

of brace combs etc., but there are other means now being adopted to secure the honey closer to the brood chamber without a double space and in as good shape as can possibly be secured by the double space. The system upon which comb honey is taken has much to do in this matter.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

CORYDALIS COMUTA—Linn.

Order *Neuroptera*. Fam. *Sialidae*.

A technical description of this insect would be of little use to bee-keepers as it is neither friend nor enemy. Its occurrence in or near a hive is quite accidental. It lives but a few days in the imago form, seldom eating any kind of food—never bees nor their products. The specimen sent is a male and the formidable looking pinchers projecting in front is a benevolent appurtenance, kindly supplied by mother nature to assist him in tickling the waist of his lady-love.

Corydalis comuta is rare in Southern Ontario but common in the Muskoka section.

W. BRODIE.

Toronto, Ont.

W. W. WATSON, BURNS, ONT.—We put eight hives into a clamp last Fall. When we opened them last Spring we found three had died. There were four fairly strong hives and one very weak, which has since dwindled away. It has been a very severe winter on bees in this part of the country.

PETER R. BYER, STAYNER, ONT.—I lost eleven out of fifty-five. As the hives were well cleaned out I do not know why they went unless it was that they had no brood in the comb. Of the seven remaining six died on account of dampness in the hive and one was also queenless. I had three hives with the entrances frozen air tight; they secured air from the top through the chaff. To my surprise I found them alive and in good condition.

GEO. N. ASHBY, ALBION, N. Y.—Put in Winter quarters last Fall 35 old colonies, one late swarm, 11th of August, and fifteen nuclei made after August 1st. Left seven on summer stands in double walled hives, with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch dead air space, with five inches of cut straw on them. I left them out to test the hive. They stood the worst winter we ever had in these parts. The other nine put in the cellar on 18th of November, seven on summer stands, all wintered, one

coming out queenless. One old colony queenless in cellar and was robbed after put out. The 11th of August swarm died and seven nuclei. Loss of nuclei caused by too young bees. Generally around here bees wintered well in cellar and poorly on summer stands. No honey here to speak of last season except in June. Nothing from basswood to mention; filled up nearly all from Goldenrod for winter stores.

WM. BRETT, ALLISTON.—Started the Spring of 1884 with one colony, increased to seven and took 100 pounds extracted honey up to basswood bloom, honey pasture having failed considerably about that time. I had to feed them 100 pounds of sugar for winter stores. I packed away seven colonies in winter quarters. All came out living and strong and five of the queens were laying and with large patches of sealed brood, some of them had young bees hatched out. They had only used about half of their Winter store of food.

B. W. BAKER, AMHERST, N. S.—Last Spring I commenced with three colonies of black bees and one Italian. Increased to nine besides lost two swarms. Sold 270 pounds of honey which netted fifteen cents per pound, and kept for my own use 150 pounds. Bees were put into Winter quarters in fair condition Nov. 5th, kept in a dark room just above the freezing point. Set them on their Summer stands March 30. Opened and cleaned the hives the next day. Found all in good condition covering from five to seven frames, except one, which I doubled up with one of the weaker ones, leaving me eight good colonies at the present time. There are but few bees kept in this part of the country.

W. J. HONEYFORD, AVENING, ONT.—I commenced the spring of 1884 with thirty-seven swarms of Italians and Hybrids, seven weak swarms, all the rest in first rate condition, and increased to seventy-five by natural swarming. I got 2,000 pounds of extracted honey and forty pounds of comb honey. Last December I packed them in boxes of wheat chaff all round and ten inches on the top. Left them on summer stands. I have only 50 left. There have been very heavy losses in bees all around here according to the number kept, John Houston, 27, all dead; James Kerr, 16, 2 alive; Adam Miller, 12, all dead; P. Morrison, 7, all dead; Robert Murray, 8, 2 alive; F. T. Batly, 27, 3 alive; R. Honeyford, 18, 8 alive; C. Honeyford, 8, all dead.

JOHN J. GRAY, ST. CATHARINES, ONT.—The winter struck me with sixty-two colonies in my possession and leaves me to-day with forty-five, ten of which are in single walled hives with