

new combination hives. We were, therefore, anxious to see just how the two hives compared as to wintering qualities and our decision up to the present time is that there is little difference. The bees in the combination hives were as strong and had as much stores as those in the Jones hive in comparison to the number of frames in each hive. Some of the Jones hives had twelve combs covered with bees and the combs were filled with brood. We always considered that the deep frame was the best for wintering and though we have used the combination for the past two seasons yet we had not wintered a sufficient number of them to be able to form a decided opinion. We now have no hesitation in saying that for wintering qualities they are only equal to the deep frame and as a rule as seven or eight frames is about the number which is used for wintering on this smaller hive gives good results. There is no extra space behind the division board to be kept warm and all the heat is let right in the brood-chamber where it is most needed. Bees are bringing in pollen from the soft maple. A tree stands in front of our office door and the blossoms are just covered with bees.

FEEDING.

If you find that your colonies are short of food, and have not sufficient to carry them through till nectar can be obtained from the flowers see that stores are furnished them. The kind of stores will be the next consideration. Opinions differ as to the kind and the manner of feeding. We shall give our own opinions however, and these we think will be found pretty general.

If you have sealed store combs they will be the best. Scratch the cappings and put the frames adjacent to the brood nest.

If not, and none of your colonies can spare any, sugar syrup is the next best thing, fed above the top of cluster. Make the syrup thinner than for fall feeding. Place it in any kind of feeder that can be utilised over the frames and cover up warmly so no heat can escape. The Canadian Feeder is about the best for this purpose of any that we know of. Feeding at the entrance prevents the

free ingress and egress of the bees. There is no use in feeding in "littles," give them enough in the upper feeder at once to carry them right through till the honey-flow commences. If they find only sufficient to carry them along from day to day, and know not from whence the next day's supply is to come they will be "chary" about going into brood rearing. Dr. Miller says in this connection:

"If sufficient was not given in the fall, the next best thing is to furnish it as soon as possible after taking out in the spring. It may seem that if a colony lacks two pounds of having enough honey to last till the harvest, that it can make no difference whether the honey is in the hive till the time actually comes when they need it, but from watching the bees I think it does make a decided difference. I don't know whether the bees reason that the supply "in sight" is abundant and that they can go in heavy on raising brood, or where there is some other reason, possibly the honey filling up so much that would otherwise be air space, said honey acting as an equaliser of heat. I like best to have on hand some sealed frames of honey to supply any needy colony. However it may be in other localities, I have found generally that with an excess of stores in the hive, eggs and brood will always be found in as large quantities as the bees can care for. So I do not resort to stimulative feeding.

We agree with the good doctor in the above, so that if your colony has say ten to fifteen lbs. of honey, and are in a good, clean, sweet condition on the first examination in spring, just fix them up good and warm and let them pretty well alone.

Speaking of this in the last number of the *Review*, Mr. J. H. Robertson says:—

When our bees have received the thorough care necessary to successfully winter them, no spring management has given us so much satisfaction as the "let-alone" plan. If left in the bee-house until all danger of severe weather is over and soft maple is in bloom, but little more work is required than to keep control of robbing and see that each colony has a good supply of stores.

This is just what we did this spring. Left the bees in their winter quarters till the weather came out warm, and until soft maple is in bloom.