

not much surplus honey--consequently the demand is greater than the supply without any ornamenting or advertising. My bees did fairly well during fruit bloom, and from the middle of June to the 7th of July they did quite well on white clover. On the 8th of July heavy rains began to fall and the honey flow ceased, since that date they have not stored much surplus. Basswood bloomed abundantly for about ten days or two weeks from about the middle of July, but much of this time was wet and lowery, so they got nearly nothing from basswood. During the forepart of August bees were actually uncapping and consuming their sealed stores in the hive, but for the last few days they appear to be doing better, they are working now quite lively upon buckwheat, and some on golden-rod, but in some places the grass-hoppers have stripped the leaves and blossoms quite clean from the golden-rod and left nothing but the bare stalk, yet there are other places where it has escaped their ravages thus far and I have some hopes yet that the bees will be able to gather honey enough to make up their winter stores with what they now have in the hives. About the 10th of this month I removed the surplus arrangements from all except two or three colonies, and spread the combs to prepare for Winter, as you describe on page 307 of *CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL*. I got this idea from Allen Pringle's article on page 582 of *American Bee Journal*, 1884, and had mine prepared thus early and the bees are now extending the combs. Herewith I send a question for the department of Queries & Replies, if you should consider it of sufficient interest to give it a place therein I shall esteem it a favor, inasmuch as I contemplate constructing a bee house upon that principle if the plan is approved by those who have had more experience than myself.

JOSHUA BULL.

Seymour, Wis., August 22, 1885.

The query referred to by Mr. Bull has been sent out and will appear as soon as the answers are received.

From "Gleanings."

MY REFERENCE BOOK.

THE WAY IN WHICH FRIEND DOOLITTLE CLASSIFIES AND UTILIZES WHAT HE HAS READ AND CONSIDERED.

WHILE reading the bee-papers, it is generally to be noted that nearly all writers tell us about things which are past; this, put with the time it takes the article to get to the publisher, and the same to be placed in our hands through the mails, together with the

printing, makes nearly every valuable article which we read a month or more behind the time most appropriate for its use. I am not finding fault with the correspondents of the bee-papers regarding this state of affairs, for it is quite natural that it should be so. There is no time a person feels more like telling what he has done, and how he did it, than just after doing it successfully. There is a certain inspiration on a person at such times which allows of their story being told better than it could possibly be at any other time after several months have passed away, as must always be the case where the story is kept so that it can appear before the public in its appropriate season. Thus it happens that all of the best articles on wintering have appeared in the spring; the best articles on securing a large yield of honey after the honey season was over, and the same is true of nearly every subject pertaining to bee-culture. Now, our bee papers are of value to us only in proportion as we remember and put in practice the valuable points they contain; and as my memory is not sufficient to keep track of all that is of value, appearing out of season, I must have some means of reminding me of the valuable points just when they are of use. Again, much of the matter in the bee-papers is of little value to the experienced bee-keeper, except to add a little to the "spice of life" by adding variety to our reading-matter.

There is only now and then an item or an article we wish to look at the second time, so what we want is some plan by which we can get at that which is really valuable when wanted at another time. To do this I struck on this plan: Whenever I sit down to read a fresh paper, I have a pencil with me; and when I find a new idea, or an old one I wish to further experiment with, I mark it. In some instances the remarks will embrace a whole article, while others call attention to only a few lines. In future years, or at any time I wish to find that which is really valuable in my store of bee-literature, all I have to do is to read the marked passages, and thus get the cream of a whole year's numbers of *Gleanings* or other papers in a little time. Now, the above would be all that would be necessary, were it not for the matter of most articles being out of season, as spoken of at the beginning of this article, but for this reason I want some arrangement which will cite me to all the valuable points so that I can practice each in its appropriate season. After further studying on the matter I decided on what I call a "Reference Book," which is simply a small blank book bound in leather. Any memorandum or account-book will answer the purpose, providing it has at least 24 leaves