

a few feet of the street on the south and east, and though millions of bees were passing and re-passing for weeks, months and years, yet I have never known a horse to be stung. The fence, trees or other obstruction to their flight causes them to rise up high in the air and to pass over persons on the thoroughfare. It is not necessary that the fence should be absolutely tight, because they are not inclined to fly through small cracks or crevices but always rise up until they have an unobstructed view and although the cracks are sometimes over a foot in width we always find them passing over the top. Where a fence is not high enough a few four-foot lath six inches apart and a strong strip along the top would cause them to pass over. Although keeping our apiary so close to the road for the last fifteen years, we have arranged and located our bees about fifteen rods further back in a more secluded place, but should have no hesitation at any time in placing them within a few feet of any public highway and feel confident that they would give no trouble to any person when the surroundings were as they should be.

STYLE OF HIVE.

I will not here say much of any particular style or make of hive, but one thing I would strongly impress and that is: *Never allow but one pattern and size of hive in your apiary.* The appurtenances of one style hive will not fit another, and a variety in hives is a constant source of trouble and expense. Nearly all the hives made by regular supply dealers possess genuine merit and differ merely in dimensions; the particular claims of each to superiority in ease of manipulation are fully set forth in the manufacturers circulars. A special chapter must be written descriptive of hives in general.

THE FRONT OF THE HIVE.

The ground in front of the entrance to the hive should be kept clean, and nearly every bee keeper has a preference for some particular material to accomplish this object. Sawdust and ashes are thickly strewn around by some and recommended. What is really best is an undecided question and does not make so much difference. Grass is probably the worst thing and if you have grass it must be kept closely cut,

so that the queen may not be lost. Salt sprinkled on the grass will effectually destroy it. One of my bee-yards is a solid bed of sand, and I find that, while it has draw-backs in the height of summer if dry and windy, yet in spring the bees in this yard are always ahead of others in breeding and building up. I account for this by the heat being retained by the sand and reflected on the hives. The trouble from drifting and excessive heat in summer is readily remedied by the liberal use of a force pump and sprayer. These can be obtained so cheaply that no one should be without one. The apiarist will find them convenient for separating swarms, quelling robber bees, etc., to say nothing of spraying the garden and flower beds, washing windows and buggies, and a hundred other things around the house.

WIND-BREAKS.

Hives should be protected from the chilling effects of cold winds, and where woods or rising grounds are not adjacent, a hedge of evergreens may be planted or a high board fence erected. All my apiaries are surrounded by board fences eight feet high, which make an effective wind-break.

PROCURING BEES.

The novice should not commence with a large number of colonies, two is as many as I would advise. Any neighboring bee-man will dispose of this number, and an advantage in purchasing from some one close by is that when a difficulty is met with he can possibly give you "pointers" when most needed. But do not pay a fancy figure; the price for good colonies varies according to the time of year from \$4 to \$8. At the latter figure the colony should be strong and have a good laying queen.

I would suggest that the bees be purchased in the moveable frame hives of to-day, avoiding the trouble of transferring from the antiquated box hive or gum. If I remember rightly I have at times recommended that beginners buy box hives in order to gain a knowledge of transferring, but I do not see that it is so absolutely necessary. Possibly the novice may make a success of the job; on the other hand there is a greater possibility of his making a mess of it and thereby becoming