

hives to urge on early spring breeding and for summer coolness. George Hilton, who obtained roolbs of comb honey by the first of July, attributes his success to his double walled hives which induced early breeding. I have never tried frames crosswise, but it seems that less brood would be chilled and consequent gain result to the hive. As the roads of this new country are not adapted to the conveyance of comb honey will work next season for extracted believing it will pay as well. Nothing succeeds like success and few amongst us can boast of a greater share of the latter than the successful editor of the C. B. J.

G. J. MOLONEY.

Ocquac, Mich.

You will have no trouble wintering your bees if they are strong, if you have plenty of young bees to go into winter quarters, if combs are filled with good ripe honey or sugar syrup well sealed, with winter passages over the frames, and everything completed early enough to allow the bees to cluster closely and become quiet before Winter sets in.

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#### THE PAST WINTERS EXPERIENCE.

THE past winter and spring will prove to many that it is not such an easy thing to keep bees, and that there is not such "heaps of money" in the business; but then to the careless, great losses are periodically sustained, and the more bees, the greater the loss.

Experience is a dear school to learn in, but when we pay as dear for our knowledge as we have this year, we will not be apt to readily forget. There seems to be years, or a series of years, when anybody can keep bees, and they do well under almost any circumstances or conditions, without any particular care or attention, in fact the trouble seems to be they do too well in the way of increase, and we try to keep back swarming as much as possible, and not at the same time violate too much the laws of nature as exemplified in bees; then comes one year at least of adversity, of dire disaster, that leaves the country full of "blasted hopes," empty beehives and cords of soiled and empty combs. Then we ask what killed the bees, when the cause, perhaps, is not far to seek. Nature is always true to herself, and bees and bee feed, whether honey, sugar, glucose, pollen or no pollen, will always act the same under the same conditions. Here, now, comes in the science of

bee-culture, and happy is the man that understands and attends to the little things about the apiary at the right time. There are a great many theories spoken of as to what killed the bees, and I don't know but what I would be as near right as any, if I would say there were too many in a locality, or rather there would be if we were to increase a few years like we have the past three or four. In 1882 I had seven colonies, last Fall I put away ninety. Since I commenced there have been at least sixteen men, who got a few "for their own use," the same as I did. Now had they all done the same as I did, and all wintered safely, there would now be 1440 colonies in my neighborhood; a moderate increase would be one half more, making 2,160 colonies, within a radius of two miles. That, I think, would be overstocking. Here, let me say, there is great difference between over stocking and over production.

Overstocking is getting too many bees in a locality, which may be easily done, especially around towns and villages, where everybody wants "a few just for their own use." Overproduction is getting too much honey, making it so cheap that it would not pay to produce it, which, by the way is not likely to happen, because the years of adversity take the zeal out of us amateurs. Just here I might talk a little about "who should keep bees," but will leave that for another time or some one else. I might however say that bees require a good deal of care and attention, what is called fussing with, whether we have few or many, and anyone who cannot give time and attention to them had better let them alone altogether and buy the honey. It is a dangerous thing to experiment largely. For three winters I had my bees in the cellar with cushions over the top, and the temperature about 45° and they did well; they came out light in stores, but with plenty of bees, having raised, I think, a whole generation of bees during the winter, thus consuming, I thought, too much honey. Last winter I thought to avert that, so I used only the cloth duck over the hive and kept the cellar temperature lower. This Spring they had plenty of stores and I had forty-five dead colonies. This Spring has been very hard on badly wintered bees, on account of protracted cold; they fell down to nothing, in many cases leaving only the queen in the hive. One thing in particular I have learned and I shall never forget it, that is: no matter how bees are wintered they should be gone over early in Spring and surplus comb taken away, leaving only enough for present use; contract the brood chamber by putting in two solid division boards, and packing behind them with fine hay