

Bee-Keeping in Manitoba.

—J. J. GUNN.

Bee-keeping in this Province, while it may not aspire to be classed as an industry, should no longer be looked upon as merely experimental. If but few have reserved a portion of their attention from the almost general pursuit of grain growing, and applied it to the problem of deriving something more than eye-pleasure from the vast areas of gorgeous bloom our

wintering ten colonies outside, preparing each one in a different manner and the result in every case was the same—a clear case of freeze out. And if there had been ten thousand hives the chances are all against variety in results. Some instances are known of bees wintering out, but no man who has had any experience with bees in this province will try that plan twice, unless he wishes to get rid of his stock. A perfectly dry and well ventilated cellar is the natural winter home of the bee in Manitoba and this is what may be, and doubtless will be, provided wherever bee-keeping is practised here. We have wintered ours in a stone-lined cellar under the dwelling house for the past



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prairie land affords, these few have not only met, in almost every instance, with most gratifying success, but solved for themselves and all who choose to follow their example the questions most vital to bee-keeping here.

The question of how to winter has all along been a bugbear with those used to Ontario conditions and practices. Our climatic conditions differ so greatly from those of Ontario as to render methods quite common and successful there inadequate. In a paper read before a recent meeting of the Manitoba Horticultural Society, Mr. Bedford of the Experimental Farm at Brandon, states that he tried

eleven years and always successfully so long as the ventilation was right. The temperature keeps safely above freezing without any artificial heat. The depth to which frost penetrates the earth proves to be no drawback but rather a benefit, as it ensures an even, though at first gradually declining temperature, the advantage of which is apparent. For instance, just now we are having June weather and January weather all jumbled together—which is not an uncommon thing in March—but Jack Frost is down there holding things even and the bees are at peace.

A much more serious hindrance to profitable bee-keeping, as it is one that