

SELECTIONS.

An Amateur's Experience.

JOHAN KAY, Toronto.—You ask for a statement of my season's work. As a bee-keeper I am only an amateur. Year before last, mice got into my hives and ruined them, so last spring I started with only three colonies, and during the season got 250 lbs. of honey, and had eight hives to put away. I wintered them outside and unpacked them last Saturday, and examined them. All are in good shape; one is a little weak. Had I known of this cold snap I would have let them remain under cover, but do not suppose it will do them any serious harm. Should I give them any food, or can they find enough for themselves at this season. I gave them a few combs of honey when they began to fly early in spring, which they devoured greedily, and carried the balance to their hives.

You might continue to feed them until fruit bloom just enough to keep up brooding. Sugar syrup is better than honey, and is less liable to cause them to rob. You certainly have been very successful in getting nearly 100 lbs to the colony, and an increase from 3 to 8. The honey season must have been better in your locality than in some others, or your bees were exceedingly strong in the spring, otherwise you could not have received such favorable results in a season like the past.

HE APPRECIATES THE JOURNAL.

JOSHUA BULL, Seymour, Wis.—Gentlemen,—Enclosed herewith I send the required dollar to renew my yearly subscriptions for the C. B. J. and P. J. I find upon their pages much that is interesting and valuable. If it would not be out of place, I would like to suggest that you place the name of the writer at the head of each article in your Journals, then we who read may have in mind who it is that is addressing us, and not have to wait until we reach the closing sentence before we know who is writing. For some reason or another, which I may not be able to explain, I always enjoy reading an article and can seem to understand it better, if I know the author's name before commencing.

What has become of our good friend "Amateur Expert," whose contributions used to be so deeply interesting to the readers of the C. B. J.? We have not heard from him for a long time. I hope he has not laid by his pen in disgust. Can he not be induced to renew his correspondence for the benefit of his many unseen, and to him unknown, friends; for I am sure he has many such in this wide world, and we should be much pleased to hear from him occasionally through the bee journals.

We hope to hear from "Amateur Expert" again, and just here let us say, that our visit to his place in 87 was

greatly enjoyed by us. He entertains his guests with a kindness not to be excelled. We hope that ere long he will favor us with more communications.

HEAVY LOSSES IN OHIO.

C. E., ASHTABULA Co., OHIO.—Reports from various parts of the county would indicate the probable loss of fully one-half of all the colonies in Ashtabula county. The losses are not confined to the novice in bee-keeping, but fall very heavily on some of our oldest and best informed apiarists. Bees in this section are generally wintered on the summer stands in the Root chaff hive. A few colonies starved, but the greater part of the loss resulted from dysentery. While the temperature of the winter was mild, there was not a single pleasant day between November and April when it was warm enough for the bees to take a general cleansing flight.

We are sorry to hear of the loss in your locality. There seems to have been a greater loss in the temperate part of the country than there has been in the North or South. The weather has been cold, but reports from many points say that bees have wintered well. All the reports are not in yet, but appearances are in favor of cold, and especially dry weather for wintering bees. They seem to do better when given an opportunity to have a purifying flight, on days when it is sufficiently warm for them to do so.

DID HE WINTER AN EMPTY HIVE?

ANGUS BLAY.—As I am writing, I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know how my bees came out. I put 82 colonies in my cellar last fall, and seventeen of them starved, the rest seem all strong. I put them out on the 1st of May. It has been very cold since. One of my hives I thought dead, but upon opening it found not a bee dead or alive, and it was full of honey. Can you kindly tell me the reason. Please let me know what honey is selling at now as we sell a few pounds now and then at 12½, and the buyers think it very dear.

We do not know why there was neither a dead or a live bee in your hive, without they had swarmed out in the fall, being queenless. Such things do sometimes occur. You may have set the hive in, having seen some of the bees flying in and out a short time before, and feeling it was heavy with honey, imagined the bees were in all right. We think you should get 12c a pound for honey, unless you sold it in large quantities, when you might make a slight reduction.

* * * Subscribers who fail to receive their copies of the JOURNAL promptly, will kindly advise us. Missing numbers are always replaced where possible.