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as thus far been It has continued n has shown it ad no opportu- Ve examined our. Brood-rearing stores nearly all, once. We con- have opened the oment. Since that unable to gather

Notes and Comments

(By J. L. Byer)

Relative to the much-discussed subject of feeding in the early spring for stimulative purposes, it is interesting to note that among the many correspondents who have, on invitation of Editor Root, contributed to *Gleanings*, only one, Mr. Alexander, speaks in favor of the system. Commenting on Mr. Alexander's views, Mr. Root says: "Our correspondent has a late honey-flow, mainly from buckwheat, and therefore this must be taken into consideration." Messrs. Gill, Hand and many other extensive producers who oppose early spring feeding have an early flow, and if there is any virtue in early feeding, surely it would be a greater advantage to them than would be the case if they had a late flow. Personally, we fail to see any logic in Editor Root's apology, for **anybody** can have bees ready for a **buckwheat** flow. For clover, a force of bees is necessary six weeks earlier than for buckwheat, and stimulative feeding is not a factor necessary or advisable towards bringing about this desirable condition. With colonies that have wintered weak in bees, but with queen in vigorous condition, we have invariably found that all the eggs would be laid that the bees could take care of. In this case how any possible help could come from stimulative feeding is beyond my ken. On the other hand, colonies that are strong in bees in the early spring nearly always have to have supers in fruit bloom, notwithstanding the large hives I use. In this case again it would be unwise or at least unnecessary to do any early feeding. My father's apiary is situated in a naturally sheltered location—high land and trees at the west, north and east and a low stretch of swampy ground on the south. The bees always winter good in this yard, and every fall we move some there for the fall and spring feed—the latter there in abundance. The large hives used there

(mostly 10 and 12-frame, frames one-half deeper than Langstroth) are at date of writing (April 30) boiling over with bees, drones are flying, and conditions seem more like June 1st than May 1st, when so far there has only been three days—April 22, 23 and 24—that bees could leave the yard. Pussy willows are just coming into bloom, yet if weather turns warm it will be necessary to put supers over these giant colonies to prevent swarming. Of course, these bees have Carniolan blood, and I never yet saw an instance of such early building up on the part of pure Italians. It was at this yard that we lost a valuable queen and swarm last spring during willow bloom, a circumstance over which Mr. Hershiser gently jabs the writer in a late issue of *Gleanings*, because I criticized his article wherein he advocates a wholesale interchange of brood frames and the building up of weak colonies at the expense of the stronger. While the rebuke is merited, yet I would remind friend Hershiser that this absconding took place when the early willows were in bloom, and the weather was of such a nature to forbid exposing the inside of a brood-nest, let alone the exchanging of brood frames from one hive to another.

The foregoing data is simply given to show that with a good strain of bees a colony will "get there" without any coddling and nursing during the early spring.

Various results have been reported by different bee-keepers who have tried Mr. Alexander's plan of saving a very weak colony by putting it over the top of a strong stock. Two reasons have stood in the way of my trying the plan—bees mostly packed either in cases or individually, hence impractical to tier up in the early spring, and again we seldom have real weak colonies that it would be worth while trying to save. True, we have winter losses, but the bees nearly always