



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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WHOLE No. 116

EDITORIAL.

WALKING about light lumber for bee hives brought out friend Heddon. In going over the last number of the *British Bee Journal* we find an article from a bee-keeper who has wintered successfully in hives three-eighths of an inch thick. We quote the article as it appears. The editor in a foot note advises that no one else try his experiment as a precedent. However, the time, we believe, is coming when there will be much lighter hive material used than now:

"I, and my bees, have just passed an exceptionally cold winter; the only difference in our situations being this trifling (?) circumstance, I found means whereby to keep up two fires,—aye, and pass a great portion of my time in near proximity thereto, while my bees—bless the little gems!—were on the bleakest of the bleak elevations of the village, destitute of flannel, cork-dust, carpet, quilt, or packing of any kind. One of the stocks—equal in point of strength to any I have—having spent the time in a cheap *half-inch* stuff hive, with double walls, but nothing more to cover them as roof but the half-inch stuff mentioned. I need not name the *contretemps* that caused this want of what is deemed necessary care and protection from inclement weather, it was unavoidable under the circumstances, and when I

had my supposed tenantless hives—eleven in number—brought near to my *domus*, my surprise was great indeed, and my delight was excessive, as the ever-welcome hum sounded in my ears. Not a bee apparently any the worse for being thus 'left out in the cold,' down, down, I know not how far below zero. Old, aged, as I am, I am not too old to learn; tell me then, O ye learned in the anatomy, the physiology, the *temperature* of a bee, what lesson am I to draw from the facts now related. Am I to disregard in future all the admonitions, the counsel, the cautions which our experts and bee-masters so earnestly publish; or am I to look upon the incident as constituting a marvellous escape from a violent death—a being frozen to death?"

P.S.—I find the stuff is not half-inch, it is only *three-eighths*.

The value of honey imported into the United Kingdom during the month of April, 1887, amounted to £1,711.

OUR OWN APIARY.

WHIS bids fair to be the bee-keepers Jubilee year, as thus far we have had a continuous flow of honey and now the flow is more than is necessary for brooding purposes, and surplus is being stored; and by the immense number of kinds of honey tins that we are shipping out, others must be getting, and expecting large yields.