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"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

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Can A School Teacher Keep Bees?

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THE answer to this question depends on the school, the teacher and the bees.

Starting with the bees we find they require only a limited amount of attention, but what care they do need they must have. By organizing the apiary work it can be reduced to a weekly basis and by spending an average of one day each week, an active person with good health and strength can care for 50 to 100 colonies of bees.

Starting at the end of the honey season, say in September, bees may be prepared for winter in such a manner as to require absolutely no attention until the following April or May. First the supers are removed leaving only the brood-chambers and the entrances contracted for warmth and protection from robber bees. Some of the brood-chambers are at this time examined to see if brood-rearing has ceased and if nearly all brood has emerged from the combs the hives may be weighed and fed for winter. For out door wintering it is best to place the hives in the wintering cases immediately after weighing and before the feed is given. Some of our most successful beekeepers do not weigh the hives but feed each one all the syrup it will take up to 40 lbs. An ordinary colony in a ten-frame Langstroth hive should weigh about 80 lbs. in order to have sufficient stores for winter and the following spring.

After the hives are in the packing cases each is given the required amount of syrup made from best granulated sugar and water in the proportion of two of sugar and one of water. The sugar should be thoroughly dissolved by heating, but should be boiled as little as possible. There are different kinds of feeders described in the text-books and bulletins which need not be described here. The bees take the feed down and store it in the combs, ripening and capping it just as they would honey gathered from flowers. The packing for winter should then be filled in and everything done so the bees need not be disturbed again until spring.

Packing cases should be on stands which raise the entrance at least a foot from the ground and should be sheltered from cold winds by natural or artificial wind break. Under these conditions very little snow will drift about the cases and no shovelling is required. The weekly bee day from now until spring can be devoted to the preparation of extra hives, supers, and supplies of various kinds, getting everything in readiness for the following season. Preparedness is one of the greatest secrets of the beekeeper's success.

Dead bees may be raked out of entrances each time the weather turns warm enough for bees to fly freely. When the temperature rises to 65 or 70 degrees fahrenheit with bright sun and very little wind during April