

of it honey instead of water. We have just made a large quantity for our customers, it is about one-third honey, and was heated until sufficient moisture escaped that when a portion was dropped on ice and allowed to cool it would just break, but if not thoroughly cooled would bend instead. It is not in any way injurious. Yours would be too hard. To have the honey incorporated with the sugar by heating we consider a decided improvement. By mixing the honey and sugar cold, the bees would separate the honey, and the sugar would drop to the bottom. We advocate the heating of the honey and sugar until they are thoroughly mixed. We know of no reason why you should lose any more colonies, as you could put granulated honey on top of cluster until you had time to prepare the candy for them. We once found a colony out of stores and a little lump of granulated honey seemed to give them all a feed until something better could be prepared. If the honey is not well granulated you might put on the top of the frames two pieces of comb, one each side the cluster, one or two inches apart, putting the feed in the combs, placing a stick on the outside of each, putting another comb over it. The empty comb on top retains the heat, the sticks below support it half or one inch above the other combs, and No. 2 would prevent any dripping or loss of honey or syrup. This arrangement would keep them from starving. They might be fed continuously in this way until they could fly. We trust you will adopt some means at least to keep them from starving.

#### BEE-KEEPING AS A BUSINESS.

MRS. H. SWITZER.—I have sent you no report since I was in blasted hopes. In 1882-3 we lost nearly all our bees. Husband felt very much discouraged in bee-keeping, and said he would give it up, that there was no profit in it. By this time I had become more acquainted with the sweet pets and believed that if they could be successfully wintered and cared for, there was both pleasure and profit in them. I persuaded him to buy more in '83, since then we have been successful; in '86 we increased from 52 to 78 and extracted 1,900 lbs. of honey. In '87 we had more bees than we could care for, owing to the farm and three acres of strawberries and we were obliged to have an auction sale, which we did May 30. The bees went higher than we expected as it rained nearly all that day; colonies with seven combs of brood and four empty frames went at \$10.85, the weaker ones went at

\$6, \$7 and \$8 each. We had the number of each colony and its strength entered in a book, so there was no need of examination on the day of sale. We sold down to 27 colonies and from these increased to 52 and extracted 1,400 lbs. of honey, besides they had nearly enough to winter on. I think it is labor lost and money out of pocket to extract closely and feed sugar, as the majority of bee-keepers are tardy in feeding and do not give enough at that. The returns from our bees last season were \$370. I think a bee-keeper cannot be successful without reading bee literature. Some of the men that bought at the sale knew as much about bees as the bees knew about them. We advised them to subscribe for the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, but they thought they could get along without it. As far as I can hear they will be back in spring to buy more. Perhaps then we shall have more influence. We always find very ready sale for honey, and no expense for canning as customers bring their own jars. We cannot fill all the orders that come in. We take good care to inform customers that honey will candy when cold weather comes, and to keep it in a dry place. I know a bee-keeper that has lost a lot of his customers by not doing so; the grocers say they cannot sell granulated honey. I have read in newspapers and leaflets about why honey should be eaten, but never yet saw an article on the granulation of honey, if published there would be a greater demand for it. Our experience for the five years has been confined exclusively to wintering on summer stands, packed with dry saw-dust. The first fine days in March we go over all the apiary and remove the dust from the top, cut a hole in the quilt and place a jar of warm, thin syrup over the cluster. A piece of new cheese-cloth is the best to tie over the jar. We quickly put back the dust again so the syrup will retain the heat. This is a very successful way of feeding colonies short of stores, as it does not disturb them. Thus far our bees appear to be very strong; some of them had a flight in February. Last season we had four colonies of fertile workers, we lost more queens and queen cells than would start a small apiary. I am pleased to say that we found an easy way to conquer them. We took all the combs and adhering bees and gave them three combs of brood with queen cell. We then took all the workers off their combs and gave them to strong colonies. In two weeks they all had laying queens. H.S. makes all his bee fixings in winter although he has been a great sufferer from asthma. I am glad to say that in September last he was completely cured under the treatment of a skillful physician in Toronto. The treatment was burning the nose internally and cutting a piece off the uvula.

Fergus, March 7, 1888.

We think all had better make a sale and have it come off on a rainy day if the best colonies will bring \$10.85 and weak ones \$6, \$7 and \$8. You certainly got a very fair price for them. Such a sale of bees paid better than any farming you have done for many years. Three hundred and seventy dollars were much more easily made than any similar amount from a farm, considering the