

go out to the fields, and when the hive is not well made or has too large an entrance, allowing the cold from outside to get in its deadly work, that what were fair-sized colonies early in the spring, will die out so fast that they will be practically all gone before any brood to speak of hatches, and the hive is left with a few dozen bees and a lot of dead brood. This dying out of colonies in the spring is what is known to the bee-keeping fraternity as "spring dwindling," and is about as discouraging as anything in the business—except a stung eye. It is nearly always the small or medium colonies that go this way, however. Big booming colonies, especially if they have plenty of honey in their hive, and have a good hive, and are carefully let alone during April, will generally hold their own pretty well. The large cluster makes it possible for the bees to keep the temperature up to the required point without too much effort, the presence of plenty of honey stimulates them to feed the queen liberally so that she may lay profusely, and the comb space covered is so large that by the time the queen has it laid full the young bees from the first eggs she laid are hatching, thereby making room and heat, so that she can "slam" ahead as hard as she likes, and have the hive overflowing with bees, while the less populous hives are still struggling away with small increase and consequently small headway.

How can we prevent this spring dwindling? It is pretty hard to do when continued bad weather makes the death rate among the field bees unusually high, but a warm, snug, tight hive, with an entrance just large enough to let the bees in and out without crowding, and with plenty of honey inside, so the bees are not forced to go out in bad weather, or starve, will go a good way in the right direction. A single-walled hive should properly

have some protection during April, sometimes part of May. Whether building paper or other heavy material around the hive, cover, bottom board, and leaving just a small hole for entrance, is recommended. The author has never tried it, but intends to do so this spring, and will report later. A single board cover for the hive, even when a heavy quilt, or quilt placed between it and the frame, allows too much heat to escape, and it has been frequently seen when a heavy frost or fall of snow comes on the top of a hive. The frost or snow immediately over the cluster will melt; when the temperature of the air is quite noticeably below the freezing point, while that on other parts of the cover will remain.

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#### TRANSLATIONS FROM GERMAN BEE JOURNALS.

(By Jacob Haberer.)

##### Do Bees Carry Eggs?

This is still an open question. I remember my own certain bee-keeper in Bohemia, they do, and recommends a certain experiment which he claims succeeded out of three times. An early swarm is hived on about five each frame with a half-sheet of paper, which will be drawn out in three days. The queen is taken and the combs examined at the end of the period to see whether she has laid eggs. The colony, now in a certain condition, is left to itself. Three days later, on examination, many queen cells supplied with eggs will be found, but without eggs. I get a frame of brood and eggs in the stages and bring them as near as possible to queen cells as you can. In the more you will find the cells occupied by larvae. Whether the bees carry eggs with their mandibles or with their tongue he does not know, but I try the experiment.—"Luxemburger Bienenzeitung."

#### HELPING BEGINNERS IN BEE CULTURE

Canadian Bee Journal. I have often thought of writing for the "Journal" to slip by without my not pretending to be a professional any new idea to help beginners. I have been taking much interest in B. J." lately, which it has been impossible to see when a heavy frost or fall of snow comes on the top of a hive. The frost or snow immediately over the cluster will melt; when the temperature of the air is quite noticeably below the freezing point, while that on other parts of the cover will remain.

I remember my own at the inspiration of Clarke's articles in the "Journal." I had no construction, so I took a book and subscribed to the "Journal." I understood well, but it was not before I could read understandingly. The convention was well followed. A catalogue of supplies helped me to choose over names.

With regard to subscribers, there is a thought in my mind: how to reach a beginner through the columns of the "Journal" to start by subscribing? If he is not a beginner, how is the advice to be given? He may not live with any one who will help him. My own success