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OUR OWN APIARY.

EXAMINING COLONIES NOW.

THE weather being cold here, the bees are already clustered quite closely and compactly between the ranges of comb. It is a good time to see that the hives are all perfectly dry, as the moisture escaping from the cluster is liable to condense in the hive and make it damp. Before setting into winter quarters it is very important to remove the lids and cloths, where they are not wholly porous, and allow the sun to shine in on the top of the hive; even though the bees fly a little they are not much inclined to rob unless the day be very warm, and when that is so, we keep the cloths over the top so that no bees can get in or out except at the entrance. Frequently in looking over the ranges of comb, we find condensed moisture upon the capped stores. By opening the hives on a warm day this is thoroughly dried out, so that when set into winter quarters the combs, hives, bees, etc., are perfectly dry. Anyone setting colonies with dampness in the hives into winter quarters, as compared with dry ones, will see a marked difference in the wintering. We go over the hives and examine them by lifting off the lids carefully, so that the bees are not disturbed. We examine the cluster to see how they are clustered, and notice also how the different strains and races of bees are clustered in the same case and under the same treatment. It will be found that some races cluster more quietly and more compactly than others; and these are sure to winter better than the less closely-clustering ones. We also observe the exact size of each colony. Some contain more bees than others, and by marking the various colonies

large, medium, or small, as the case may be, and watching results in the spring we can then tell the difference in their wintering. It is also necessary to mark the distance between the combs. Those that are farthest apart give the most room for the bees to cluster, thereby causing them to consume less stores. Some of our hives weigh 75 pounds with only six combs in them, and these also are marked that we may see if the extra amount of stores give any better results than those with merely enough to carry them through the winter. Hives that are set very near the ground should be raised sufficiently to prevent the bottom board from becoming damp. We notice that Carniolians and crosses appear to cluster more quietly and compactly than some of the others, and consider this a good point in their favor. Our surplus combs are all taken from the colonies and put in the loft of bee-house for future use, where the mice cannot get at them. If they are not put out of the way of the mice they are almost sure to be damaged.

WINTER FEEDING.

In examining bees now in this locality, if they are found to be short of stores, unless the weather becomes much warmer, it will scarcely be safe to feed them liquid food. We would much prefer using our winter feeder, filled with what we usually term "Good" candy. This may be done at any time in fall or winter when the stores are found to be exhausted, without exciting the bees; all that is necessary to do is to fill the feeder and set it on the frames over the cluster.

LIQUIFYING GRANULATED HONEY.

As we stored much of our honey in 60 lb tins before it granulated; we have now to liquify some of it to fill case orders of small tins for shipment, as the 1lb and 5lb tins are being extensively used having become very popular for re-tailing. We find when it is liquified