HINTS ON FEEDING OUT-APIARIES

(By Henry D. McIntyre.)

The management of out-apiaries includes many problems with which ordinary bee-keepers working their bees entirely at home are rarely acquainted. Amongst these may be mentioned the feeding problem. Often the water must be fetched from a distance, and if he makes the syrup warm the apiarist must improvise some means of heating the water. Celerity and system are especially needful in out-apiaries. In past years I have used cold water with great success in making the syrup, and have not lost a single colony through poor wintering for three years. The method employed is as follows: Place 150 lbs. of sugar and 75 lbs. of cold water into the extractor and work the machine for about five minutes. After the syrup has settled and become clear, there will be formed at the bottom of the extractor a sediment of undissolved sugar about an inch in depth. Draw off the clear syrup and fill up again with water and sugar as before. Although one keeps this up all day long, the undissolved sugar at the bottom of the extractor will not increase in depth. It would seem that the granules of the first batch do not disappear until the second mixing, and the hard granules of the second batch do not dissolve until the third mixing, and so on.

The feeders (Fig. 2) in use in my yards are of my own devising and construction. They are made from good pine lumber, one-half in. in thickness. All joints are covered with white lead before nailing, and afterwards the feeders are given two or three coats of paint, both inside and out. The painting on the outside is absolutely necessary, as is also that on the inside. If not painted on the inside the wood absorbs the syrup and swells, and afterwards, when dry, the pieces of which it is made will open out. Again, unpainted feeders, in consequence of the absorbed syrup, always prove a great attraction to robber bees whenever they are exposed, and become a veritable nuisance in a yard. A hundred of these feeders can be made at a cost of $15. Mine have not leaked since they were constructed, and if they don't last me for twenty years longer I shall be disappointed. It is advisable to paint

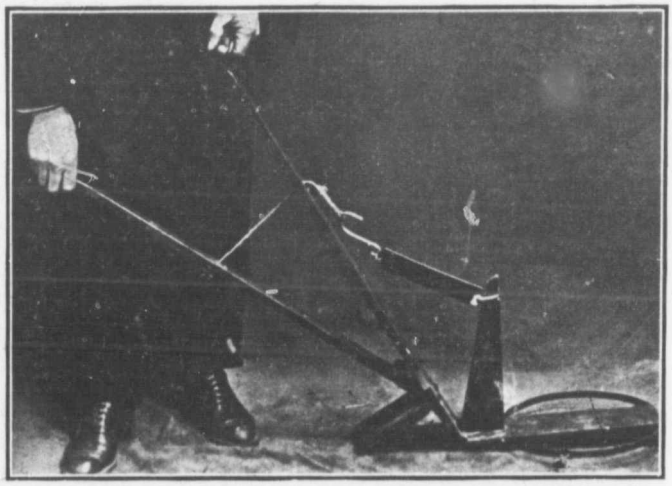

Fig. 1, Mr. McIntyre's Hive Weighing Scale.

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