository.

The Bee With a Stinger.

(Dedicated to Wm. McEvoy.)

Once there was a naughty bee
Whose home was in a basswood tree,
And when the boys would come around
To see if honey could be found
He always used his stinger.

He had no use for such as they
And this is what he used to say:
Go work like me among the hay
And lay up for a rainy day,
Or else I'll use my stinger.

One day some smarties broke the rule
And played the truant from the school,
And with a pole they did him poke,
But were not long before awoke
Because he used his stinger.

One was stung right on the eye
Which swelled into a mountain high
Another whack upon the nose
That bloomed instanter like a rose,
For that bee did use his stinger.

The other, then, with rapid rush,
Did hide behind a pile of brush,
Concluding at a rapid rate
To keep away before too late
From such an awful stinger.

MORAL.

Let all of us, just like the bee,
Possess our homes by industry,
And thus our hands and head employ
To make the world full of joy,
And thus avoid the stinger.

F. ALEXIS GIMMELARIO.

Stratford, Ontario.