



Out-Door Apiary Protected Against Frosts.

## The Apiary.

## PROTECTION FROM COLD.

Aside from food in abundance, warmth is the one thing needed to promote safe, early breeding. An ordinary colony will generate sufficient heat to enable bees to rear sufficient brood; the trouble is so much heat is lost by radiation. From several years' experience, I have learned that even if bees are wintered in the cellar, it is best to remove them as soon as it is warm enough to fly in the spring, and then protect them on their summer stands.

Spring protection need not be an elaborate affair. Any old boards nailed together in the form of a box without top or bottom will hold the packing in place. The cheapest and most satisfactory packing boxes that I ever used were made of cull shingles, as shown in the illustration above. First make a simple, square frame of 2-in strips cut from inch lumber. This frame is 4 in larger each way than the hive.

To the inside of the frame are nailed the shingles in an upright position, the frame being about in the center of the inclosure. A few of the shingles at the front end are cut about 4 in short at the bottom; this leaves an opening for an entrance when the "ring" of shingles is set over a hive. The space between the hive and the shingles is filled with sawdust, planer shavings, or some similar material, but before the packing is put in, a little bridge or chute is placed over the projection bottom board of the hive. This prevents the packing material from closing the entrance of the hive and allows bees to fly.

To keep rain or snow from wetting the sawdust, narrow shingles are laid in a slanting position against the sides of the hive, their lower edges projecting beyond the upright shingles, to which they are slightly tacked to keep in place. To protect the top of the hive, the cover is removed, a piece of oilcloth spread over the top of the hive, then a section case, or "super," as it is called, is filled with sawdust and set upon the top of the hive. Some thick paper is tacked to the bottom of the super to keep the sawdust from falling out when the super is handled.

The cover of the hive is used as a cover for the super, and a stone keeps the wind from blowing it away. I leave this packing in place until June 1. If I wished to winter bees by protecting them out of doors, I should keep the packing in position with a similar arrangement; only I should use two such rims of shingles, slipping one partly over the other and putting on a roof of boards. I would use the upper one to give room for putting a larger quantity of packing over the colony. One of the hives in the central foreground is shown packed in this manner.—[W. Z. Hutchinson, Mich.]

## EARLY SPRING CARE.

There are often warm days in the early spring when bees might be removed from the cellar, but the trouble is that winter is not always over with the advent of the first spring-like day. There may be several days, or even

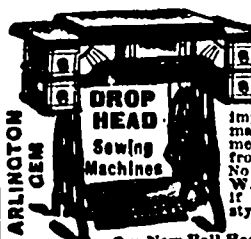
two or three weeks, of quite warm weather, in which the willows, alders, elms and soft maples bloom, and it is really desirable that the bees enjoy all these advantages; but such fine weather, when it comes early, is quite likely to be followed by freezing weather of several days' duration, and even by a snow storm. The fine weather encourages the bees to fill their combs with brood that would eventually produce workers ready for the fields just at the opening of the first white clover blossoms, but the cold drives the bees into a compact cluster in the center of the hive, leaving half the brood, perhaps more, unprotected. This brood perishes; besides, the newly hatched, bees if any there are, are tender, like a newly-hatched chicken, and easily succumb to cold. The old bees have lost a good deal of their vitality and the cold snap is the "last straw" needed to send them to the bottom of the hive.

**Moving the Bees**—Bees that have been wintered in the cellar will now become uneasy. Have the summer stands ready and as soon as opportunity occurs get the bees out of the cellar. At the same time examine all hives and note which are low in stores so that they may be built up by feeding. Some prefer a syrup made with granulated sugar as follows: Take water 1 qt to sugar 3 to 4 pts and dissolve over a slow fire until the syrup becomes like honey in form, then put in a common Mason jar having first punctured some small holes in the metal cover. Place the jar top side down on a plate and place inside the hive over the brood chamber. Some prefer honey from any half finished boxes or frames left over from last fall placed in the top of the hives. This feeding is one of the main points in getting the hives good and strong ready for the fruit blossoms.—[J. H. Denyar, Northampton Co., Pa.]

**STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**—W. S. B. Neb: This does not begin to run upon book accounts until final accounting is stated between the parties, and if the parties keep on dealing with each other and have running accounts, the period of 5 yrs' limitation will not begin to run until such dealings are terminated.

**MGRIMS**—W. J. S. has a horse which at times stiffens all over and falls down. This is a disease of the nervous system and is incurable.

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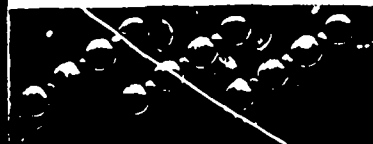
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