

Depth of Frames At the Ontario Convention.

—DOCTOR C. C. MILLER.

MR. EDITOR.—The report of the late Ontario convention makes it appear one of the best ever held. A good bee convention is one in which there is much discussion, and that discussion strictly pertaining to matters apicultural.

Mr. Hoshal's paper puts things in such a clear cut and convincing way that it is not greatly to be wondered at that he received high compliment, but after coolly considering the matter at leisure, it would not be very surprising if some of those who were present should raise a question as to one of the foundation stones of Mr. Hoshal's structure. That is that "we lessen the honey-storing instinct of our bees" when we oblige them to store honey above honey instead of directly above the brood. We all know the instinct of the bees to have everything in compact shape, and that they want their honey as close as possible to the brood nest. But when the space nearest the brood nest is already filled, will they not be satisfied to store as near to the brood as they find empty room?

Mr. Hoshal says: "No bee-keeper of experience, when adding surplus cases, ever places them above filled ones; experience has taught him, or soon will, that the bees will neglect them." I do not know just how much experience Mr. Hoshal refers to, but after an experience of more than a third of a century I still practice, under certain circumstances putting empty supers above filled ones, and I suppose that many others follow the same practice. Experience has not yet taught me that "the bees will neglect them." Years ago, when I used wide frames, it was my custom after the one story containing 56 sections was fairly well filled, to add a second story on top, usually putting in something in the way of bait as a hint to the bees. These upper stories were never neglected, although the sections filled were from 12 to 22 inches above the brood.

Since using T supers, toward the close of the season when it is quite uncertain whether the bees may or may not need an additional super, the empty super is always placed above. If the season ends suddenly the empty super is not touched and the super next to it is more nearly finished than if the empty one had been put under. But if the season continues, the bees occupy the empty super above, and for all I can see,

they put as much honey in the two supers as if the position had been reversed.

Now I am only giving experience from this side the line—I do not know all about what bees may do in Canada, and I do not want to stand against the combined wisdom of my Canadian friends, who apparently endorsed what Mr. Hoshal said, but I would like to ask just one question: Is there any positive proof that bees will store an ounce less of honey when they must cross a border of honey measuring one, two, or twelve inches?

—Marengo, Ills., U. S.

Spring Management.

—W. H. KIRBY.

Of the whole honey season, spring is the most important part. It is the time of year when all animated nature starts into a new life, when all the insect creation comes forth from a state of torpidity to a state of activity. The inmates of the hive whether they "hibernate" or not, are the first of the insect creation to resume that state. Being amenable to the control of man, and for his benefit, it is his privilege to make the most he can out of them. It is the time of the year that the apiarist should put forth all his skill and energy, to get his hives full of bees in time to gather the harvest when it comes, be it great or small. Therefore I say spring is the most important part of the season. There are various ways in which a colony can be helped. On the first fine day examine it, find out its condition, confine it by a division board to the number of frames the bees will cover. Closing the frames up to one quarter of an inch apart, keep the other frames on the other side of the division board, placing an entrance block in front of them, which will keep robbers out. Allow the inmates to go around the division board and get the honey when they want it. A colony fixed this way should be examined every week, and a frame added to the brood nest, as they need it; and when the whole hive is occupied, the frames can be spaced out the regular distance, and then a surplus case added. This may seem to some a lot of bother, but I tell you it pays, and I know it.

If, on examination, a colony is short of stores, they must be fed, give them honey, or any kind of sugar syrup will do this time of the year; if the weather is so cold they will not take liquid food, a cake of sugar candy may be placed on the top of the frames. There are conditions again, where