

should always have dry combs to cluster on we have sometimes taken a comb with considerable honey from a strong colony and give them, especially if they were weak, one of these combs filled with syrup in place of it. In a strong colony this seems to stimulate them to breeding, and leaves the weaker colony with less useless stores in their hive and if they were kept in confinement a long time it prevents very much the chances of dysentery. Now, right here let me advise that dark brown sugar be not used for this purpose. Small cakes of sugar may be placed on top of the frames which will prevent them from stirring until they are set out. We think all bee-keepers should look carefully to their bees and see that everything is being done for them that can be done, because it is an old saying that it is "always a feast after a famine." Well we have had the famine and we will all look forward with pleasure and welcome to the feast.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

The Arrangement of Hives in the Apiary.

PLACING THEM IN PAIRS IN THE APIARY.

ONE of the first questions which a beginner in bee-keeping will, or should, ask himself is, how shall I arrange my hives so that I can accomplish the best results with the least labor? It may be well also for many who have been in the business for some time, to reconsider the arrangement of their own apiaries. There are several sides to this question, but at the outset I will say that I am opposed to all those who say "let us have each hive and its location as unlike as possible." We are told that "a thing of beauty is a joy for ever." I am quite sure there is no beauty in seeing an apiary arranged without order, with nothing to indicate taste and love for the beautiful on the part of the owner. I would advise however whatever plan you adopt, whether the hexagonal, octagonal, squares, straight rows, or other forms, be sure and have your hives in pairs, or two hives on two stands about a foot apart or one stand long enough to accommodate two hives. Then the distance between each pair to be four feet or more, and if in rows then about six feet between them, and have each pair in the row behind, to come between or rather behind the wide space in the row in front. By this plan the flight of the bees is not interrupted, either by the hives in front, or the apiarist when at work. It presents a nice appearance, forming

straight rows in eight different directions. As a matter of convenience in reaching any hive in the apiary it is especially valuable, as all you have to do is to walk down a row, until you come to the space leading angle wise direct to the hive required. But what I would impress particularly is, having your hives in pairs without sufficient space between the two hives forming the pair, as to admit of standing between or of sitting on one while at work on the other. Where the entrances are at the end of the hive, and where the person engaged in the apiary is unable or unwilling to lift heavy hives, there is an advantage in having each stand long enough to accommodate two hives with a foot space between. When a swarm issues with a queen whose wing is clipped, all that is necessary is to push the hive along and place an empty one in its place, and allow the bees to return. If you prefer having each pair on a separate stand then place them close enough together to permit one hive to rest on the four inside ends of the blocks on which the hives rest, you thus place your hive should you desire to unite the two colonies constituting the pair, and so the bees from either hive readily go to the one. The plan I adopt is when removing the bees from the

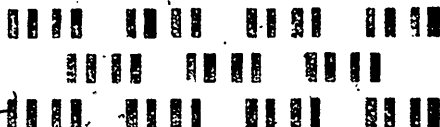


DIAGRAM SHOWING ARRANGEMENT OF HIVES.

cellar in the spring to place one hive on the left hand stand of each pair, leaving the right hand stand unoccupied until nearly swarming time. I then about June 1st place an empty hive on the right hand stand of each pair, to accommodate the swarm from the one on the left, should one issue. If it does not I simply return the empty hive after swarming time to the building where I keep them during the winter. When swarms are issuing at the rate of eight or ten an hour, I do not want to have to run for an empty hive, or be in doubt as to where it is to go—all I do is to simply place the empty hive in the place of the one occupied, *à la vice versa*. The bees return or if they do not of their own accord I compel them to and the work is done. If I am absent there is no doubt where or in what hive the swarm must be put. It is always placed in the empty hive by the side of the one from which the swarm issues. Of course any second swarms are returned to the hive from which they came. If you are not blessed with as many empty hives as you have colonies, you could leave a few