

consider them poor property. I think it pays better to let them build up themselves than to draw brood from strong colonies; as, however, different localities require different management, I speak for my own only in this particular. The reader will notice that I aim not to disturb the cluster when examining bees in early spring. With indoor wintering my experience has been too limited to give much of an opinion. But by what I have gathered from some experience and considerable reading I should leave them indoors until I thought they should have been out a week ago and then leave them in four or five days longer to be on the safe side.

J. F. DUNN.

Ridgeway, April 13th, 1888.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

Spring Hints from Mr. McKnight.

BEES should be examined as soon as placed on their summer stands.

When bees are placed on their summer stands they should be disturbed as little as possible till warm weather sets in. The more warmth secured to them the better.

If hives have movable bottom boards the bottom should be unhooked and scraped clean of dead bees and debris, the hive being set on a clean bottom board as soon as removed.

The next duty will be to ascertain the condition of the hive as to stores. If there is not sufficient food in the hive to carry the stock through till fruit bloom they should be fed. This should be done with as little disturbance as possible. If a stock of comb honey remains on hand a can or two may be placed in the hive, the cappings being scratched or partially removed, or the quilt may be removed and the comb placed on its flat over the top bars, the quilt placed over this and carefully tucked in so as to prevent the heat escaping. If there is no honey in stock sugar syrup will answer the purpose equally well. As little disturbance as possible should accompany spring feeding in whatever form it is done.

Weak stocks are hardly worth the trouble of nursing. Bees should not be "killed with kindness" at this season of the year. Be sure they are suitably provisioned then annoy them as little as possible. Watch the robbers and the robbed, head off the one and protect the other. This will excuse the ingenuity of the watcher. It will be best done by preventing facilities for reinforcement of the attacking force and by protecting those invaded by reducing the avenues of access to a minimum.

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Owen Sound, Ont.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

SPRING MANAGEMENT.

IN spring management much depends upon how the bees have wintered. My experience of late years has been confined to cellar wintering, and therefore use single walled hives entirely. I try to leave the bees in until there is natural pollen or honey flow from some source, and the weather is likely to be fine. This is generally between the 10th and 25th of April; last season it was the 23rd or 24th, and think it will be about as late this season. Try to select a warm, calm day for setting them out, when the temperature is above 60°. If you are not certain that the day will be suitable, wait until about ten o'clock then you will be able to decide. Two years ago I started putting them out about seven and at eight o'clock the thermometer registered 80°. I always put the entrance blocks on all of the hives before I take any out; then carry them out very quietly and place the hive on the stand; put the lid on at once and open the entrance a little; as soon as all are out or as many as I intend putting out that day, I proceed to examine them at once and see that all have plenty of stores, a queen, clean hive, and crowd them up with division board to as small space as possible. Let me emphasize the advisability of keeping the heat in the hive in some way till the cold weather is past. I use half-stories filled with dry sawdust.

All queenless colonies are united with some of the weaker ones that have queens. But the trying time comes in about three or four weeks after being put out, when the colonies begin to depopulate by the old bees dying off. If we find very weak colonies that are not able to carry themselves through, take young, hatching bees from some of the stronger colonies and shake them down at the entrance of the weak one, and let them crawl in, as this colony would not be strong enough to care for a frame of hatching-brood. If they are, give them the brood, but I think it is not advisable to help any that can get along without as this would be keeping the vigorous ones back. Those colonies that require more room should be given an extra empty comb or two at a time, carefully watching that the brood is not spread too much, for fear of it being chilled. In the weaker colonies these empty combs I put outside of the brood frames, and often turn the brood outside frames end for end, thus saving space. See that all have plenty of feed; do not be afraid to examine when necessary if the weather is warm enough: gauge the entrance to suit the strength of the colony. I don't think stimulative feeding necessary if there is plenty of feed in the hive, but if it is scarce, feed syrup in the evenings to keep the bees from robbing,