

Boiled Down.

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I notice that no reports from the Michigan Experimental Apiary have appeared in the American Bee Journal since May 31, 1894. This does not greatly surprise me, for most of what has been published since is so overloaded with figures as to bewilder the ordinary reader. But why should not a brief statement be given of the results arrived at? The publication of the reports in full is rendered less necessary by the appearance of a special bulletin issued by the Michigan State Agricultural College, giving a detailed statement of the experiments for a year. I presume similar bulletins will appear annually. Pending their publication, why not boil down each report as it comes out, and give the essence of it? Suppose I constitute myself cook, and try my hand at this boiling-down process?

SUGAR FOR WINTER STORES.—This is the first of the topics that have been reported on since May 31. In the fall of 1893, Mr. Taylor selected 24 colonies for cellar-wintering, as nearly equal in all respects as possible, one-half of which were to be fed sugar syrup for winter stores, and the other half to be fed with honey for the same purpose. The necessary feeding was done the last of September. The amount of stores consumed was very small, but the important point brought out was the economy of feeding sugar stores instead of honey. The average consumption of sugar was but $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds from the 15th of Nov. until the first days of April, while that of honey was $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, or nearly twice as much.

SPRING PROTECTION AND STIMULATIVE FEEDING.—This report is very difficult to boil down, being almost all

figures, and must have cost a large amount of labor and patience. The results can be given almost in Mr. Taylor's own words. They were a great surprise to him. While he had long been doubtful whether spring packing and stimulative feeding repaid the work and expense, he fully believed there was considerable advantage in them. But he found that in every way in which comparison can be made, the unpacked colonies had the advantage both in increase of strength and in weight. It should be said also that out of 13 two-story hives packed there was a loss of four colonies against none among those not packed, while of the one-story hives the loss among the packed ones was more than twice as great as among the unpacked ones. For stimulative feeding it is to be said that it showed a very trifling advantage in a fourth case. The history of these hives, packed and unpacked, fed and unfed, is continued through the season in a subsequent report, which embodies a mass of figures almost as puzzling as logarithms. The season was not favorable and continued experiment gave no satisfactory results. Mr. Taylor is inclined to draw some inferences in favor of small brood-chambers, but admits himself that the premises are slender for so doing. But all through the season, the unpacked colonies maintained the superiority over the packed ones.

FOUNDATION FOR SECTIONS.—The next report is really a continuation of an earlier one in which the superiority of the Given style of foundation had been shown, only the sample of Hunt foundation excelled the Given by 6½ per cent. while the Given excelled the best of all the others by 18 per cent.

FOUL BROOD.—The latest report which has come to hand contains a very important experiment designed to ascer-