

gave much satisfaction amongst us bee men here. One thing I omitted, nor is there any reference to it in the journal, so far as I have noticed. It is this. Do you put *slots*, or any other device under the cloth to raise it from the top of the frames, when preparing bees for winter. Here it is generally done to help bees to cluster in in the winter. I am a beginner and have Thomas' book which do you recommend kindly answer in the next C. B. J.

Mount Forest.

J. M.

For outside wintering we put sticks over frames, simply to make a passage for the bees over the combs.

As to the best book it is a difficult matter to decide, a number of books have their strong points. We will mention two or three, all of which may be read with profit. "Langsbroth on the Honey Bee," "A. B. C. of Bee Culture," "A year amongst the Bees." They can be purchased in Canada, at United States prices, apply to dealers who advertise in these columns.

#### MOVING BEES.

I have a number of hives of bees to move thirty-two miles. Please let me know how and when will be the best way to move them, in the autumn or spring, or will I wait till sleighing, and how will I give them air?

Mrs. R. M.

Bees have been moved with success in all the ways you mention, but we strongly advise moving them in the spring. If wintered in cellar clean entrance well before taking out, and after first cleaning flight move to new locality, let it be, as far as you can judge, the morning (early morning) of a fine fairly warm day. We would put wire cloth over entrance, the cloth nailed not flat against the hive, but shaped like a drone guard. Unless very strong the quilt left on the hive will answer, tack the quilt on by means of thin strips of wood, fastening the quilt between hives and their strips. Fasten your frames with wire nails, driven through the quilt and only partially sent home. This avoids stinging in driving and drawing nails. Take a spring wagon, or a lumber wagon with straw in bottom, to break jar. Load the hives carefully, combs same way as wagon box: The every thing on well, see that entrances are guarded from rubbing, and quilts will not be injured from hives on top of lower ones. Have a good careful driver, moving along smartly when road is good, checking horses the moment he comes to a bad spot. Unhook horses if any accident should happen to let out bees.—Ed.

#### Work At the Michigan Experimental Apiary.

Hon. R. L. Taylor has been conducting an experiment with bees hived upon comb foundation, starters and full combs, the result is as per table connected herewith.

Numbers one to four inclusive were supplied with comb, and described as A. Those with foundation, numbers five to eight inclusive described as B, and those described as C, were hived on stretchers in the brood chamber. The supers whether taken from the old hive at the time of swarming, or supplied subsequently, were carefully weighed.

Other data for table A were obtained by weighing the several hives, bees, supers and all upon three different dates, viz. the 6th., 12th., and the 19th of July, and by weighing the cases separately on July 19, this enabled Mr. Taylor, to state the exact gain of each colony, in the amount of comb honey, together with the gain in weight of the hive for the entire time. From these he deducted the gain per pound, of bees of each colony for each of the three periods, as well as the entire time, and also the gain in weight of the hive, and in the amount of comb honey for the whole time.

3A and 2C were disregarded in table B, one lost its queen, the other persisted in swarming out.

Mr. Taylor carefully warns bee-keepers not to accept this experiment as conclusive, he says, the results must be verified repeatedly, before they can be accepted as the rule. Yet the multiple character of our experiment with the results so nearly uniform, gives strong assurance that what seems to be disclosed, is in the direction of the truth. Those hived on combs, gained in all more than 11 per cent., over those hived on starters, and those hived on foundation, gained more than 13 per cent. over the same. With reference to comb honey only, those on comb honey gained less than 5 per cent., more than colonies on starters, while colonies on foundation gained more than 17 per cent over those on starters. Those on starters had an undue proportion of the weaker colonies, yet if we consider in table C only the strong colonies in each group of, A gained 9½ per cent. more than C in comb honey, and B against 42 per cent. more than C. Take the light swarms in the same table and column, and the positions are reversed, A gains nearly one-half of one per cent. over B, while C gains nearly thirty-two per cent. over B.

In table B from the figures given in the third column where the gain for the first