The Canadian Bee Journal.

D. A. JONES & Co., Publishers.

OUR OWN APIARY.

As one of our apiaries was about eight or ten miles from Beeton, last Fall we decided to bring the colonies nearer home, and divide them up among our other apiaries for Wintering, and in the Spring return them again, or as many as we had not sold. Some of our men are now engaged moving the bees to the apiary again or at least enough of them to commence with, say about seventy or eighty colonies. Perhaps it would be interesting to our readers to hear how we move our bees, as we usually move from 500 to 1000 colonies every year various distances, according to location and surroundings. With smoker in hand we go to the colony that we wish to move, take off the lid, blow in a little smoke, remove the quilt just off the end of the frames, leaving it over the rest of hive, then one of the students comes along after us, and drives wire nails through both ends of the frames down into the side of the hive, leaving the head sticking up above the frame, about quarter or half an inch, so by laying sticks across the frame when they arrive at their journey's end, the nails may be drawn out with on ordinary claw hammer. We find that frames nailed in this way carry safer, as the bottom can give a little when suddenly jarred, thus preventing the combs from being jerked out or broken down as they would likely be if the bottoms of the frames were fastened. A wire screen is then placed over the top of hive, and wire cloth over entrance. In a platform spring wagon, drawn by one horse, we can place from twenty to twenty-five colonies, and move them to their new location. With two horses you can take from forty-five to fifty at a load. The whole operation of nailing, and opening takes but a few minutes. In this way you will see that bees can be moved an ordinary distance at very little expense—about ten cents a colony will move them ten miles when everything is prepared for the work. We are also selecting colonies and distributing them in the various yards with a view to having all the Syrians or Holy Lands in one yard, (especially those that are used for raising drones), Carniolians in another, Italians in another, and the various crosses in another; with a selection of some of the finest from each yard which we place in an apiary by themselves to test, as far possible, the difference in quality, and watch all the good and bad characteristics. Some excel in one thing, and others in some other. We are fully convinced that perfection in breeding can only be obtained with certainty on isolated islands. We forgot to mention that in shipping very strong colonies it is necessary to raise the wire screen from two to six inches above the frames, in proportion to their strength, in order to give the bees an air chamber above. A sad experience has taught us, and many others, perhaps as well, the necessity of this. Only two years ago one of our students placed a wire screen over the top of a strong colony, also over the entrance, and in less than two hours the entire colony was destroyed by suffocation, combs and bees being melted together in one mass, in bottom of hive. The bees had crowded up to top of hive to reach the fresh air, completely blocking up the space on top of the frames, and preventing the circulation of air either amongst themselves, or those below. We cannot better describe it than to say it likened in character such a panic as that which occurred on the Brooklyn Bridge only a short time ago,—everybody looking out for themselves, caused the greater panic. Since the weather has become so favorable we have spread the combs, in the strong colonies, and placed empty combs, or those only partially filled with honey, in the centre of the brood chamber. By this means they are filled with eggs in a day or two, and soon become solid cards of brood. Combs are added in proportion to strength of colony until the hive is full. Should the weather continue favorable for the balance of the season, as it has for the past two weeks, bee-keepers may expect a bonanza.

HOW TO COLLECT AND PRESERVE SPECIMENS OF HONEY-BEARING PLANTS.

At the request of a number of our readers we give a few hints on gathering and preserving specimens of nestiferous plants. All the apparatus requisite for the purpose is: 1st, a