

CHANGING BEES FROM ONE STAND TO ANOTHER

From the way robbers were nosing around one of our hives a few days ago I suspected it was queenless, and an examination proved the suspicion to be correct, there being no brood and only very few bees, but abundant stores for winter. As bees and queens are plentiful at this season we shook three and a quarter pounds of bees into of one Doolittle's nucleus boxes, which was placed in a dark cellar for three hours. A queen was then dropped in among the bees and the box left in the cellar till next morning, when the bees and queen were shaken down in front of the queenless hive and ran in like a swarm. They remained where they were placed, and are now working away like any other colony. I consider the idea of using this box to make nucleus stocks, remove bees from one stand to another, and to introduce queens late in the season, worth more to me than my yearly subscriptions to all the bee papers amount to. The box is six inches wide, six inches high and ten and a half inches long, inside measure. Two sides are of wire cloth, one of which is easily removed, in order to empty out the bees. There is a hole in one side large enough to take the spout of a large funnel into which the bees are swept from the combs, and in one end there is a smaller hole through which a queen may be dropped in amongst the bees.

No well regulated apiary should be without one or more of these nucleus boxes.

FEEDING TO PREVENT STARVATION.

Too much dependence must not be placed upon the quantity of honey swarms may have laid up for fall and winter. A day or two ago my son found two stocks which had commenced to carry out their brood and were at the point of starvation. They were swarms from colonies run for comb honey. The old stocks were storing well in the sections before they swarmed and probably on that account swarming was retarded. The swarms were hived on the old stand, and sections were put on at once. The bees having acquired the habit of carrying their honey above before swarming, they continued to do so while the honey flow lasted, leaving

their brood nest almost unprovided for. Late swarms particularly require to be looked after now. A little neglect will in many cases make all the difference between success and failure in wintering.

S. CORNEIL.

Lindsay, Ont.

From Baltimore 1st.

WAX.

To quote from Prof. Liebig's great work on "Animal Chemistry." "The bees," says this learned writer, "consume twenty pounds of honey to make one pound of wax, and every ounce of comb after constructed would hold one pound of honey."

Many other prominent writers compute the consumption of honey at twenty-five pounds to every pound of comb built.

Wax is not gathered like pollen or propolis. The bees have to manufacture it, at great cost, both to themselves and their owners.

Wax is manufactured in the bodies of the bees, as milk is in the body of the cow; and with bees it is both a secretion and excretion. In collecting honey, bees carry it to their hives in sacks, if it passes into their stomachs or their intestinal canals, it passes into the juices of their bodies and scales of wax ooze out or are excreted from the under side of their bellies.

Dr. Liebig says "it takes thirty-eight hours to convert honey into wax," that is to say that the laminæ or thin scales of wax do not appear on the bellies of the bees till thirty-eight hours after the honey has been taken into their intestines."

This surely cannot be correct. If a swarm of bees is forced from an old hive full of old combs, and placed in an empty hive, comb building will commence in about six hours—in warm weather.

Both the weather and the warmth of the hive have a great deal to do with comb building. The making or secreting of wax is voluntary on the part of the bees, and this is another of the mysteries that has never been fathomed. Bees do not secrete wax to any extent when their hives are filled with comb.

Wax will differ in color if honey of different kinds is consumed in its manufacture.

As honey from one kind of plant differs in taste from that of another kind of