

# The Practical Bee-Keeper.

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## How Are The Bees Wintering!

JOHN MYERS.

On looking over a portion of my colonies a few days since to see how the bees are wintering I must say, I think I never saw the bees in better condition at this time of the year. My bees are all packed on their summer stands, and while going around to clear the entrances of dead bees, I was pleasantly surprised to find that there were scarcely any dead bees to be cleared away, and no signs of dysentery to be found. On examination of the interior of a few colonies I found the inmates snugly and closely packed between the combs, and looking about as nearly dead as it was possible for them to be—in fact I had to blow my breath on some of them before I could get them to move. Now while I like to see the bees in the condition as stated above, still this does not make it certain they will all be alive when the honey harvest comes. The great pull for life will be during the next two months, and all those who are not perfectly sure that their bees have enough stores to last them until honey can be gathered, had better keep a sharp lookout and see their bees don't starve.

How much more satisfaction a person has when he knows for a certainty in the fall that his bees have sufficient

stores to last until the honey comes again, than a person who is not sure, but thinks they will have enough. I would say to anyone that is afraid that any of his colonies are going to be short of stores that there is a remedy for them yet—one that I have tried numbers of times with the best of success. In fact I left three colonies short of stores last fall on purpose to test the plan again. The plan is to feed with cakes of candy made of granulated sugar. I just simply scrape the packing to one side, raise the quilt and slip the cakes of sugar in on top of the frames. Now after you have got the cakes on, your quilts will be too small to cover the tops of the hives and make them tight, such being the case I generally have some pieces of old carpet or canvas to lay over the top of the hives, you will need these pieces of canvas large enough so they will lap over the sides of the hive a little to keep the packing from getting into the hive as you will need to replace the packing again after the candy is given to them.

To make the candy, take the granulated sugar and put it in a pan of suitable size with a little water to keep it from burning until the sugar begins to melt, when the sugar has all melted and it commences to boil you will need to keep stirring it until it is cooked enough. This is exactly the reverse of the way in which the confectioners make candy as they don't want it stirred at all after