

swarm, but they had been excellent honey-gatherers and built their comb well; the bees worked early and late.

Mr. Holtermann was asked for his experience, and in reply said that he was not prepared to say very much of a definite nature. Some of them knew that the Carniolan bees had been tested as part of the experimental work. To begin, the Carniolan bees, he understood, were kept in a country having a less tendency to high temperatures; they were kept largely in house-apairies, and were of course in that way shaded. He liked the Carniolan in every way for building up, wintering, freedom from propolis, good nurses; but he was still unprepared to report anything definite. Those hived upon full sheets of foundation had as far as he could judge not shown any tendency to excessive swarming, while those hived on starters had in every instance built wretched comb, irregular, much drone, and long before the frames were filled with comb, the bees had again cast a swarm. The government report would show the result by means of a cut taken from a photograph. It looked at present as if full sheets of foundation given to poor comb-builders would prevent swarming to some extent. He hoped Carniolans would prove satisfactory under certain management. He had been with D. A. Jones when the first Carniolans were imported some 17 years ago. They had proved great swarmers, but since then bee-keepers had learned to do much by shading, ventilating and giving room in time. Mr. S. T. Pettit had tried them this season; his report was very unfavorable, but he had hived on starters.

D. W. Heise, Bethesda, reported that his experience with Carniolans was very favorable. He found they swarmed no more than other varieties of bees. He had not noticed that they were poor comb-builders, but when examining combs with Mr. Holtermann that morning, they had found a comb or two in bad shape, built by them. He had during the past season taken 160 pounds of extracted honey from one Carniolan stock, and it had 60 pounds left for winter, in the brood chamber.

Mr. Walton had some Carniolan bees on exhibition.

WINTERING.

Mr. D. W. Heise then gave the following paper:—

I have been requested by some who know that my method of preparing bees for winter is somewhat different from that of the generality of bee-keepers in this locality, to give it before this convention.

While I still class myself as a novice in bee-keeping, and therefore feel some reluctance in attempting what would appear to be the blind trying to lead those who can see, perhaps the success that has attended my management the past two winters will probably warrant me in making the attempt.

The honey season with me usually closes the last week in July, although this year it extended into September; and the first and primary preparation commences as soon as possible after the honey season closes. I go through the whole yard and open every hive, and see that each colony has a good, fertile and prolific queen, and that all are healthy as far as can be ascertained. At the same time I also note the amount of brood each hive contains. I try and equalize the brood as much as possible where one hive is overcrowded and another a little weak. This must be done with caution, however; for instance, a colony not having cast a swarm, and having stored a large surplus, will consequently have a very large number of old and worn-out bees which will die off before the winter season sets in; therefore provisions must be made for such in equalizing brood. This done, the extracting supers, (I run principally for extracted honey), are replaced on the hives, and all remain in this condition until the last week in September. At this time I remove the extracting supers for good, and what I consider the most important feature of my method of brood-chamber preparation takes place. I use a hive tent for this work, to prevent any attempt at robbing. I first take out three or four of the central combs, which generally contain the least honey, and set them to one side. I then select the fullest and best comb of sealed honey, and place it to one side of the brood chamber; the next fullest frame I place beside the first, and so on until frames containing what I consider sufficient honey for winter stores are thus arranged. If I can get the requisite quantity in five frames, I am all the better suited, and in that case three frames containing only a small portion of honey along the top bars and in the corners are added, with a division board at their outside. In the other case, where the requisite quantity of honey is distributed over eight or nine frames, sufficient empty comb space will be present for the bees to cluster on, and a division board is dropped in at their outside. In any case I aim to have the bulk of the honey at the one side of the hive and the empty comb space at the other, instead of in the center.

Thus the bees will, on the approach of