

ment has proved successful. I do not think anyone questions it. He takes queens or from diseased colonies and he shakes them off the foundation and leaves them there 3 days and then he shakes them again and it is impossible for those queens to transmit the disease.

Mr McEvoy—The queen does not give it.

SPRING DWINDLING.

Spring dwindling in bee-keeping is a feature of the business that nearly every apiarist suffers from more or less. The man I bought my first colony from, about twenty years ago, used to close his hives up with heavy entrance blocks, on the morning of a day, that he thought would be unfit for bees to fly. I used to do the same sometimes with my hives. This closing them up, without supplying them with water used to cause them to become greatly excited, so that I used to let them fly about noon time, when the day was warmest. Not liking this method, I gave it up, and took to shading to darkness for a season or two on cold days. About fifteen years ago I conceived the idea of a portico with screen slide the same as Mr. Holtermann's, but not having made any new hives since, I failed to put my idea into practice, so that Mr. H. has got in ahead of me with his patent. The idea is a valuable one, and is well worth the royalty charged for it.

Last spring I constructed another portico which I do not think conflicts with Mr. H's patent in any form. It is made as follows, from lumber three-quarters inch thick and three inches wide, (it can be made any width). Cut the side pieces nine inches long and the top piece the length of the width of the hive, and nail the top piece on the ends of the side pieces, then tack a piece of painted wire cloth on the one side of this frame, and across the bot-

tom on the outside of the wire cloth, tack a strip three-eighths by one-half inch, and also tack the wire cloth to this strip, which keeps the wire cloth even across the bottom. This enclosed portico is easily set on the alighting board when weather is unfavorable, its weight is all that is required to keep it in place, and when not needed is easily taken off the alighting board.

Before being placed on the alighting board, a wet sponge, or a small feeder containing water should be placed thereon, for the convenience of the bees. The material for its construction only costs a few cents. Besides being a great help towards preventing spring, dwindling it is also a useful adjunct to close off robbers from a colony at any time.

Although the mercury has been down below zero a good many times this winter, I think bees are wintering fairly well, as far as I can find out, in this locality.

W. H. KIRBY.

Oshawa, Ont., Feb. 17th, 1907.

Comb Foundation

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Thamesford, Ont.