

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE HEDDON HIVE.

REPLY TO MR. THIELMANN.

AFTER reading Mr. Thielmann's criticism on page 287, allow me to say, in justice to myself, that if I was mistaken in imagining him envious or bitter, I cannot be mistaken in charging him with having too much self-esteem, in coming out in the manner he did on page 190, against a hive he has merely looked at, not used. He tells us that his eighteen years' experience compels him to seriously object to splitting the brood chamber in two parts, horizontally. This statement compels me to believe three things; first, that Mr. T's. experience has been a poor teacher, second, that two or three years of the future will teach him better, and third, that *he* will not try to purloin this important feature of my invention. I wonder if Mr. Thielmann has practised law? I find two statements in his article, both of which are false, and the barest of assertions, and of the nature rarely indulged in except by lawyers, who are educated to prejudice juries by assertion. He says, first, "Mr. Heddon knows also that the pollen theory is a mistake, but will not acknowledge it." Again, he says, of the double brood-chamber, "Mr. Heddon and every practical bee-keeper will agree with me that this is the worst part about the hive, and the one that will fulfil my prophecy." This latter statement, like the former, is not true, and I cannot see why any one would make such statements, for they are not arguments, nor evidence, and it seems to me can harm no one but him who makes them. If I were mistaken about the pollen theory, I might still be a very good inventor, but wouldn't it be soon enough to use mistaken comparisons, after I had admitted, or the public had proven, the pollen theory false? At our national convention, at Detroit, that careful observer, Chas. Dadant, in an able essay, gave us his opinion regarding the influence of food in wintering bees, and his whole argument is based on what has been called Heddon's bacteria and pollen theories. In one paragraph he says: "When the honey is stored in cells partly filled with pollen the bees eat some of this pollen and their intestines are readily filled up." In another place he says: "The indispensable food for bees, is sugar, and chemistry shows that the most easily and most thoroughly digested, form of sugar, is cane sugar. Honey contains sugar in two different forms—cane and grape sugar." In another place he says that the best syrup is made of water and granulated sugar, and extensive experiments that we have made

during four different winters, compels me to believe that this sugar-syrup is better for winter stores for bees, than any honey. I suppose if Mr. Thielmann has looked at some of this syrup, he will at once arise, and put his experience against ours. I know that it is often almost impractical, if not impossible to sell honey and buy sugar, but that doesn't change the fact that sugar syrup is the best for winter. I know that wintering on sugar, increases the market honey-supply, thus tending to lower the price, and I heartily wish that honey was as good for bees in winter, as sugar-syrup, but my strongest desires do not change the facts. Mr. Thielmann has had eighteen years' experience as a bee-keeper, and has seen one of my new hives, and rather than have your readers in darkness any longer, tells them all about it. One year ago one of America's brightest and most expert honey producers, one of twenty-five years' experience, stepped into my apiary and after carefully looking over the new hive, frankly stated his dislike to it. After handling a few of them, he said he was surprised at the way they manipulated, but he wasn't yet willing to give up my improved L. hives, which he believed were the best extant. He wrote me that after this, scarcely twenty-seven hours passed, but that he, in theory, manipulated the new hive. Having too of my modification of the L. hives in use, the 100 colonies in which, wintered perfectly, he resolved to settle the question in his own mind, and now has swarms in 100 of the new hives, in question, and here permit me to quote from two of his letters. Under date of June 20th, 1886, he says: "By the way, I like the new hives more and more, with each day's use of them. In my judgment, they are an absolute necessity to the most successful bee-culture. I believe that I can more than double the profits from an apiary by their use. I am aware this is a strong assertion, but I think I know what I am talking about. It is just fun to come it on the Italians, and do it so easily too. By simply giving the brood-chamber a 'flop,' I have made them lay a dozen pounds of nice clover honey up into the sections, in forty-eight hours. Now that we have a *bee hive*, it's just fun to handle bees."

Two days later he writes again and in this letter, says: "Have been at work with the new hives this p.m., and the ease with which they enable one to manipulate the bees is simply wonderful. Not only this, but they are a long way ahead of anything I've ever seen for securing a large yield of honey. Let any doubting Thomas try these hives, inverting them at the proper time, and he will be astonished at the result of rapidly filled sections." The above