

## OUR OWN APARY.

**H**OW many are ready for winter? Has every body weighed up his bees and found out their condition as to stores. This fall has been very unfavorable—at least with us—for the gathering of much surplus. Hives that were pretty well filled with stores six weeks or two months ago are now, many them, short entirely. We have one hive in our home apiary that has now 17 lbs. less stores than it had the first of August, while a three frame nucleus in the same yard has lost even more in proportion. Quite a number of those hives which were marked "plenty of stores" on the weighing will have to be fed a little now in order to put them in as good shape as we want them for winter. They would perhaps pull through all right, but then we don't wish to run chances. Lots of beekeepers are too sure about their bees having plenty of stores for winter. They weigh them up or heft them early in the season, and decide that they are all right, and then never think of them again in that regard. Suppose you do put in a few pounds more than they are going to consume, what loss is it going to be to you? It always comes good in the spring when the inmates of the hive require stimulation if they ever do, a colony with lots of stores will do double the amount of brooding that a half starved one will accomplish; again, the stores want to be compact (ie) not scattered all over the various combs, a little here and a little there. A serious mistake is made by many in looking into a colony in the spring and seeing a little bit of stores scattered here and there over the frames, they think that is all that is necessary. The bees seem to act in accordance with the circumstances which surround them in this regard, and they will not carry on brooding with as much energy when the environments are such as we have described. Check brooding in the middle of brooding season or just before the honey flow, and you have reduced the profits by which that colony will yield you by just the extent to which brood ear-ning is restrained.

AN EXPERIMENT WHICH MAY PROVE OF GREAT VALUE TO THE FRATERNITY.

TAKING COMBS AWAY DECREASING THE CONSUMPTION.

We have been experimenting a little. We took all the combs from a colony on morning with the bees quietly clustered on them (using no smoke), and shook them off so quickly that they did not have time to fill themselves up with honey, we shook them off into there own hive and left them there without combs. We thought we would see how long they would live, as we wanted to dispose of them, the queen being objectionable. It is now three weeks since these bees were deprived of their stores, we allowed them the freedom of the entrance, and they flew in and out at their pleasure. They seem nice and healthy and our examination shows them clustered in one corner of the hive. They give one the idea of a swarm just clustered, but where their stores came from is a mystery. Now is it possible that we can prevent the large consumption of stores that goes on every fall between the stoppage or the honey flow, and the putting into winter quarters by taking away all the combs for a month or six weeks, leaving the bees to cluster in the hive, as those are which we have described. In all the other hives in the apiary a steady consumption of stores has been going on all the while, and at the present time the colony that has been for weeks without a frame is just as lively and healthy as the great majority. They must get stores from some place or other, else signs of starvation would surely set in ere now, but there are scarcely any dead bees in the bottom of the hive. It is quite probable when clustered in this manner, with their occupation gone, that they relapse into a sort of dormant state, thus consuming very little more (perhaps not as much) than they do in winter. In this instance they were without a queen. Would it make any difference if they had one? Would they be apt to swarm out and go into other hives, or off to the woods? Is it not worth experimenting further with. Perhaps we may here find the happy medium between G. B. Jones' complete annihilation plan and our present expensive