

sounded like that given off by the bees in a still dark cellar where wintering well, as I had always supposed. When just inside the open door I could hear the murmur of the wind in the tree tops with one ear and the murmur of the bees with the other ear, and both seemed alike. Now if this was a hum of "discontent," then I have been mistaken all my life and have never had bees winter "PERFECTLY." This hum certainly could not have come from "foul air," as the doors had been wide open for nearly sixty hours.

Varying Experiment:—But there is another reason why things laid down in bee-keeping cannot be followed like a rule in arithmetic. There is a great difference in individuals; some experiment carefully, proving everything critically step by step as they go, arriving at almost a definite conclusion with the first experiment, while others experiment in such a careless slipshod manner that the result is not always what it should be. Notwithstanding all these drawbacks, any careful reader of what is written on api culture will find much of value after they have sifted the chaff from the wheat.

Worth \$100.00 a year:—It is often necessary to apply what was written a long time ago in the "good book" where it says "prove all things; hold fast to that which is good," when reading much of the literature of the day on many other subjects beside bee-keeping. However much there may be of imperfection in our bee literature, \$100 per year would not hire me to dispense with it, for it is to this same literature, that I owe nearly all the knowledge I possess relative to bee-keeping.

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### The Non-Swarming System.

Like I suppose, the majority of beekeepers I have long been on the lookout for a practicable Non-Swarming System and when the Langdon System came out last winter I thought I had found one. So favourably impressed was I with it that I decided to work most of my bees on that plan last season.

The bees were wintered very much on Mr. McEvoy's plan and came through in good condition and when the honey flow came were in good shape for gathering it. About 40 colonies were placed in pairs and instead of going to the expence of purchasing Langdon's device. I thought to economize by simply using a narrow board to block the entrance having a wire cone bee-escape. I intended changing the places of the brood-chambers each time the supers were moved

from one colony to the other but on going over them the second time I tried simply transferring the bee-escapes and leaving the brood-chambers in the original positions. This worked so well that I did not move any more hives.

After trying this plan I do not see what need there is for using Langdon's device. It did not take the bees two minutes to find the new entrance and a procession would at once be started from the old to the new hive. Before the time came for again making the exchange the bees in the closed hive would be reduced to about a handful in most cases.

I was running these colonies for comb-honey and things worked alright for about two weeks then the fun commenced and continued with increasing vigor to the end of the Season.

They would commence to swarm about the second day after the transfer had been made and the number would increase until the time came for making the change again.

In desperation, I at last adopted the plan of caging the queen before running the bees into the depleted hive. This I found was more trouble than I anticipated before trying it as when there were so few bees the queen would leave the combs as soon as the hive was opened and hide in the corners of the hive. This was almost always the case no matter how carefully the hive was opened. It, of course, kept the bees at home but they did not work well.

The clover flow was good here, but basswood was a failure. The result of the seasons work was a small crop. sections poorly filled out and many unfinished sections.

In addition to my own bees I worked an apiary for my uncle about 12½ miles from home, making the trips once a week on the bicycle.

His bees had been badly wintered and were weak when the honey flow commenced.

They were also worked on the Non-Swarming System, but for extracted honey. The field bees in each pair of colonies would only amount to about a good average colony. There were only two swarms there near the close of the season. I think the amount of honey secured was greater by working the two colonies together but am not certain.

I have come to the conclusion from the past season's experience that it does not pay to try to have more than one strong colony in one set of supers. If the colonies are weak it may pay to run two or more together but I am not sure.

Mr. Langdon now says that the change should be made every 4th day instead of every seventh day. In that case I would