

this JOURNAL (and I hope they all are) will please bear in mind that I am not writing here for them—they do not need such. We are expected to, and we must, give the A B C of bee-culture to the hundreds of readers of our JOURNAL who are not experienced, and who are eagerly anxious to learn. In our discussions of "hibernation," the "pollen theory," dry faeces," etc., let us not get above the rudiments of our science and forget the beginners. I sometimes think there is rather too much abstract and metaphysical lucubration in our bee-literature, and too little of the elementary and practical. For myself I always endeavor to get something practically useful in every article. *Verbum sap.* One criticism further in this connection which, however, strikes home to myself equally with the other brethren of the quill, who are generously lending their valuable assistance and striving to make our new CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL an assured success, as it undoubtedly is. I refer to the anachronism so noticeable in the discussion of practical questions. Just when the winter is over we get the best advice how to winter successfully; just as the Spring is past we get homilies (witness my own letter) about how to get them through the Spring vicissitudes all right; and in the Fall the best way to get comb honey, to raise queens, to swarm, to divide *et hoc genus omne*, is put before us with an amplitude, and cogeny that ought to carry conviction to every bee-keeper. Now this is all quite natural. There is no time a man feels more like telling what he has done and how he has done it than just after doing it successfully. He just feels the throb of altruism which ought to pulsate in all humanity and he wants to tell his brother straightway how to go and do likewise. And as he tells his story much better under such an inspiration than he would after the afflatus had departed it may perhaps be better after all to put up with the anachronism and get the cream of inspiration instead of the skim milk of re-action.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, June 6, 1885.

Yes, Friend Pringle, we noticed this year, as also in previous ones, that after the cold spell was over it appeared that the old bees had lived out their time and it was astonishing to watch the great mortality among them, many colonies losing nearly all their old working force in a few days, leaving nothing in the hive but young bees that had been hatched but a short time. Your warning against spreading the brood too

much in early Spring is well timed, as it is a great fault with many bee-keepers. The plan of shaking young bees in front of weak colonies, to build them up, has many advantages, in fact, any colony in a large apiary may be built up to swarming pitch in two hours, if young bees are plentiful in the yard, without danger of injury to the queens. Your system of introducing queens by placing a large quantity of hatching brood in the hive with the queen, then shaking young bees in front allowing them to enter, could not fail to be successful if properly done, and at a season of the year when no honey was coming in just at the time. It is wonderful how a few young bees stimulate a weak colony at that time.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

MY REPORT FOR WINTER OF 1884-85.

MY experience during the winter just past has as fully proved the incorrectness of the "Pollen Theory," as it is possible so to do with one Winter's experiments. I am well aware that some will claim that my experience is of little, if any, value; first, because I am not a specialist, and second, because I keep but few bees. I cannot myself see how either reason militates against either the correctness of my views or the value of my experiments. I will, however, give my experience and leave my readers to draw their inferences, as to what is or is not proven. Last fall I prepared ten colonies for winter, and in so preparing them, I took pains not only to leave them as I supposed plenty of sealed honey for stores, but also took especial pains to leave a large quantity of pollen in each and every hive, I had no faith in the "Pollen Theory," and having the courage of my convictions, had no fears as to results. I wintered in single-walled Langstroth hives on Summer stands, with no protection save a blanket over the frames, and an upper story filled with forest leaves. The winter, as we all know, was a hard one for bees. I was unfortunately taken sick the latter part of February, and was unable to get out into my bee-yard for eleven weeks. On examination then, I found two colonies starved, although they had at least twenty-five pounds of honey when packed for winter; every drop of this honey however had been eaten, and had I been able to feed in March, these colonies would