

ent things connected with successful bee-keeping, but when they are all summed up the whole combined is not of as much importance as perfect wintering. We could make more money the following season from strong colonies when taken from their winter quarters if they were in nail-kegs than could be made from little weak sickly col-

onies in the best hive that was ever constructed.

I will close by saying, before I run off on the subject of wintering, that close attention to all things connected with your bees is the magic word that unlocks the door to success in bee-keeping.—"Gleanings in Bee Culture."

Feeding Back Extracted Honey

How This Plan Can be Made Profitable in the Production of Comb Honey;
the Importance of Thinning the Honey and Feeding
During a Natural Honey-flow.

(By E. W. Alexander.)

Feeding back extracted honey for the purpose of completing unfinished sections is not generally considered profitable, but possibly like in many other things in bee-keeping, success or failure depends largely upon when and how the work is conducted. Mr. Alexander of New York is an advocate of the system, having carried it out advantageously for a good many years. He emphasizes the above points in the following article in "Gleanings in Bee Culture":

Friend Reddout calls my attention to this subject in a recent number of "Gleanings." He can hardly see why there should be such a difference of opinion on this subject as there seems to be. I also can not see how there could be any variation in the results, only such as would naturally follow from the difference in the time of the season in which the feeding was practiced, the quality of food, and in the way in which it was given.

My first experience along this line was something over 30 years ago. The honey fed was thick extracted, and fed in its natural state after the August

harvest was past. This I fed for the purpose of finishing up partly filled sections. I soon found this was a very unnatural time of the year for bees to build comb, as nearly every night was quite cold, with frequent frosts. I also found that it took on an average a little more than three pounds of extracted honey fed in this way to produce one pound of comb honey, and it frequently granulated in the sections in a short time so as to spoil their take.

I next tried thinning the honey with boiling water to about the consistency of nectar. This made a great difference in results. The bees took it from their feeders more readily, and it did not require nearly as much honey to fill their sections, and I was not troubled any more with its granulating in the combs; but I was not satisfied to stop here when I could see that it required nearly two pounds of extracted honey to produce one of comb, and I realized that I was fighting natural law in trying to force my bees to produce comb honey decidedly out of season.

My next step was to make extracted honey very thin with hot water, and