

bees and if after correspondence we fancy there is something extra good about them we shall be pleased to purchase a colony or two and give a good price for them. We have known colonies of bees to winter in splendid condition for a great many years in the same hive, and a novice might have thought that they had some especially good qualities in this respect, but he would have been mistaken.

We recollect going to a place to purchase bees, which were in old box hives. The gentleman refused to sell one colony, on account of its superiority to all others. He expatiated on the number of years that colony had stood and said that it cast from one to three swarms every year, and that the swarms had issued sooner than others, and that it never was without honey, that the bees were also good honey gatherers and in fact were everything that could be desired, and he put more value on that hive than he did on half a dozen others in the yard. He did not realize that the very claims he was making for that one hive of bees did more harm than good, for the swarm of bees that issued from that colony from year to year proved to winter no better, or gather more honey than ordinary bees. From his own statements there appeared to be nothing to recommend them beyond the good points of the one hive which he would not sell. We afterwards had the satisfaction of transferring that colony to a movable comb hive, for the gentlemen in question, and the secret was not hard to discover. The peculiar way in which the combs were built in the hive, enabled the bees to form a cluster in the centre, and move out in any direction to get stores, and thus surrounded on every side and over-head with combs filled with well-ripened honey, they had everything necessary to success.

Such a condition of things could not fail to give the best of results. We believe Mr. Corneil, of Lindsay, has adopted a similar plan, with some of his colonies, and he considers it a step in the right direction. We have frequently had colonies do wonders, but never dreamt that because a colony had given good results one season or two, that we had secured a new race of bees, and

that they would duplicate themselves in this respect for all time to come.

Now don't imagine, friends, that we think bees cannot be improved; on the contrary, we are positive they can, but there is a way to go about it different from that usually adopted, if we wish to make a permanent success of it.

Shipping Bees.

WE have frequently been asked the question, How to Ship Bees? We have just received a few colonies from a friend, who is one of our best beekeepers. They were all strong colonies and very full of brood, and just as soon as they arrived, we sent for them to the station, and as our teamster drove into the yard, we remarked that there would be plenty of dead bees if the colonies were strong when shipped. Well, we set them down and got the entrance opened, and found three of them were clogged with dead bees, in fact out of five colonies all the old bees were dead in four hives. We think we are safe in saying that there were dead bees enough to make more than two colonies out of the five. The bees had died for want of air. They were packed as follows: Over the entrance there were screens, and on the top of the frame were cross sticks about an inch high with thin cotton spread over. Had the colonies been weak they would have come through in that condition all right, or had the weather been cold it would have amounted to the same thing. As it was very warm however, the bees left the brood and crowded to the top of the hive,—the entrance being clogged with dead bees, they soon stopped all circulation of air and consequently a great many smothered.

In order to ship bees successfully they must be prevented from stopping the free circulation of air. We question very much however, whether there could be enough ventilation given at the bottom of the hive. It only takes a few bees to clog the entrance, and then the rest crowd up between the frames to the top, and the excitement resulting therefrom causes an unusual amount of heat. The bees will then pack themselves tightly together on the top, and in between the frames, which prevents the