

OUR OWN APIARY.

We went into the bee-house to-day (April 8th), hefted the hives, and picked out all that seemed light. We found a number that seemed lighter than they should be, evidently having consumed most of their winter stores.

Leaving the heavy ones in the bee-house, we carried out the light ones and placed them on their summer stands, and none too soon, as we found five had starved to death and as many more would have lived but a few days, as three of them had no honey and several others only had enough to feed them for a day.

Having put some combs away for reservation last fall, we took out some part of the empty combs and replaced them with those filled with sealed honey.

In this way we soon had the starving colonies quite lively, as they seemed to relish their food. One colony was already too weak to fly until they had partaken of the food.

We now are sorry that we did not examine them sooner, as from appearances we might have saved all if they had been looked after in time.

In passing by the hives after the bees had commenced to fly, we noticed drones flying out with the workers from one of the colonies. We called the attention of the foreman to it and said we were sure it was too early for drones in that hive, as it was a weak one; that if he opened and examined it he would find a drone-laying queen. We examined it and found the queen had been superseded. A young queen was occupying the combs and depositing only drone eggs, of course, as she had hatched after being placed in winter quarters.

We will double this colony up with some other weak one when we set our bees out, and destroy the queen, unless some of the boys wish to experiment with her, as we have frequently done.

It is very pleasant to think that we have just saved a colony from starving, not only on account of their value, but when you see the poor little creatures barely able to flutter their wings or make their bodies tremble slightly, from starvation, and by setting in unsealed stores, in half an hour to see them

flying around as lively as ever makes one feel that they have been neglectful not only in not giving them sufficient stores but in looking after their wants earlier in the season. We hope everybody who has any colonies that are at all light in stores will be very attentive, for from appearances in this locality we do not imagine we will have any honey for some weeks to come.

The bees have now been flying nicely for about four or five hours, but it is beginning to cloud up, and we expect that they will all be in the hives soon again.

As soon as they get clustered, and before it gets too cool this evening, we will carry them back into their winter quarters and keep them there until another favorable time for setting them out permanently. This moving about will have the effect of starting them to breed, those that have not already commenced. Many of them, however, have sealed brood and brood in all stages. From appearances thus far we think they are going to come out of the bee-house very strong in number.

THE COMBINATION HIVE.

MESSRS. BLACK AND CARSWELL'S OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED.

THE objections brought forward were very largely dealt with during our experimenting in years past, and it seems that the only difficulty complained of is not having room for the bees to lay up sufficient stores for winter. We tested this matter for a number of seasons, in various sized hives and with various races or strains of races, and we were fully aware of that difficulty when we settled on the eight frame Combination hive. We had taken our twelve deep frame hive and closed the queen up on various numbers from three to eight frames by the use of the perforated metal division board, allowing them to store honey behind it for winter stores or extracting purposes, the queen occupying all the combs in front. We could reach better results with less than eight frames than with more by the tiering up system. It was not an uncommon thing to have the queen to occupy every one of the twelve frames, and we have also had them oc-