

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

THE PRODUCTION OF COMB HONEY.

I HAVE just read Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson's little work on the above subject and I am willing to venture the assertion that in the whole range of apicultural literature there is nothing containing more useful information in the same space. I can fully, and without qualification, endorse the whole of Mr. Hutchinson's positions in this *brochure* with the exception of one or two points of minor importance.

At another time I hope to fully review the little book and discuss its great merits and very trifling demerits—i.e. in my opinion.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby Ont.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SPRING REPORT.

SOMETHING GOOD FROM FRIEND CHALMERS.

RESPONDING to your call for reports am pleased to state that my bees on the whole came out well, but wintering isn't springing, yet I am under the impression that this will be an easy spring on bees, followed with a good summer. I put eighty-nine colonies into winter quarters in fall, twenty-six in clamp and sixty-three in bee house. The latter were put in in November before snow fell and the former stood out till after the cold dip in early winter, 26 below zero, the clamps not being finished till December 6th when the bees were packed in clamps and in which 25 came through alive and in good condition; they had flights on March 2nd and 12th, April 3rd, 7th and so on. On the 8th and 9th inst., I set out those housed; both days with the following day were model bee days, mine had a grand jubilee and air parade, they of the bee house all came out alive, one, however, proved queenless and had to be united with another. Can give no reason for either this or the one in clamp dying, both being queens of last year and from natural swarming. Since being set out, the air has at times been a little cold but they are gaining every day, which, as a rule, is contrary to bees in springing, have never closed them in, yet they seem more settled than bees usually are after being set out in spring but we haven't had chilly winds as in spring of late.

SPRING MANAGEMENT.

Would like to have written an article for C.B.J. on spring management but time is hardly my own and after what Messrs Pringle and McArthur have written there isn't much room for further advice save regarding the wind. Bees should never be set out during an east wind, as it is treacherous, may be warmish at times but is sure to turn chilly, like Robbie Burns,

"Oh, a' the airts the wind can blaw,
I dearly lo'e the west."

Get a west or south wind warm enough for bees to fly and it will mostly retain its balmy feeling for the day. Mr. Pringle's advice as to packing up bees then leaving them alone is a good one and Mr. McArthur's system of packing is simple and beneficial, have both now and in the past packed some that way myself, the idea being given me by Mr. D. A. Jones. (Credit where credit is due.)

PERFORATED ZINC.

I am somewhat surprised at Mr. McA. not believing in perforated zinc, there is just a right and wrong way in using anything and perforated zinc is no exception to the rule. When placed in a hive as a queen excluder it should be set so that the loaded bees would pass through from the side from which it is punched as the opposite side has sharp edges which might to some extent injure full bees, they couldn't at least slip through so easily as the way I propose, have used zinc since '82 and have always observed this rule.

D. CHALMERS.

Poole, April 22, '87

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

PERCENTAGE OF FINISHED SECTIONS

QUERY No. 142.—What per cent. of the number of sections used in your apiaries, during an average season, do the bees naturally complete? (2) Is forcing completion of boxes profitable? (3) What method by experience is best to accomplish this?—N. A. BLAKE, Smith's Mills, Que.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—Cannot answer definitely.

O. O. POPPLETON, HAWK'S PARK, FLORIDA.—I have raised so little comb honey that I cannot answer this question.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—(1) About ninety per cent. (2) It depends on the method you pursue. (3) Contract below and don't be in too great a hurry to remove the sections.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—(1) At a rough estimate say four-fifths. (2) I have