

then set them out and have no trouble from swarming out.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.: It depends on seasons and locality. A safe rule would be as soon as bees can gather natural pollen; carry out with as little jarring as possible, and on a medium warm day, with the thermometer 65°, and very little or no wind, from 2 to 4 p.m.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.: I advise their being set out any favorable day after the middle of April. My own practice gives the following dates for a few years back, 1877 April 14th, 1878 April 3rd, 1879 April 8th part and 18th remainder, 1880 April 21st, 1881 April 21st, 1882-'83-'84 about April 18th. By being carried out carefully, with entrances slightly open and covers on, I never had much trouble with swarming out.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARINGO, ILL.: I usually set my bees out of cellar when soft maples are in bloom. If the weather is quite warm sooner, and I cannot keep bees quiet by opening cellar at night, I set them out earlier. If weather is raw, later. Never had a case of swarming out on taking out, and never took any intentional pains to prevent it. I have cellar open same as outdoors all night before taking out, and take out only when bees are pretty quiet in cellar; sometimes can take out all day; if they get noisy I stop till another day. Take out only when weather allows flight and handle gently.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—That depends upon the circumstances and environment, and these differ with almost every bee-keeper from others. Those with bee-diarrhœa, or those uneasy or restless from other causes, ought to be set out to fly the first suitable day, and then returned till set out for good, which is when natural pollen comes or even later. If by "swarming out" is meant abandonment of the hive altogether, to prevent this get the hive cleaned out and sweetened as soon as possible after setting out, and supply stores if deficient. They never abandon their home in the spring without a good and sufficient reason, which, however, may not be always apparent to the bee-keeper who is careless and negligent. Give your bees a good house to live in and good food, and they will not be apt to forsake it.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.: I take it that this applies only to bees wintered in some suitable repository. My practice has been to set them out about the 8th of April, and the result has been satisfactory with me. It is admitted by most that five months confinement is

about as much as bees will comfortably bear, and as I put mine away the first week in November, it will be seen that mine are usually confined for that length of time. I am aware that some authorities on this point aver that as good, if not better, results may be secured by keeping them in confinement until apple bloom appears, as they can gather but little supplies up to that time. Prominent among those who hold this opinion is Mr. Root, son-in-law of the late Mr. Quinby, whose excellent work on bees he has rewritten and revised to date. To keep them indoors this long would, undoubtedly, save many bees lost by chill and spring dwindling, but I am persuaded that the loss from these causes is fully counterbalanced by the increased activity of the queen under fairly favorable conditions outside. If they be confined till apple blossom time they should certainly have a cleansing flight the first favorable opportunity after the snow has gone, otherwise the consequences may be serious. It is admitted by all, I believe, that increase in brood rearing cannot be carried on to any extent without a supply of water, and if they be shut up indoors after the first of April the bees are of course prevented from collecting the necessary supply of water, consequently this work is retarded at a time when it is essential, that the work of replenishing the depleted colonies should be going on, besides there is more or less food to be obtained in the beginning of April. We have all seen with what glee the little fellows fasten themselves to the end of a green maple cordwood stick about this time, and sip with avidity the sweet sap that oozes therefrom which has in itself a certain amount of sacarine matter grateful to the palate of the bee. Then the swamp willow supplies its quota of pollen. These and other sources of supply, available between the first of April and the blooming of the apple tree, added to which, there is the sense of liberty and the healthful exercise of being on the wing, all of which have led me to conclude that, in ordinary seasons, the time above mentioned is the best time to set them out. I have never been troubled with "swarming out in the spring."

BY THE EDITOR: We usually set our bees out of winter quarters about the first appearance of pollen on the black willow or soft maple; the former usually yields pollen here sooner than the soft maple. The last one of our bee yards was set out 14 days after the first had gathered pollen, and when set on their summer stands many