

## CHALMERS' OBSERVATIONS

Now that the season of the year is upon us for laying in a stock of new hives for those requiring them, it might be an opportune time for giving my observations on the proper construction of a bee-hive. I do not purpose dictating any particular style, for while acknowledging that Father Langstroth struck it well for a general-purpose hive, yet for this Canada of ours, and more particularly for outdoor wintering, I consider a shorter and deeper hive preferable.

A bee-hive should be detachable from its bottom-board. Early calculators placed its capacity nearly right at 2,000 cubic inches. The entrance is better given in the bottom-board than by an opening in the hive, and should be full width of hive in the honey flow. About three-fourths of the hives of an apiary should have the bottom of the frames come to the level of the bottom of the hive, and about one-fourth with bee-space of one-quarter of an inch or a shade more between bottom of frames and level of bottom of hives, for use immediately above queen-excluder. There should be a full bee-space between top of frames and level of top of all the hives and supers. I advise using a plain sheet of perforated zinc for queen-excluder full size of top of hive, as it is more easily made and easier cleaned than any other style. Before placing it, feel which is its smoothest side, and lay that downwards, as it has been punched from that side, and loaded bees can slip through a little easier than if vice versa. Do not forget to have a piece of tin, say five or six inches long, cut fully one-quarter of an inch wide, and bent to right angles, laid on top of frames before placing excluder; it will prevent the latter from sagging.

Then, last but not least, use honey-boards instead of cloth coverings of any kind, and you will find the top-bars of frames kept much cleaner. It surprises me that so few use honey-boards when everything is in their favor, and, if made



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the same as the writer's are, they can be used for bee-escapes independent of Porter or any other escape and do their work in a wholesale way. No chance of clogging, nor danger of robbing, and will clear the bees from a super fairly well in two hours.

**Eat Honey.**—On page 8, January C. B. J., I observe you, Mr. Editor, are right in with Mr. Wood in having leaflets printed advising people to "eat honey because it is good." I heartily agree with you both, but don't you think there should be advice, too, in those leaflets as to the best mode of serving honey at the table? Much as I love honey when it is good and properly handled, yet I always rate it as a dirty thing when out of place. No doubt you have noticed that a great many don't know how to serve honey. They will fill the spoon, lift it and wait a little for the honey to quit streaming, and, seeing there is likely to be no end to it, they make a dash for the nappie, leaving a streak over the mouth of the

bowl. Now should there be this line, with the right answer pictured above rolled up in it that this same the sale of h

**F. B. In** strong is right of inspectors, to have that on their work all of one mixed colonies

## A ONE-A

I saw in the enquiry about arm. This is I lost my left right hand two explosion of a apiarist for selling honey. I my nearly 30 years culture is great of first-class honey him to go into has patience an him some good mother of insects catching swarm on top to hook of some interest similar unfortunate and some failure purchased the literature," and found me of hives and ways of using them is very valuable. Bee Journal. V one is more like a schooling if practical and up-to-date out many small large and beneficial one strong colony swarming time to kinds of movable