

yet be in part remedied or mitigated provide they are distinctly seen and irradiated by the remedial light. You all know how much more apt we are to act upon present light or recent freshly-impressed knowledge, than upon that, which has become stale. In reading your journal, for instance, you have noticed some particular point in a valuable article, and made a memorandum of it for future reference, and which you deemed especially useful and worthy of remembrance, but which was greatly out of time as perhaps six or nine months had to pass before you would require to utilize the fact; but amidst the succeeding rush of reading, thought and work, you lost sight altogether of the important point and perhaps never again referred to it or used it at all unless, indeed, it had been indelibly stored away in a good memory. These facts ought, in my opinion, to decide the character not only of the subjects discussed at bee-keepers' conventions, but also the chronological order of articles in our bee-journals. What I mean is this: Conventions at this season of the year should discuss topics relating to immediately approaching work; Conventions in the spring should discuss spring and summer management; Conventions in the summer should discuss fall management; and fall Conventions winter management. The Journals should do the same both editorially and by their contributors. The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL is setting a good example to the older journals in this respect. The timely knowledge thus given, either by the listener or reader, would be immediately available and would be much more likely to be reduced to practice.

Now about this winter management which is no doubt a somewhat novel idea. Some of you will probably say there ought to be no winter management, that "letaloneativeness" is the proper winter management. Well, so far as disturbing the bees more than is really necessary is concerned, "letaloneativeness" is the best winter management; but at the same time I beg to remind the letaloneative objector that he might better disturb the bees a little and save them, than to let them die undisturbed. Of course needlessly disturbing and pestering bees in winter quarters out of mere curiosity or impatience is quite another thing, and ought always to be discouraged. I knew a bee-keeper who used constantly to be bothering his bees in winter. He would go into their apartment every day or two with light in hand just to see you know "how they were doing and getting along." He gave this up in due time; not, however, till he had paid the penalty for this meddling curiosity.

This question of wintering and winter management, especially the wintering, is a vexed one and a hackneyed one, and there is indeed a

multitude of counsel." I do not much wonder that novices (and indeed older heads) are utterly bewildered at their lessons in this department of bee-culture, and stand dumbfounded in the presence of "confusion worse confounded" which confronts them and paralyzes them. When the doctors seem to differ so widely and pull asunder so vigorously how can the poor, inexperienced neophyte decide? Or how can he tell whom to follow? So he cogitates, and then slowly puts forth his hand in fear and trembling, for no matter what he does or how he does it, he thinks he is running counter to some authority, or doing violence, if not to the sapient theorist himself at least, to his *dictum* or hypothesis. If he has put his bees away with pollen in the hives he does not know whether he has done right or wrong. If he has put them away without pollen he will be equally in the dark as to the wisdom of his course. Whether he has them in a cool place or a hot place, a dry place or a damp place, it is all the same, so far as to his feeling any certainty that he has done the right and proper thing. And whether it was the right thing or not to give them sugar syrup for winter food with or without pollen, or honey for winter food with or without pollen, he knows not. Whether he has given them "upward ventilation" or not given it them; whether he has given them a "shaft" of cold air from below so that they can "hibernate," or whether he has not done so; whatever he has done and however he has done it, his poor heart is ill at ease all winter lest he has done the wrong thing. However, nevertheless, this mass of theory, dogma, experience, and fact is not so chaotic after all as at first sight appears. Whoever is well grounded in a few first principles of the science and art of bee-keeping will see order through the disorder, and be able to reduce to coherence the apparently incongruous elements. When the dogmas are utterly cast out, the experiences properly interpreted, the facts generalized, and the theories duly tested and verified then "order will reign in Warsaw," and we will indeed have a splendid science of apiculture handsomely and profitably reduced to practice. The great trouble with us at present is too much "oneideism," and too many "hobby horses." Bee-keepers are almost all enthusiasts—proverbially so—and enthusiasm on almost any subject as naturally tends to ultraism of thought and speculation as a duck gravitates toward a pond. And accordingly we find the bee-keepers going off in mental tangents towards all points of the compass. Brother Heddon mounts his "pollen" horse; brother Clarke mounts his "hibernation" horse; brother Barber mounts his "high temperature" horse prancing off at 90°; brother