

if the package had been labelled with that name, not likely they would have been using so much "syrup."

Turn Yours

The inner side of every cloud
Is always bright and shining;

I therefore turn my clouds about,
And always wear them inside out,
To show the lining.

—Irish Bee Journal.

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS

By I. BALMER, BURLINGTON, ONT.

After observation and experience with my bees during the fall of 1906, I have no fear of my bees clustering on empty nests at the beginning of winter. I will first give my plan of wintering outside. My hives being 12 frame L., I take out four of the lightest frames before commencing to feed. Then close the remainder up together in the center, then put a division board on each side; that leaves a space on each side about two and a half inches, which is filled with planer shavings and a little sawdust. Two narrow pieces of wood across the top of the frames about the centre, $\frac{3}{8}$ thick and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart or so, leaves a place so the bees can pass over the frames without having to go around by the ends. Then a heavy cloth (duck) on top; then shavings and sawdust again on top. In the fall of 1906 I commenced to get ready to feed up for winter about the middle of October, 70 colonies in all. I found every colony had taken all the sealed honey from the outside of each outside frame, and part of the opposite side, and carried it to the centre, and filled up every cell in the brood nest so they could cluster on it when the

cold weather came. Accordingly, I resolved that the little fellows were too cute to be caught wintering on empty combs no matter whether fed early or late. We are told by Dr. Dzierzon, in *Allgem. fur Bienenzucht*, reproduced by F. Greiner in *Gleanings* Dec. 15th p. 1590, that the reason that late fed bees (with liquid food) usually winter poorly is because the bees cannot crawl into the cells inside of the cluster, to form a more compact cluster, thus keeping themselves warmer. How are we going to persuade the little pets to leave the cells empty where they intend to cluster when they are determined to have them full, if there is any honey in the hive to fill them with? This is exactly contrary to your teachings of late feeding. I would sooner risk your plan than the above. But I prefer going a little more according to Nature, and give them plenty, commencing about the middle of September, so as to get through about the 1st October, then let the little pets fix their house to suit themselves.

I tried wintering seven eight-frame L. hives in exactly the same way that Mr. McIntyre describes in *Gleanings* p. 97, with the entrance in the case on a level with the entrance to the hive, but it did not work as well as the above plan. Hope Mr. McIntyre will have better success.

In reply to your article of December p. 375, in which you say, "In eating comb honey you cannot put anything else in your mouth at the same time, or if you do you must swallow the wax. The bees make wax to store their honey in, they do not make it to eat. We