



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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EDITORIAL.

FOR the two past weeks this JOURNAL has been delayed in issuing. The reason is that the paper mill where the cover is manufactured has been shut down. The mill is on the Cornwall canal and the break in the embankment is the cause. We regret the delay but the fault was not ours.

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One year old is the *Bee-keepers' Review*, and friend Hutchinson recites the many difficulties he has met and overcome. He has every reason to feel proud of his success and of his paper. The *Review* is a paper apiculture could ill afford to lose, and it will, we trust, continue to meet with unbounded prosperity.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Remedying Queenlessness in Winter.

DEAR SIR:—Your comments to my epistle of page 733 are, that I couldn't have read the query understandingly. The questioner asks what to do to remedy queenlessness in a colony which has lost its queen after going into winter quarters, not, as he (I) seem to think on the approach of winter.

I have offered the remedy *i.e.* in a supposed known case of queenlessness, of course provided always that a queen could be got, and that there are bees enough left to constitute a colony of proper strength otherwise unite, but on no ac-

count leave a colony queenless all through the winter, for the results will be as I stated, a very few bees alive if any by spring, and also the honey consumed. For in a colony without queen the bees will consume far more honey in a given time, and so you will not only lose the bees but likewise the honey. This statement I make in contrast to your correspondents and yourself, viz., that to leave a colony alone, don't bother colony policy till spring, would be fraught with evil. You would have no bees left to unite according to the replies of your correspondents, and yours would convey the idea that if the queen did die it wouldn't affect the bees of the colony and therefore the remedy could be applied in spring.

And now as for the finding or diagnosis of colonies having become queenless while in winter quarters, *a la* questioner 652. The quarters, or bee house or cellar being in proper condition, a place where it is known bees have usually wintered successfully. If I find at a temperature 40° and 45° on going reasonably close to the hives in the dark, and suddenly show a light, previously carried concealed under cover of tin can, the colony that has no queen will, in an instant become uproarious and this is almost an infallible indication of queenlessness, although not always in every case, restlessnes; being a cause of queenlessness, but I would in any such case institute examination, blow a little smoke among them which will soon quiet them. If such restlessness is found from the latter part of January onward, and there being no brood under way, that colony is nineteen times out of twenty queenless. It is of course difficult to make out for a certainty a case of queenlessness previous to the month of January, as any amount of feed-