LINWOOD.

—From A. BOOMER.

The closing of the season here has been a veritable surprise. On the first of June after deducting winter losses and doubling up the weak colonies, my count was 97, many of which were still very weak, to strengthen which I used up the brood of several colonies that had cast a swarm. The clover in June was plentiful, but weather, especially at nights, decidedly too cool for the secretion of nectar, and when the Linden season opened, two-thirds of my colonies had not made any surplus, but now built up very well, from only a few could any be extracted. Linden opened on the 7th of July, the 8th was rainy, and the 9th too cold, on the tenth however, the weather warmed up and assumed more settled shape, and the busy workers went at it with a rush, the flow from this source continued until the 24th or 25th. And now that extracting is about over I find that the result is about 11,000 lbs of extracted and about 500 lbs of comb, or about 120 lbs per colony and an increase of over 40 colonies, all of which seem to be in fairly good shape for winter, some, of course, later on may require feeding or the addition of a full comb or two, which I have reserved for that purpose. The closing up of the season's work is therefore a great surprise, not only to myself, but to others engaged in the business, as from enquiries made and information received, I find that it about doubles the returns of other bee-keepers in this section of the country where the pasturage was the same, in fact some tell me that their returns will not reach 35 lbs per colony. I think it is not too much to say that I attribute my success largely to management, it certainly cannot be in the pasturage for it was equally good for many miles around. And I wish to say that for the spring management, I am indebted to the very excellent paper submitted to our last Ontario Bee-Keepers' Convention by Mr. H. G. Sibbald of Cooksville, and for the Summer Management to an article in one of the May numbers of the A. B. J, by one of the "Dadants." Swarming, under the Dadants instructions, was kept well in check, and never more than one at a time, which latter fact was of course a purely natural one. I do not practice clipping the queen's wings and lost no swarms, but was enriched by one or more truant swarms, dropping in to join the already great army of busy workers. My bees from some cause or other were very cross during June and the first half of July, but since the honey flow ceased they have become much quieter, and extracting has been a pleasure instead of a terror as before.

Vershoyle, Aug. 14, '99.

Messrs. Goold, Shapley & Muir, Co.,
Brantford, Ont.

GENTLEMEN,—I have read with interest the account of your apiary experiment in the O. A. C. report for 1898, especially that relating to out-door wintering. Will you kindly tell me what success you had last winter in wintering four colonies packed together on one stand? Did the severe spell in February affect them greatly? You say "The outer cases were removed just before the supers had to be placed on the hive." So you must at least remove the top packing long before the time named. Is there not some difficulty in manipulating frames, etc., with the tops a foot below the top of the packing box? What about the closeness of the hives to each other while they are in the box? And do you use the platform or bottom on which they rest as a summer stand? Do you make it any larger than the box? Yours respectfully,

M. H. PHILLIPS.

Brantford, Aug. 17, '99.

M. H. Philips, Esq., Verschoyle, Ont.

DEAR SIR,—Replying to your letter of the 14th, would say that weak colonies suffer considerably during extremely cold weather; in fact if you have a first class cellar for wintering, we would advise you to stick to it. We do not remove top packing until the bees require more room, when they are taken out of the cases. We find that with ample packing and plenty of stores, the more the bees are left alone the better. We do not use the bottom of the box for a hive stand, but set away box, packing and all, until next summer. We have found no injurious results from having an inch of packing only between the hives. Yours truly,

Goold, Shapley & Muir Co.