

and it will be cheap. Unprincipled dealers know how to make use of this knowledge.

The Journal is improving, and gives a good deal of pleasure to peruse it.

WM. BEUGLAS, Plattsville

Complying with our Editor's request in January C.B.J., page 21, for a description of our plan of spring feeding, I might say that I do not do a great amount of feeding at this time of year, and never before bees can fly freely, unless it is a rare case. We are favored in this locality with a variety of early bloom in the way of soft maple, aspen, a considerable variety of black willow, elms, etc., which keep the bees busy on fine days. However, before this bloom is on hand, and weather is fine for bees to fly, I fill six or a dozen atmospheric feeders, holding ten pounds each, and place these in sheltered nooks around the bee-yard.

Now, Mr. Editor, let me whisper, or our friend J. E. Hand may sit up and take notice. You know he says that spring feeding is a two-edged sword, cutting both ways, and a dangerous weapon in the hands of amateurs. Well, perchance he is right. So is Mr. House of New York State, when he strongly advocates spring feeding, or, more properly speaking, stimulative feeding. But then, Mr. Editor, location makes a difference, and consequently a disagreement among successful bee-keepers along this line of spring feeding. In our mind it is not the feeding, but the result of location, that makes the difference. I understand that J. E. Hand's situation has a northwest exposure, and that of Mr. House is in a sheltered valley; therefore different results would be obtained, according to difference of situation or exposure to cold winds. My

yard has the shelter of natural forest on the west and north, and especially on the north, with evergreen hemlock. Consequently I am not afraid to do feeding in this way. I think it keeps the bees at home in the shelter in place of having them roaming over the country and getting lost.

Some may ask why we give so much feed at once. Perchance a few colonies may have consumed an abnormal quantity of winter stores, and these particular colonies will work with a vim that others will not display when sufficient stores are on hand to keep them going. To meet the emergency of those that may be short of pollen, I take a peck of chopped grain and mix a quart or two of wheat flour with it, then put the whole in a heap into a wide, shallow box, and set in a sunny place in the bee-yard. I find that some colonies will carry this meal into their hives in preference to touching the liquid feed.

I do not open hives in spring to see if they contain enough stores to keep the bees going, as some recommend. The majority of my hives are never opened until I want to give the queen another brood section to lay in, or a honey super on top, as the case may require; or if we may have the misfortune to have a few weak colonies, then we double, a la Alexander. I like to choose a suitable day and evening, when the bees are all good-natured. Then I proceed as follows: Remove the cover from the strong colony, then put on a queen-excluder; over this lay a sheet of paper, leaving a few perforations uncovered where the entrance would be. This may be done by tearing a piece out of the edge of the paper. Then set the weak colony on top of paper, close to the entrance to top hive; cover up warm.

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