

the fault of Dr. Mason and A. I. Root, who are working hard to make it a grand success.

OUR OWN APIARY.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

SINCE our last writing we have had considerable cold weather and nothing more has been done in the bee-yard in the way of examinations, at least very little. Those colonies which we marked "to go over again" were seen to before the cold weather set in, and all were either given queens or doubled up. To-day (May 4th) the morning comes bright and warm, and we are in hopes now of another spell of settled warm weather. What we want yet is a good warm rain; what we did have was too meagre and too cold.

THE DIFFERENCE IN HIVES.

Our observations of last week with reference to the wintering qualities, placed the Jones and Combination on about the same level. Our decision was the result of our examination of the colonies wintered in our home apiary only. The reports from our two outside yards bring the results a good deal in the favor of the Combination. At both the outside yards, where we had a great many more bees wintering than in the yard here in Beeton, there were about equal numbers of Jones and Combination hives. The foreman reports that much less food was consumed and the hives were in a cleaner state, fewer dead bees, and things generally were in a better condition. He attributes this to the fact that there is less space in the latter than in the former, and in winter the temperature is more easily kept up, that it is more evenly distributed over the whole hive. Should the bees find it necessary to leave the cluster in search of stores, they are also less liable to become chilled.

TOO MANY BEES IN THE HIVE FOR WINTER.

This seems possible. Last fall when putting up the bees we had quite a number of Jones and Combination hives on which were one, two and three second stories. When these were taken off and the bees crowded down into the brood chamber, we had colonies on twelve frames and just overflowing with

bees. They had plenty of stores, and in a right temperature, would perhaps have come through in fine shape. By some means the temperature at the Richardson yard, where quite a number of these colonies were, got up to 70° in the very coldest part of winter; and this was not observed for several days. Of course as soon as possible this state of things was remedied, but not until these strong colonies had worked up to such a pitch of excitement that the spring found them extinct. Those with a fair proportion of bees passed through this rise in temperature apparently all right.

CLOSED-END FRAMES AND PROPOLIS.

Our experience during the past season and while examining colonies hived on closed-end frames this spring has not been favorable. We found that during the summer the hive in the hands of an experienced bee-keeper gave good results, but there was always more or less trouble from the wood screws shrinking and swelling. In our home bee-house we wintered only some fifty-two colonies having sold off all the rest of our stock the previous fall. Of these 16 in the Jones hive, 27 in the combination, and 9 in the Heddon—on two sections of brood chamber. It took the apiarist just three hours to go over all the hives of the kinds first mentioned, and he was the same length of time going over those in the Heddon hive, performing the same offices for them as in the former cases. With one or two exceptions the screws would not budge a particle, and it was almost impossible to get the frames out for examination, they were so fastened in place with propolis, evidently placed there after the bees had been put in shape for winter. After he got one frame out the rest was easy enough, and the biggest trouble was just at the start. The screws evidently swelled up in winter quarters, and there was no such thing as getting them moved. Probably had we been on the spot all the time an examination of the entire case might have been sufficient, but we prefer in spring time to have every frame handled by our assistants.

ENTRANCE AT FRONT OR END OF FRAMES.

There are those who prefer the entrance at the end of frames instead of crosswise. And there are perhaps as