

the light of apiculture, for many books were advertised, some of which I obtained including Quiply. There I studied, gave up the former paper when the *Bee-Keepers Magazine* was started and took that.

When I was eighteen, or three years after leaving the tree, I bought two stocks in the spring and commenced in earnest with a fair knowledge of their habits. I had not time to attend to many having to do my share of the work on the farm, but I must say over an hour was taken some noons, but in return I supplied the family with honey so no objection was made. This lasted four years when I sold all out and left home to start for myself. I wrote down in full my experience every year and have it now. It is a real pleasure to read these yearly experiences. The expenses for bees and hives or rather lumber as I made the hives, all moveable frame ones myself, amounted to nearly \$25.00, and sales \$750.00; so you see there was quite a profit for a beginner. What I did other farmers' sons can do who feel inclined and are suited to it.

Six years passed away before I commenced again; that was last year with three. I increased to twelve and took about 150 pounds honey. Last four last winter and spring; have increased this year to thirty-two and took about 200 pounds honey. They built nearly all the comb for the new hives. Fed a few in September and close up with them all in good condition for winter.

THOS. STOKES.

Minesing, Simcoe Co.  
October 30th 1885.

There are hundreds of farmer's sons who could do just as much as friend S. has, and perhaps more, now that bee-keeping has advanced to the extent it has; where a farmer has two or three sons, let one of them go into bees, and he will soon see where the pleasure and profits come in, and then what nicer way to give your son a start in the world than this.

For THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.  
ANOTHER LETTER FROM MRS CHADDOCK.

#### BEES CONSUMING THEIR STORES.

ES that is just what they are doing, using up their winter stores now. Three weeks ago Mollyony and I, moved our apiary, and as we carried them between us we weighed them—i. e., if they were so heavy that they nearly broke our backs and we had to set them down two or three times to rest, we pronounced them heavy for winter; but, if we could pick them up

and go tripping along with them, we know they would have to be fed; we found three such and I fed them about twenty-five pounds each of honey each and yesterday, as I was putting bricks under them, I found them lighter than when we carried them there three weeks ago.

#### SEALED HONEY IS NOT AIR-TIGHT.

In answer to query 35, I want to say that sealed or capped honey is not air-tight. If it was it would not drip sweet stuff when kept in a damp place. Canned fruits never sweat black-berry, nor raspberry juice; no matter how damp they are kept.

I have just been examining the capping of honey and brood under a magnifier. That of the honey looks like frost work, and I can see where the little flakes are joined and flattened down when I look at the upper or outer side but when I turn it over I find the under surface very rough and jagged looking; very beautiful withal—I suppose those little yellow spots are propolis, if not what are they? I thought at first it was caused by the bees walking over the honey, but when I turn it over I see some of it is built in, but perhaps that was done by accident.

#### YELLOW SPOTS IN THE CAPPINGS OF COMB HONEY.

I have examined a great many cappings and I find that all of them have those yellow spots in them, perhaps we always have to eat a little propolis when we eat comb honey. If we do, I for one would prefer the extracted article. Then I examined the cappings of the brood. The outside looks like peach-leather, brown and rich as if it would be good to eat, and there is quite a coating of it, but when I turn it over, ah, then is the beauty of it, a fine silk-papery-cocoon, looking strong enough to hold a much larger body than a young bee. The sides of the cell seem to be entirely of this silk paper, if there is any wax I cannot see it. This was taken from an old comb, I suppose a comb that had only been used a few times would show the wax. After I was through looking at the cappings I put under the young bee that I brought in with the comb. And I must say I was delighted. The scales on its underside looked as large as the scales on a buffalo-fish, and of about the same color, and that great "shelalah" of a tongue,—no wonder they can suck up honey, and the gauzy wings, and the head, shoulders, and back all covered with silky down. Who would not have a magnifier?

MAHALA B. CHADDOCK.

Vermont, Fulton County, Ill.,

October, 19th, 1885.

The little brown spots that you speak of must be either bits of old comb which