

FIRST STEPS IN BEE-KEEPING.

"Keeping Everlastingly at it Brings Success."

Questions Sent In Bearing Upon First Steps in Bee-Keeping Will be Dealt With In This Department By the Editor.



THE knowledge that our neighbors cannot prevent us from keeping bees, should make us all the more careful to avoid causing them any inconvenience. To act in this way is not only neighborly, just and right towards others

but we serve our own interests.

I shall briefly take up the various methods to be adopted.

THE BEES.

There is as to temperament a great difference in the bees. When in close proximity to the house black, and bees mostly black, by that I mean German bees, should be avoided. Also Cyprian or Syrian bees and their crosses, not only to the third and fourth generation but to the eighth and tenth. Bees that can be handled without angering them upon the slightest provocation, are the kind desired in such a situation.

TREATMENT.

Bees are fortunately subject to methods of treatment so contrary to natural laws, that many apiaries are kept in a chronic state of ill will, and no one but the apiarist to blame.

Bees should be examined at the right time of day, when not too cold, the crushing of bees should be avoided. This crushing may be due to careless handling or owing to badly constructed hives, having bee space either too small or too large. Get only hives carefully and accurately made, do not get the impression that anything will do for a bee hive, smooth work is desirable, but far more so is accurate work, avoid then killing bees in every way. Have a good smoker and use it sparingly,

much smoke angers the bees, to have a smoker standing in the yard for hours blowing its fumes about the apiary is not in accordance with good management. Again bees should not be handled any more than necessary at any time. The way some bee-keepers keep pulling the brood chamber to pieces, during the spring of the year, reminds me very forcibly of the time when I was eight or ten years old, and used to pull the sitting hens of the nest, to see how the eggs under them were getting on. The results are about the same in each case *disastrous*.

AT THE CLOSE OF THE HONEY FLOW

bees should never be examined; at this time, they are peculiarly irritable. In a week or two they will settle down to a quiet condition, and what handling must be done as far as possible arrange after this time. Comb honey or even extracted honey supers which require to be removed after the honey flow, should have the bees taken out of them by means of the bee escape boards.

When honey is not coming in, do your preserving, and tell your neighbors to do their preserving after dinner. Avoid putting out any kind of sweets, in short avoid exciting the bees in any way. The children at our house play close to the bees, sometimes right amongst the hives, even when honey is not coming in they rarely get stung, when they stay from amongst the hives. Last spring our little girl in the neighborhood of two years, sat down in front of a strong colony, and commenced poking at the entrance, when we saw her she was fighting the bees and crying, if she had not been noticed the bees would have killed her and as it was she received between twenty and thirty stings. To avoid such accidents a fence should be kept, between the apiary and the play ground of small children.

Give your neighbors to understand they should not strike at the bees. Take what they may say quietly and kindly, they may be sincere in their convictions, try and dispel their fears, and let kindness and consideration for others mark your course, I have been placed in unpleasant positions in regard to this matter, and my course has not been to assert my rights, and stand on my dignity at first, only when I knew a gentler and kindlier course would not work, did I point out that the law was on my side, and whilst I would regret a neighbor taking action in court, I did not fear it.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

Thanks for the full and prompt way in which you answered my questions in THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, the answers