

crop is to be late this season. But I fear the basswood honey is to be a complete failure in this locality, as the buds have been destroyed by the frost. Our orchard, though covered with blossoms last May, is not to produce a single fruit of any kind. The golden rods, however, are promising.

Tiverton.

J. ANDERSON.

ESSEX.

The weather is fine now, bees are bringing honey in fast, and swarming the best they have done for the last two years. Honey will be a large crop in this part of Canada. Basswood will be a large crop this year: all prospects of a great honey yield.

Tilbury Centre.

R. E. SMITH.

MANITOBA.

LISGAR.

The last two weeks have been dry, but fine. Plenty of honey for brooding but too dry for surplus. I have some white and alsike clover in bloom upon which the bees work lively. The prospects for a honey crop are fair, with rain good.

Fernton, Man.

C. F. BRIGMAN.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

HIBERNATION IN ENGLAND.

I AM under great obligation to the editor of the C.B.J. for kindly sending me a clipping from the English Journal of Horticulture, of May 10th, last, with a polite note inviting comments on the forwarded article. I think the clipping will be read with interest by the C.B.J. circle of subscribers, and therefore subjoin it, reserving what few remarks I have to make for the close of this communication. The article is as follows:—

THE CAUSE OF WINTER DYSENTRY.

This, which has been talked and written about probably more than any other subject, has been the cause of the loss of many stocks on my own apiary in winters past.* I think, however, it will cause me no more trouble. In America two theories have been propounded, one called the "Pollen Theory," by Mr. James Heddon, the other called the "Hibernation Theory," by the Rev. W. F. Clarke. The first holds that if the bees are wholly deprived of pollen during winter, and fed on pure sugar stores in clean combs, there would be no dysentery, but he admits now that the trouble is too much to pay to practice. The latter contends that if bees sleep, it makes no difference

whether pollen is present or not, they are bound to come out healthy. There was a great discussion in America some four years ago, and no end of experiments, to prove one theory or the other, which I carefully read and studied. What struck me was that all those who admitted having suffered from dysentery, and favored the pollen theory, reared their queens by modern methods; that is, in some way or other they strove to rear them as cheaply and in as large numbers as possible: while those who invariably wintered their bees without loss, let them rear their own queens as Nature dictated. This set me thinking, and I was soon conscious that all my losses from dysentery had been with stocks of bees, whose mothers had been reared on modern methods. Consequently I conceived another theory—namely, that if pains were taken to breed the queens extra well, in a natural manner, their bees would invariably sleep in winter, no matter what kind of stores they might have, and come out in spring as strong as when packed up for winter.

The first generation I reared convinced me that I was on the right road. The second generation has just passed through the winter, and I will describe them. I fed them in October, about a week after, as they seemed just, and the day warm and fine. I examined them all, to cut winter passages through the combs. The bees in two stocks were flying freely. I found nearly all had already begun to hibernate, and though all the authorities in America deny that bees truly hibernate, I was quite convinced that they do when properly bred. When I pulled the combs asunder they dropped in the bottom of the hive as if they were dead, and could only just move their legs; they soon came round quite lively, and afterwards were not disturbed until April 18th. In the meantime I had several times turned up the corners of the quilts to see if they still lived; when I did this I saw what hibernation in bees really was. In one stock, that contained about 12 pounds of bees, I took off the quilt on the 7th of April first to see if they had any stores left, and secondly to see if they were "lively" in the middle of the cluster, as it is contended that they always are in America. The bees were packed as closely as possible, and in every seam appeared to be dead; but as I could see here and there a bee move its legs a little, particularly those that had stuck to the quilt, and some sealed stores where not covered with bees, I concluded they were all right, and quickly covered them again. The spring has been so bad that not till April 18th did we have a day warm and fine enough to safely open a hive