

from box to movable frame hives, and as the combs did not quite fit, they thought they would make a better job of it by taking their own plan and not following our instructions. So with a darning needle and heavy string they sewed in the combs round the top bar and side bars. Of course it looked as if it was a perfect job but the bees did not take the same view of it, and thinking it was moth web or something that should be removed, they commenced cutting it away and very soon the combs fell down upon the bottom board. Even wax thread, or string would not do. We have used cloth dipped in wax and run through the foundation mill thinking to deceive the bees, but we soon learned that they were not to be fooled in that way. As soon as they had removed the wax from the cloth and found the shreds they commenced pulling it out and in a short time they had the foundation sheets full of holes. Every bee in the hive seemed determined to get the cloth out of the road as soon as possible for when a comb was lifted out you would see hundreds of bees pulling and tugging at the fibre. It was certainly amusing to see how earnestly they worked at it. The cause of the honey affecting your throat would likely be discovered if you could trace the source from which it came. It was probably taken from some poisonous flower.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Winter in England and Wisconsin.

WE LEARN by the British Bee Journal that the past winter has been one of unusual severity in England. Yet it does not appear by the accounts given that the thermometer has been as low as zero at any time over there. It would seem that what they call an extremely severe winter in England would be considered a very mild one indeed here in Wisconsin. The past winter has been one of the mildest in this locality which we have had within the last twenty years, and still the thermometer has been down to zero, or below, fifteen times during the winter. On one occasion it was 20 below zero. But I suppose that in this inland country the atmosphere is much dryer than it is on the sea-girt island of Great Britain; therefore the same degree of frost would be much more piercing and tedious to bear in that country than in this. And no

doubt the moist atmosphere of that climate has a deleterious effect upon bees in their winter quarters, as much or more than upon other animate nature. Creatures that have opportunities for plenty of exercise to promote rapid circulation of blood, may thereby be the better able to maintain sufficient animal heat to resist the permeating chill of the frost king. In this country, it we did not have any zero weather, we should be almost ready to conclude that our bees would not need any winter protection at all, beyond that of a good, substantial single-walled hive. But the facts are that we have but very few winters during which there are not times when the thermometer dips down from 30 to 40 degrees below zero. And yet, notwithstanding this intense degree of frost, I have been more successful in wintering bees out doors than in my cellar for the last seven years. Some of my hives are constructed on the same principle as the D. A. Jones porous double-wall hive, only the walls are about four inches thick, packed with sawdust or chaff. And some Heddon hives with an outer winter case which allows four inches of sawdust all around the hive. I have forty colonies wintered in this manner now upon their summer stands in excellent condition, also seventeen colonies packed in a beehouse with fly hole through side wall of the building (fly hole closed during winter) and winter ventilation given through the bottom board; something after the plan proposed by Rev. W. F. Clark in Bee Journal some years ago. These are in equally as good condition as those others out of doors and a few colonies in the cellar. I think that I never had bees in better condition at this time of the year. But the season is very backward. There has been but very few days yet when bees could fly freely with safety. Snow is not yet all gone and the ground is still frozen. The outlook for the future is not so encouraging as one might desire.

JOSHUA BULL.

Seymour, Wis., April 11, '91.

No doubt the damp atmosphere has a very injurious effect. We do not think that there is a place in America which is inhabited where the thermometer sinks so low that bee-keeping could not be made a success so far as wintering is concerned. Reports received from places where the thermometer sinks to 40° and 50° at the coldest times, state that bees appear to winter just as successfully as they do in warmer climates. It is not the cold, but the moisture that is the most injurious, moisture inside or outside their bodies.