

force together instead of having it divided up into two or three colonies. But after a man has mastered all the basic principles of bee-keeping, yes, after he has become conversant with the details, he may lose a large share of his profits simply from out and out neglect. The bees are in the cellar. He does not go near them. He does not know what the temperature is. It may be too low; and, if so, it might be possible to add to the protection afforded by the walls. Boards might be set up around the walls, held in place by strips of wood tacked to the sides of the house, and the space filled in with sawdust. This little care alone might, in some instances, secure the safe wintering of the bees that would otherwise perish or come through the winter in poor condition. If the bees are in the cellar under the home of the bee-keeper he might employ artificial heat at those times when it is needed. A large oil stove having a hood over it, connected by means of a pipe with the stove pipe in the room above, will answer every purpose. A cellar may become infested with rats or mice that will gnaw combs, and do much damage if not gotten rid of. Equal parts of flour, sugar and arsenic placed in dishes in the cellar will make quick work with the rodents. Mice will play sad havoc with colonies left out of doors if the entrances are neglected. The bee-keeper should know how his bees are wintering. He should not neglect them. A perfect wintering of the apiary lays the foundation for a successful season.

After the bees are placed upon their summer-stands don't neglect them. As soon as the conditions are favorable, look them over. Here and there will be a queenless colony. Here and there a weak one. United, such colonies may prove as good as

there are in the apiary. Neglected, they will be of little value—the queenless ones will certainly perish, perhaps become a prey to robbers, thus stirring up bad blood in the apiary at the time of the year when all should be peace and happiness. Some colonies will be found with a great abundance of stores, others on the verge of starvation. Neglect here means the loss of all colonies that are short of stores.

As the harvest comes on, don't neglect to have the hives, sections, frames, etc., all in readiness. Some of you may be ready to shout "chestnuts." Well, if only those shout who have never been caught, I think none of us will need to cover up our ears. Nothing will quicker change the mood, and disposition, and intention of a colony, cause it to turn its energies into a different channel than the neglect to furnish it surplus room when it is needed. The disposition to store honey is laid aside for that of swarming. A colony without the swarming fever will do little work until that fever is abated. If a colony first turns its energies in the direction of storing up surplus, it will often continue on in this way the entire season with no thought of swarming. And, speaking of swarming, reminds me, that the neglect to clip off just one little eighth from his majesty's wing sometimes results in the bee-keeper striking a dejected attitude, as he gazes sorrowfully on the tree tops where he sees disappearing, as little specks in the sky, the last few straggling members of the rear guard of a prime swarm that would have stored 50, perhaps 100 pounds, of honey had he not neglected to clip off that little one-eighth of an inch.

When it comes to the extracting of honey there is one point that I wish to mention, although it may be made