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Notes and Comments

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Loaf Sugar for Feeding Bees.

Much has been said lately in different periodicals about various ways of feeding bees in the winter or late in the fall. Some have advised the use of thick sugar syrup, some a candy made of sugar and honey, while others use hard candy made of pure sugar.

Probably all of the foregoing will answer the purpose, but, in my estimation, none of them are as convenient as another article which has lately been mentioned by Mr. Alexander in "Gleanings," viz., common loaf sugar. Mr. Alexander tells of having, one fall, a lot of light colonies when the bees were put in the cellar, and as something had to be done to save them, he decided upon loaf sugar, using it as follows: Rims, two inches wide, were made to fit the tops of the hives, and inside of the rims, directly over the frames, was placed the blocks of loaf sugar. The sugar was slightly moistened and then covered over. Every colony thus treated came through in grand condition. It certainly is a simple and convenient way of getting out

of a bad position, and at the risk of displaying my ignorance, I am going to confess that I did not know that loaf sugar could thus be assimilated by the bees. Have no doubt that it would be a fine thing to feed any colonies with that should happen to be short of stores in the early spring.

Moth Balls to Keep Moths Out of Combs.

Some one at the recent San Antonio convention said that if combs were stacked up in supers, and a few moth balls were placed among the combs, that there would be no danger of the combs being destroyed. A good thing, if it is to be depended upon, but personally I would prefer to test the plan thoroughly on a small scale before risking a great many combs very long, without looking at them. The longer I use carbon bisulphide for the above purpose the more I am pleased with it, and last year, in caring for a large number of combs taken off the hives in August, I proved to my satisfaction that a box or room does not necessarily have to be nearly air-tight for the drug to do its work effectively. In hives in which bees have died early in the winter the eggs of the moth are destroyed by the frost, but in hives where the bees have spring-dwindled, experience has taught us that the combs will soon be riddled unless looked after. In such cases, close the en-