

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

REPORT FROM A BOX-HIVE BEE-KEEPER.

HIRAM FRANCE.—I have kept bees in a small way for over twenty-six years in common box hives; have had very good luck, but the past season has been a very bad one. I put eighteen colonies into my cellar last fall and all came out in good shape except a few of them which were short of honey and I fed them, and they have done very little through the season. I put them out the 17th of April and the 20th they commenced to bring in pollen. May was dry and cold, also June, but they commenced in the boxes very well, but as soon as they commenced to swarm they stopped making surplus honey in the boxes and I did not get a full box from all of my swarms. They have increased to thirty-five. Some ten or twelve of the last swarms I doubled up. All the surplus honey that I have taken from my swarms is about one hundred pounds, from two to ten pounds in each box—it seems to me that there has been a great lack of honey in the flowers this year. May and the first of June was too cold and dry, last of June wet and cold with showers that I think washed all the honey out, and before it had time to dry away in the flowers other showers would come and so it was all through this white clover season, as I believe I never saw less white clover blossom. I am so old now that I do not think it would be best to try to improve upon the old system, being in my 78th year, but if I were young I should readily accept the new methods of bee-keeping. I have been much edified in perusing the C.B.J., and hope it will prove a success. From all who have kept bees in this section I believe my bees have done the best scarcely any others having got a pound of surplus this year.

Eaton, Que.

VENTILATING—FEEDING SYRUP ETC.

A BEGINNER IN BEE-KEEPING.—(1.) Before removing hives to the cellar will it be necessary to raise the bee-quilt to give the bees space to pass over the tops of the frames? (There is no passage way through the combs. (2.) Have been feeding some weak colonies, granulated sugar syrup in the proportion of two of sugar to one of water at night. In the morning following observed about two tablespoonfuls of water, running out of the hive. What is the cause? (3.) For some time past have observed a yellow substance resembling cornmeal on the alighting board. Can you explain what it is? (4.) My bees are pure Italians but in one colony I observe a number of little black shiny bees. Can you tell me how it is?

Woodstock, Ont.

(1) Yes,—it is better to give them space over tops of frames. You may do it at any time now that so that they may be ready, and not have to be disturbed just before going into winter quarters. (2) The water running out of the hive is no doubt caused by the bees evaporating the moisture from the syrup. When bees are gathering from the flowers, it is not unusual for the condensed moisture to run out of the hive. (3) We think what you mention are cappings from the combs where the bees uncapped the cells; they usually cut it up in small particles like corn meal; if you gather some of it up and press it together them drop it on a hot iron you can readily determined whether it is wax or not as the odor from melted wax is easily distinguished.

VENTILATING HIVES IN WINTER QUARTERS.

R. H. JOHNSTON.— I come to you seeking advice. I am fixing a place for my bees and as my space is limited I want your opinion. How many rows is it advisable to put on top of each other in tiering up? Will it do to directly over one another? I am putting on a new quilt and then a sheet ping paper or newspaper on each hive what do you think of it? As many advocate no top ventilation why would it not do to place one hive right fair on top of another, same as you stack up empty ones. It would stop up ventilation or at least least a certain amount of it.

Lyn, Ont. Nov. 12, '85.

You can place them four or five rows high, if you choose. You can set them directly over each other if you desire, by placing strips one or two inches thick on back and front of top of hive. If you put on paper it will prevent the escape of moisture, and your hives will be damp, if not wet inside, unless the bees are very strong and cover all the combs. The same reason for not placing one hive on top of another without leaving room for ventilation applies equally to the hive and the paper.

QUEEN DYING PREMATURELY.

M. J. LEWIS.—I commenced this spring with twelve colonies, increased to twenty-three. ex