

don't count ourselves safe with less than four twenty-eight-section supers to each colony, spring count, or even more than that. Don't say 'tis too many, but read on until you get our whole plan.

February and March are usually disagreeable months for out-door work, so we aim to do most of our shop work during those months. We will put hives and supers, together, fill the supers with sections, and have them all piled up, just ready to put on the hive.

Now just a few points on the matter of protection. Since this climate affords so much sunshine, we prefer the hives to point east, while packed for winter; thus, the entrance is shaded in the afternoon, and tends to prevent flights late in the day when many bees would be caught out in the cool evening air; besides, the afternoons are more changeable than the forenoons.

This chaff protection—or however protected—serves several purposes. It prevents robbers nosing around cracks and joints, so it does much to prevent robbing. Again, it prevents the sun shining directly against the hive, consequently it does not admit of so sudden a rise in temperature, making the flights of bees more gradual, avoiding to some extent, those sudden bursts of flight which often almost entirely depopulate a hive for the time being, if it does not result in absconding. But the greatest gain of all, is the gain in brood rearing during the spring. The bee keeper, to succeed, must keep ever "pecking away;" not by jerks and jumps, but regular steady work; so, to get good results in brood rearing, we want steady, regular work. This cannot be obtained where a colony is exposed to the changes of the weather. When packed the heat absorbed by the chaff keeps a more regular temperature, and brooding goes on without check; hence all colonies are better protected until they are strong enough to occupy the entire hive and care for all the brood the queen can supply.

Having the stock so protected, we have but little work to do in the apiary till towards May. Occasionally, however, we go through the apiary when the bees are flying freely and look for signs of robbing. Should any colony show signs of being robbed, we close the entrance so but one or two bees can pass abreast. Occasionally a colony will be queenless, and such must be protected from robbers until they can be united with others. It does not pay to keep a queenless colony until a queen can be reared in the spring. The honey consumed by a queenless colony at that time of the year, is worth more in some other colony being converted into bees; or saved for feeding later.

Some time near the latter part of March or first of April, being guided as to that by the state of the weather and the apparent condition of the bees, we examine each colony to learn the condition of each one, as regards queens and amount of bees. Those that are queenless we unite with such colonies as have but few bees, and all are again snugly covered up, and a record of the condition of each colony is kept.

This brings me up to the time when spring work in the apiary begins in earnest, and soon our next we will enter more into the details of spring management.

From Herald.

Chinese Insects that Produce a Wax Much Used in Candle Making And Other Industries

THE most interesting article of all the many curious things which enter into the trade of China is "insect wax," writes Minister Denby, from Peking, to the Department of State. "This product, sometimes known as 'white wax,' is obtained in western China, not far from the frontier of Thibet. It is gathered from a tree called by the natives the 'crackling flea tree,' from the popping of its branches when burned. The tree is an evergreen and in the spring it bears lusters of white flowers, which are succeeded by fruit of a dark purple color. Botanists have classified it as '*ligustrum lucidum*.' Early in May numerous brown, pea-shaped scales appear on the bark of the boughs and twigs. These upon being opened, are found to contain a mass of small animals, resembling flour in appearance, whose movements are almost imperceptible. The animals are the larvæ of the white wax insect, which owns the scientific name of '*coccus pe la*.' People gather the scales and carry them to the prefecture of Chia-ting, which is the centre of this industry. For the journey they are wrapped in packages containing about sixteen ounces each. The utmost care is taken to protect them from heat in order that the larvæ may not develop prematurely.

"The city of Chia-ting stands in the midst of a plain which is an immense rice field. The plots of ground into which this vast field is divided for purposes of cultivation are edged with from four to twelve feet in height, bearing numerous sprouts upon their gnarled heads. These stumps resemble at a distance pollard willows. The trees, however, are a species of ash, and are called by the Chinese 'white wax trees.' Beneath their branches the white wax scales are suspended in small packages wrapped in leaves, about twenty or thirty scales in each