

for weeks, the snow covering two, four and six feet. As for bees and for wintering them properly, I will tell you a story. In the autumn of 1883 a cottager of this country, 'a bee-keeper of days gone by,' living at 60° N. Lat., had a visit of thieves to his bee yard, and in the middle of the said month he lost one skep with its inhabitants, and it was a very heavy one. The winter was rather cold, but snow fell in December, and in March it was very deep. In March his daughter was going to their pasture ground, intending to gather some twigs for fuel, and when there she accidentally trod on this very hive, quite buried in the snow, two or three feet deep. She brought it to her father, who cleaned the snow off it. The skep lay on the ground bottom up, without a bottom board; consequently the skep was full of snow. When cleaning it he found that the combs were nearly all taken away, as was the case with the honey too, still there were some small pieces of comb left, and on those hung a lump of bees, which, when disturbed (being in a warm place) wakened and were very lively. In his opinion the bees were of no use to him, so he killed them, without previously trying to find the queen, although I believe she was amongst them, because if not probably they would not have stayed so many months in a despoiled home. What is your opinion of the McFadden way of wintering? These bees were more carelessly treated, and still they lived. We try to keep the bees too warm, perhaps.

Some few years ago as a trial I inoculated or willingly infected a colony of mine with the foul brood disease, treated them in the way you had advised by starving them, and I succeeded. In a copy of the *Luxemburgian Bee Journal*, Mr. Schroker, a clever bee-keeper, has for some years treated his foul-broody colonies in this way. Carbolic acid alone, does evaporate too quickly, and the bees cannot stand the smell and immediately run out of the hive. On the other hand, if well mixed with tar of wood, always in equal parts, the bees seem to tolerate the smell very well, continuing working; the evaporation being in some way retarded. When a colony is sick Mr. S. takes off the combs, the very bad ones are to be melted up, the others to be cleaned by washing them well with a mixture of carbolic acid and water, and then stored until the hive is wanting them again or put back instantly. He then takes two very thin boards (those of cigar boxes will do) and cuts them to suit. Upon this board he places a felt, quite covering it. It should previously be moistened thoroughly in the above mixture of carbolic acid and wood tar. Now, the other board is to be nailed on the first one, this only to keep the bees

from being soiled, but before this is to be done, you have to place some pieces of board or leather 3 m.m. thick, between the boards only, not to prevent the evaporation of the carbolic acid. The little case is to be placed exactly below the frames of the hive, which is to be instantly shut up, except the entrance, of course.

Generally a single portion or dose is sufficient, but after three months it is wise to give it another dose. Next spring you will closely inspect such hives, and if necessary once more you ought to treat them in the same way. *Probatum est.* It will help and destroy the bee lice, too.

Last summer a student in my apiarian school, by name J. W. Carlsgon, would try to compel the queen not to enter the supers or the honey boxes, and that without the use of excluders of any description. He had observed the queen never laying or depositing eggs in irregular cells, and consequently he based his idea on this very fact. He made a press with irregular cells, made the combs and put them at first in the brood chamber, then in supers, and lately in the middle of the brood nest. The result was that not a single egg was deposited by the queen. The cells were always filled with honey. I have used the Heddon hive for two years, but I do not like the thumbscrews at all. In your very valuable journal of October 5th, last year, page 570-1, you speak of your "new super" and of the "reversible honey board" and "super reverser." I suppose these improvements will do away with many troubles in manipulating the Heddon hive. By all means let me know them as soon as possible, and I will willingly pay for it. It is said your improvements will suit any style of a hive. I am very thankful for your BEE JOURNAL, and am always picking up some good advice from it.

HY. STRATHAMMAR.

Gottenburg, Sweden, March 9th, 1888.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

Five Years' Experience In Bee-keeping.

IN the C.B.J. of April 11, C. H. Corbett, Esq., gives us the result of three years' hard work in bee-keeping. His experience has been that of scores of others. Had we more of these experiences in the bee papers it would be better for bee-keepers. Five years ago I was induced by a friend to try my hand in bee-keeping. The representations were such that I thought there was a fortune in the business, so at it I went. The first thing I did was to purchase the "Bee-keepers' Guide," by Prof. A. J. Cook. I studied this work from beginning to end. I also became a subscriber to *Gleanings*, by A. I. Root. I took this paper for three years