

Wintering Bees in the Northern States—R. L. Taylor, Lapeer, Mich.

Bee Hives and Fixtures—James Heddon, Dowagiac, Mich.

Bee-keeping alone, or with Other Pursuits : if the latter, in connection with what ?—Eugene Secor, Forest City, Iowa.

Legs of the Bee—Prof. A. J. Cook, Agricultural College, Mich.

What is the best name for Extracted Honey ? —Thomas G. Newman, Chicago, Ill.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Sec.

OUR OWN APIARY.

SHORT VS. LONG PROJECTIONS ON FRAMES.

WHERE is an opinion prevailing amongst some of our bee friends, that the projecting ends of the top bar should be very long in order to handle frames properly. Those who have been accustomed to such may fancy they have some advantages over the short ones, but we have tested both pretty thoroughly and we see no advantage in the frames whatever. There should not be less than one-quarter of an inch between the side bar and side of hive. Some have three-eighths of an inch ; perhaps five-sixteenths of an inch would be better than either, and then it would not require more than a projection of three-eighths of an inch over the metal support to give all the bearing that is necessary. We have all our frame hung on metal supports which project one-quarter of an inch above and go down three-eighths of an inch into the wood, cutting the groove to receive the metal in top edge of hive on a slight slant, so the saw cut is about one-quarter of an inch in from inside of hive at bottom and a good one-eighth of an inch at the top. The metal should not come out quite to the inside edge of hive, if it does it has a tendency to scrape the division board when being raised and lowered. This allows the frame to hang on the metal about five-sixteenths of an inch from the side bar. If the end of the top bar goes tight against the wood the bees will propolise them together very quickly, and more or less will run down the end of the frame between it and the inside of the metal support. This sometimes makes the frames almost stationary. If a space be left between ends of top bar

and sides of hives the frames are much easier to handle. When we used the long ends on the top bars we used to try and smoke the bees from under them so we could get hold of them without touching the bees. We find that we can handle them much better by taking hold of the frame just where the side bar is pinned on the top bar. There are, it is true, usually as many bees at this point as at any other, especially in the height of the season when the colony is strong and it requires a little practice to manipulate them properly. We hear somebody say : "How are you going to get hold of the frames without being stung ?" By closing the thumb and forefinger to within about seven-eighths of an inch of meeting, they can be slipped down over the top bar and along the side bar far enough to get a good hold, and a little practice will enable you to get hold of the frame without touching a bee. We have often gone over the frames to show students how to do it, and we have at times chased the bees up to the top bars by smoking them from below so that they were one or two deep all over and the frames could be hardly seen, the better to illustrate the method. To us it seems a useless expenditure having these long projecting ends. They necessitate more material and more room to revolve when in the extractor. If those who use Root's metal end frame would practice this way of holding and handling them, they would, we think, like it.

Suppose you open a hive and allow the bees to cluster thickly on top of the frames, and pass your fingers up and down the ends of the side bars, till you get a little accustomed to it, you will soon be able to handle the frames at the rate of say, one every second.

PROJECTIONS ON BOTTOM BARS.

We like a slight projection at the bottom of the frame of about one-quarter of an inch. The bottom bar passes through a saw cut in the side bar to form the projection. The ends of the bottom bar are cut to a point, so that the bees cannot propolise the frames to the side of the hive. We have never known one to be stuck fast.