

are wintered is very small, so that the cluster is deep and well protected around the sides, so that no air can get in, or heat escape from the bottom, as all the heat that escapes ascends into the stores, we think such an arrangement might be perfected, and colonies could be wintered cheaper than they now are, combs would not be injured by mould, and any honey that was in them would do for brooding purposes in the spring. There are a great many who could put two colonies together, and where they are weak any very small colonies could be put in a box, say six inches square, but deep enough to allow of plenty of room under the cluster. We merely throw out these suggestions, and a little experimenting in this direction will perhaps get us out of some of our present difficulties. See how long it took us to learn how to introduce queens. Thousands of breeders and bee-keepers trying year after year, why didn't we think that all that was necessary was just to drop the queen in the evening after the hive had been made queenless during the afternoon, with the full assurance that everything was right, fertile or unfertile? The simpler, easier, and cheaper the way things are done the better.

Moving bees to new apiaries has paid better than usual this year, as the late warm weather had a very favorable effect on the flowers, and many secreted considerable honey. The great point is where it was intended for winter stores, the weather was sufficiently warm to allow the bees to ripen their fall stores, which is not very often the case, and this no doubt, is the reason why so many imagine that fall honey is not as good as summer honey for wintering. The difference is not so much in the honey as it is in the ripening. Now, friends, do not think that you can feed your colonies that lack winter stores, on ten pounds of water and five pounds of sugar, and say they are heavy enough to go through winter. Better have only seven pounds in your hive and have it well ripened. It will go further with a colony of bees than fifteen pounds of poor thin stores will, and why? The rich, thick honey allows the bees to cluster closely and compactly, retaining the heat as far as possible, and as a

very little of this superior food does them it is not necessary for them to gorge themselves, and they do not gorge themselves like they do with poor watery stores. Then their bodies never become distended, when fed on this superior quality of food, and in the spring when taken out of winter quarters, bees wintered in this way are generally quiet and dormant, apparently dead. We have frequently had to rap and jar the hive to make the bees sensible to the fact that they were in daylight once more, but these were the ones that built up quickly. No fear of spring dwindling from such colonies unless, the weather is exceedingly unfavorable. Be sure your bees do not go into winter quarters with poor, thin, watery stores.

"Sweet clover," says a writer in the *Omaha Bee*, "is supplanting the wild sunflower in the neighborhood of that city, and he becomes poetically eloquent in speaking of the beauty and fragrance of the new comer." Why is it that our friends here do not raise more of this sweet clover? We have urged time and again, and it certainly seems strange that they will neglect their interests. In order to encourage our friends we will give them the balance of our imported seed at cost or less. Mr. John McArthur, of Toronto, is gathering large crops of honey from it every year. He has divided his apiary into three, and I think he said there were from ten to twenty-five acres of sweet clover blooming within range of his bees, right in the City of Toronto, and a gentleman who visited him a short time ago was surprised to see Mr. McArthur's bees storing honey from this source, when all other sources had failed. Other people's bees were idle while he was getting about 100 lbs. per colony surplus.

J. A. Green, in *A.B.J.*, makes some very true and sensible remarks in reference to the different races. It is high time that bee-keeping friends should know that any one who attempts to raise pure bees in an apiary, within one, two, or even four miles of other bees, is not sure of purity. Queens do mate with drones from apiaries miles away, and any one who is ignorant of this fact, and attempts to produce pure bees