

## DOUBLING UP.

There are those who are possessed of the idea that "doubling up" all the weak colonies will ensure a lot of strong stocks. Such has not been my experience in early spring. I have sometimes united a number at a time, and they have appeared to be quite strong, but on examination two weeks later have been found but little better than at the start. The old bees seem to die off more rapidly when doubled than when left in the weaker hive with their queen until the weather became sufficiently warm for them to carry on brooding themselves.

Any colony when set out can be united with another from the same repository when first set out, without caging queens or danger of having them destroyed; all having the same odor will not quarrel at such a time.

## CLEANING HIVES.

A day or two after setting out the hives should be thoroughly overhauled and cleansed. With one spare hive this can be readily done. Place your clean and empty hive close alongside the one to be manipulated and transfer the frames and bees from one to the other, brushing all dead bees off the combs. Be very careful with those containing brood lest it become killed by chilling, and select for store combs those containing the most honey. This completed crowd up the bees, clean the hive they have just vacated and proceed in this manner until you have gone over the entire yard.

This is only requisite where the hives are foul smelling or the combs are mouldy or musty.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

The Coming Season will be a Good One for All.

**E**VERY one of my colonies have wintered well, and all are very strong in bees and have plenty of stores. This is one of the early springs; my bees gathered pollen here on the 9th of April. Last year the first pollen gathered was on the 26th of April. Last year was not only too dry but it was the off year for honey. This is the honey year and the clover and basswood will both shell out this season. Every bee-keeper had better prepare for plenty of swarms, because they are going to do plenty of that this summer. Bee-keepers

will all have honey to sell this fall and they will find that the best way to increase sales will be to have nothing to sell but what is choice. Grass seed will take well this season and every bee-keeper should sow or cause to sowed plenty of alsike clover in his section. The sales of comb foundation and sections will be large this summer, and other supplies will be in good demand. We will also see fine exhibits of the honey at the fairs this fall and the editors of bee journals will be on hand and will get many new names added to their lists. The old timers will whack up and the new ones will shell out, because they know or should know that the bee journals are the best value that the bee-keepers can get for the money.

As old mother Shipton told many things that came to pass, I thought that I would try my hand at the business.

W. McEvoy,

Woodburne, April 10th, 1889.

## SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

J. W. SPARLING.—As far as I have heard, bees have wintered well down this way. Mine carried in pollen on the 12th or 15 days earlier than last year.

Bowmanville, April 13th, 1889.

WM. McEVoy.—In the C. B. J. of April 10th in my answer to query 227 you have made a mistake. The first word on the sixth line down from the top is a mistake, that word all should read fall. Please fill it right and oblige very truly yours.

Woodburn, April 15th, 1889.

T. J. ERNEST.—My nine colonies have wintered on the summer stands in first-class condition. Some of the colonies have three or four frames. I use your Combination hive exclusively and would have no other. Formerly I used the Jones single walled hive but I found it too large for wintering outside. I have lost but one colony in four years and that died by starvation. I attribute my general success to the information which I have received through the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

J. REYNOLDS.—Went into winter quarters last fall with 40 colonies of bees, all fed up on sugar syrup. To-day, (April 13th,) they are all in the cellar in prime condition to all appearances. The ground is all bare and the pussy willows are out, and other bees are on them. My bees are quiet in the cellar. Last season was the first in my experience of over 28 years when every colony in my yard failed to gather honey enough to winter on. I fed all up on syrup at the end of the honey flow in September, as is usual for me, and then had to feed again in October or let some of them starve.

Clinton, Kennebec Co., Maine.