

Wintering Without Pollen.

OTTAWA, April 11, 1898.

R. F. Holtermann, Esq., Editor Canadian Bee Journal, Brantford, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for your promise to send me the C. B. J. The enclosed letter from Mr. Wintle records that gentleman's experience in wintering bees in sugar. As I thought the data might be of interest to your readers, I asked Mr. Wintle for his consent to forward the letter to you, which he willingly gave.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK T. SHUTT,
Chemist, Expl. Farms.

THE ANCHORAGE, Como, P. Q.

March 25, 1898.

DEAR SIR,—I have been reading in the C. B. J. your enquiries re wintering bees on syrup alone. I have in my apiary a case in point. Last autumn, (in Sept.) I was offered nine hives of bees by a farmer here. The arrangement was that I was to take the bees alone, leaving him hives, honey, etc., etc. It was very late to try to get them to feed up and seal over stores for winter, but I use chaff hives with transverse frames, which allow of a sort of back chamber being made, where the bees can feed in shelter.

To cut a long story short, I made my nine lots of bees into three hives, which I lived on either empty combs or partly drawn foundation, and fed them up with hot thick sugar syrup (invented), until they had sealed over about 30 lbs. each hive.

These three hives have come through the winter on their summer stands, and are now three of the best hives in my apiary. Needless to say, I have supplied them with cakes of pea flower candy for spring brood rearing. Of course I would never recommend anyone to put off feeding up "condemned" bees till as late as Sept. It was only because I got the offer of the bees then, and it was a case of "try it" or "leave them," that I made the attempt. Even by making my nine hives into three, as I did, I do not think that the bees would have sealed over their new stores except for the fact that we had an altogether artificial temperature here caused by bush fires. However the fact of the bees having wintered well on pure syrup remains unaltered.

I have said that I got the bees in September. It was in the latter part of that month, so that I did not get them finished and packed for winter till on in Novem-

ber. They could scarcely possibly have gathered any pollen from the fields.

Yours faithfully,
GILBERT WINTLE.

The Season's Management.

A. FYFE.

As it is a long time since I wrote anything for the C. B. J., and I am not adapted to writing for the press, I will endeavor to give the readers of the C. B. J. a few pointers on my method of bee-keeping. The first day after setting out my bees, and all have had a fly, I remove the hive bottom, which is loose, from each hive and replace it with a clean one. Next day, weather permitting, I examine each colony to ascertain if they have lots of stores and a good laying queen. Colonies having lots of stores and to spare I share up with those that may be short. I remove what combs the bees cannot cover, and keep combs containing pollen on outside of brood chamber.

I put in a division board and put on a good cotton quilt and all the old newspapers that I can get the hive cover on with, and make a note of the condition of each colony, and age of queen, on a tablet which hangs on the side of each hive. I do not make a practice of spreading brood, nor do I examine the inside of colonies the same day as set out of winter quarters, as I find it causes the balling of queens more or less. I always use a folding bee tent in spring and fall. Should my bees commence robbing any of my weak colonies, I remove them to the bee house in the evening, and place an empty hive on the stand containing a few empty combs for a few days. In some cases I throw my bay down in front of the hive and sprinkle it occasionally with water. I clip queens' wings, remove old stock to a new location, and hive all swarms on old stands. I place a super underneath the new swarm for a few days after which I remove it and put on a queen excluder and remove surplus case from old stock and place it on the new colony. For ventilation I bore two 1½ inch holes from back end of hive bottom, tack on a piece of wire cloth and put a large button on the under side.

Harriston.