

feeling. What they do with their many eyes is not definitely known. Of course they see, but they smell apparently quicker than they see. Some odors will drive bees wild, while others have no effect upon them. It is possible that the odor of a human body in a state of health is not disagreeable to bees.

There are many women bee-keepers in the United States, and they find bee-keeping pleasant and profitable employment. There are no "millions" in bee-keeping, but there is a good reward for labour. Some women in the west control large apiaries and give their whole time and attention to the industry. School teachers and others have abandoned their schools, and other indoor employment, for bee-keeping and health. Bee-keeping will restore health, at least, and if good health is not a prize, what is?

But women and men, too, are warned to walk before they run, in bee-keeping. Begin with not more than three colonies; give a year's apprenticeship; study for a year the habits of the bees, and make yourself master of them, confidence comes with the acquisition of knowledge. The dress worn by some bee women is a kind of half bloomer costume. Perhaps the most convenient is a skirt of light material, gathered at the ankles. It is little more than a wide bag with two holes in the bottom for the feet to pass through. It is quickly put on and taken off, and serves as an all around apron. Wear gloves and a veil; the gloves will be discarded after the knack of handling the bees comes, but at first they give confidence.

Winter.

HOW THE BEES IN WINTER QUARTERS ARE DOING.

It is a little past 1 p. m. and I made a call on my bees to say "How dy' do." and they answered only by a happy murmur. O how I wish all my bee-loving friends could see my little pets in their cozy winter quarters. To-day, Dec. 8, 1889, the thermometer stood at 48° in the bee-cellar, and at 72° in the shade out-of-doors. The bees were carried in Dec. 5, which was a warm, pleasant day, and the bees were upon the wing. Those to be removed were confined to their hives in the early morning, by closing their fly-entrance. It is so much nicer handling hives when they are clean and dry, than when covered with snow and sleet. And if the hives are frozen down they have to be loosened with a jar which is very irritating to the inmates, and a person can handle them more quietly during mild weather than when pinched with cold.

There has been considerable said about lugging hives in and out of cellars, as though it was

something terrible. Our cellar has no outside door, and the bees were handed in through a window. Two men put down 56 colonies in about two hours, and the assistant charged 75 cents for his labor. It would take several days to make them as comfortable upon their summer stands, and quite a job to unpack them another season and clean up the litter. The hives are two-story Langstroth, and only the lower one, containing the brood-nest, is put down.

I have room for only about half of the colonies of the apiary, and the remainder are to remain upon the summer stands. At the present writing it seems like folly to store any of them, as this month thus far has been so very mild; but old Boreas may teach us, before long, that he has not entirely deserted this mundance sphere, and at all events preparations should be made for his coming.

Some years ago I made chaff-cushions to protect the bees during winter, and by carefully housing them during the summer, they are still fit for use. Every fall new muslin sheets are spread over the frames, above the devices, and then the chaff-cushions are put in. The bees propolize up the muslin during the year, so that the moisture will not pass through it, and they will keep dryer if new is used for winter. And if they have eaten holes in the muslin, they will creep up under the cushion and large numbers perish, as they cannot find their way back. I raise the cover slightly, so that there is at all times a free circulation of air above the cushion.

Occasionally during a very cold spell a cover has been shut down, and I invariably would find the cushion frozen and the cap full of frost, while those that were raised would be dry. I prefer to have the entrance fully open, and the back of the hive as high again as the front, so if frost gathers and melts in the hive, it will run out, and the bees can more readily carry out their dead debris. MRS. L. HARRISON, in the Prairie Farmer.

Peoria, Ills.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

WM. ROBERTSON.—Fall of 1888 put 64 colonies in cellar. By the 15th of May they were reduced to 30. During the summer of 89 increased to 63, which went into winter quarters in cellar in a much better condition than they did in 1888. I do not feed much, do not think that I have fed over a 100 lbs during the time that I have handled bees which is over 30 years. The yield of honey for 1889 was about 1000 lbs comb and 250 extracted. Selling price for comb 16 c., extracted 15c. retail.

Decew Falls, Ont., Dec. 27.