

may be dispelled by the presence of the Great Comfortor, the Wonderful Counsellor, who brings consolation, comfort and cheer even in the darkest hour to all who commit their ways unto Him. And be it further resolved that this resolution be recorded in the minutes and an engrossed copy, signed by the President and Secretary, be sent to the family of the late Herbert N. Hughes." Carried.

SPRING MANAGEMENT IN THE APIARY.

By D. W. HEISE, BETHESDA.

On receiving notice from our worthy President some time ago that the Executive Committee had seen fit to place my name on the program for a paper on spring management, with the request that I at once endorse the action of the said committee. I replied saying, that while I thought very little of the subject assigned me, yet I would endeavor to have something to say upon it at this convention. My reason for saying that I thought very little of the subject was not because I considered it one of slight importance, but from the fact that it has within the last few years received considerable attention at conventions and through the different journals, and more particularly from the fact that the subject was so ably and thoroughly handled only a year ago at the city of Gaelph by our esteemed friend, Mr. Sibbald. So while it would seem to be pretty well exhausted, yet perhaps after all there are always those in our ranks who could largely improve on their spring management, and with the thought before me that "keeping everlastingly at anything will eventually bring success," I take encouragement, and will endeavor to briefly outline what I would consider "ideal" spring management in my locality when bees are wintered on the summer stands.

The first step towards proper and successful spring management should be taken not later than the fifteenth of September of the fall previous, (that is when there is no fall flow,) by contracting the brood chamber with a division board to a size accommodating the strength of the colony, which may be from four to seven combs. The remaining combs in the space so contracted, whatever the number may be, should contain not alone what we might consider was sufficient stores, but a supply that we are absolutely certain will be an abundance to carry the colony safely, not only through the winter but right up to the time of fruit bloom. By preparing the stocks in this way the bee-keeper will have no occasion to open up the hives for an examination until the weather is sufficiently warm that all danger of chilling the brood or breaking the cluster will be reduced to a minimum. The first examination of bees in the spring should not be made until some calm day when the thermometer will register seventy degrees or more in the shade, and after the bees have been permitted for some days to gather both water and natural pollen. When the above conditions are present the hives should be opened, and the strength and condition of the colony ascertained. All hives should now be contracted to a capacity best suited to the size of the cluster, that is, in case such had not been attended to the fall previous. As the colonies of average strength will be found at this date, with from two to four frames of brood in different stages of development, these frames should be raised up sufficiently high so the honey along the top bars and in the corners can be uncapped. This will cause the bees to move it, and they will certainly store it in the cells that surround the brood, where it will be of most advantage. In the case of no honey being along the top bars of the frames which contain the brood, frames of honey (first having been uncapped) should be placed one on each outside of the brood next proper. Uncapping in this way serves a twofold purpose: first, by providing the liquid honey for larvæ food, and of easy access; and, secondly, by clearing the coast for the queen to widen out her circle. All garbage and dead bees should be removed from the hive floors at this time—a very simple matter indeed if the bee-keeper has been so wise as to use only loose floors; unfortunately some of us are still hampered with permanent floors. All the foregoing having been attended to, the operation will be completed by replacing the clean quilt (if such is used) with a gum cloth, putting on top of this three or more thickness of paper, return the top packing, contract the entrance, and close the hive. While it takes some little time to outline the above manipulation, yet in actual practise

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