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|--|---------|---|---|---|
| 31. Queen cage, such as is admitted to the mails by postal laws..... | Diploma | | | |
| 32. Honey vinegar, not less than one gallon..... | | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 33. Extras | | | | |

WINTERING

AND PREPARATIONS THEREFOR.

Good Practical Articles by Practical Men.

THIS is the time of the year when such articles as the above are seasonable, and we have endeavored to group together the best thoughts of some of our best bee-keepers on the subject. Another week we will give our own ideas, and will insert some other articles which do not appear this week for want of space :—

ALLEN PRINGLE.

This, although an old and well-worn topic in bee literature, will remain new and pertinent as long as apiculture continues to add new recruits and the colonies of industrious workers continue to die from various causes in winter. This fact, together with the request before me, will be a sufficient apology for going into the hackneyed subject again in its annual round. There may also be another and minor reason for the infiction, to wit :—The duty one feels to proceed without delay to communicate the little additional light which may have broken in upon him since his last deliverance on the subject. For it does appear to me that a bee-keeper who can handle a hundred or more colonies himself through the summer, prepare them for winter, put them into quarters, watch them and dream about them till spring, and then take them out and fix them up and note their every symptom and condition,—the bee-keeper who can do all this and learn nothing new about wintering from year to year must be—well, an egotist or fossil of the first magnitude. For myself I confess to being a learner. Every year's experience adds to my little stock of bee-lore, though it may not be always easy to add the late semi-unconscious acquisition to the last pronouncement, unless it be the discovery of some important principle or conspicuous fact.

PREPARATIONS BEGUN.

Up to the present season I have thought August time enough to begin preparations for winter, but have now realised the necessity of sometimes beginning in July. Of course the excessive heat

and prolonged drought have rendered this an exceptional season, and I am not without grave apprehensions in the present outlook that next spring will witness multitudes of dead colonies of bees throughout the length and breadth of Canada and the U. S., wherever the nectar famine has extended. I have no recollection of any such drought before in this part of the country, and I note from the various bee journals that unfortunately this condition of things, with the attendant honey famine, is of very wide extent. This is the first day of August and there has been but little rain to speak of in this section since the latter part of May. Consequently not only is the summer nectar a failure, but it seems now almost certain that the fall flow must also be a failure, as the buckwheat is the main fall dependence, and it is not half up, let alone flourishing in bloom.

In such a crisis it behooves us to be up and doing the best for our bees or we shall surely find ourselves mourning over empty hives next spring. Putting away bees hatched in July into winter quarters will be an unusual thing to do in this climate and I fear a hazardous thing to do. True, should the fall happen to be favorable for an inactive, quiescent state of the bees with hives full of stores to still further contribute to their ease and contentment, and the winter repository favorable for early brooding, all might be well in the spring; but otherwise all might be ill. What then shall we do to avert such a contingency? Look after our "fall preparations" now without any delay. Whenever and wherever it is found there is not honey enough coming in to keep up brooding do not allow the brooding to cease so early in the season, but feed to keep it up, and feed right along through this month and say the first week in September. Then, should any not yet have enough for winter give them an abundance without further delay.

HAVE PLENTY OF STORES.

My habit has been to spread the frames out a little in August to give thicker combs of honey above and more space in the frames below for the bees to cluster. This, however, can be dispensed with if the bees are wintered inside in a proper temperature. Considering the extra work it involves both in fall and spring I would not longer recommend it where the repository is warm and well managed. But for out-door wintering and in cold cellars by all means spread the frames and get your winter stores and cluster of bees in as compact shape as possible. Nor is the oft repeated advice to crowd both bees and stores up on a few frames for winter of much urgency or importance where the repository is good and the other conditions what they ought