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SPRING FEEDING.

A. Further Installment on this Interesting Subject.

Indexed

J. L. Byer.

When we hurriedly wrote off that stuff for the July issue of the Journal, knowing the Editor's ideas on the subject, we fully expected to be criticized by him, and looked for a foot-note to be pinned on at the end of the article when it was printed. But instead of a foot-note, behold a whole "leg" instead, was added, in which the writer is accused of holding absurd opinions, of being "mixed" as to his ideas about feeding bees, and in the use of metaphors—but why continued to enumerate all the failings ascribed, when they are so vividly portrayed before the public to the utter humiliation of the writer.

In all seriousness though, in reading over the article in question, I am genuinely sorry for two things. In the first place for having taken the liberty to quote from a private letter of Mr. Adams, as I did, without first asking his consent to allow me to do so—something I usually never do—in fact, cannot recall another instance unless it be in the same article where I also quote from Mr. Sibbald. It was done without giving the matter any thought, and I trust Mr. Adams knows the writer well enough to not think the quotation was given in order to take an unfair advantage of him in any way. With this explanation I hope and believe that Mr. Adams will excuse me this time; in fact, I know that he will for he is too good-natured to ascribe any ill motives on the part of any one, even if such were given, and in this case such a thought never entered our mind. In the second place it is up to me to apologize to Mr. Hurley for "attempting" to quote from his letter, although if the quotation had been given correctly, no great harm would have been done, as no names were mentioned. Mr. Hurley is correct in

surmising that I was quoting from memory, for although the letter was on my "desk," it was "pigeon-holed," and I did not take the trouble to look it up when writing. A fairly good memory and a lazy streak in my make-up, explains such a way of doing; but I want to say most emphatically, that I did **not forget** the words "every other day," and if they were not in the copy, then I inadvertently typed the statement that I did, not noticing the miserable error that was being made by the omission of the three words. The idea of feeding a quart jar of syrup as I have it, is certainly obscure, and it is not to be wondered at that the Editor accuses me of holding absurd opinions on other matters, after such a glaring example as that. In common with Mr. Adams I can only rely on Mr. Hurley's good nature in dealing with such an atrocious blunder, and the least thing I can think of doing by way of making the amende honorable, is to assure him that if he will come and spend a few days with me, that we will "feed" him on the best we have, although being somewhat of a temperance crank, cannot promise anything "stimulating"—in fact, do not believe he would partake if offered anything of that nature anyway.

Now just a few words as to that "leg" already referred to. In the first place we know the difference between feeding to prevent starvation, and feeding to stimulate the queen to keep on laying eggs when otherwise she would be doing nothing, according to the ideas of the pro-stimulative feeders, if I dare use such a term. Numbers of the latter persuasion of beekeepers have often stated that they would sooner feed syrup regularly than to have any quantity of honey to speak of in the brood nests. We fed this spring to prevent starvation, and incidentally at the same time we had an opportunity to test the ideas of syrup feeders as to the stimulative effects, as compared with our ideas as to bees having a supply of honey