

The Canadian Bee Journal.

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OUR OWN APIARY.

WE are piling the barrels which contained sugar outside as soon as emptied, and it is amusing to see the bees getting water, dampening the sugar and taking it up. We have noticed imprisoned bees in a bee house carrying honey and passing it through a screen to bees outside, but we have seldom noticed them carrying water to moisten the dry granulated sugar to manufacture it into syrup so they can take it and deposit it in their comb. Does not this indicate wonderful intelligence in our little pets?

SEE TO YOUR COLONIES NOW.

We wonder how many of our friends intend to let their bees starve this winter? or how many imagine or feel satisfied that their bees have plenty, simply because they had plenty a month or two ago? A bee-keeper the other day went to some of his hives expecting to have to remove a quantity of honey, as he felt sure his bees had too much; to his great surprise he found they would need to be fed; this will no doubt be the case with many others. Never, within our recollection, have bees consumed so much of their winter stores as up to the present date, and it will be the duty of every bee-keeper to examine, weigh and carefully note the condition of his colonies, and, when there is a lack of stores, as there is sure to be in almost every instance especially in this latitude, ascertain the deficiency and feed best granulated sugar syrup at once, and in feeding remember that they usually consume nearly one-third in brooding, capping over and for food. We are doubling up some of our colonies, and are also preparing some without any honey or sugar syrup by placing the winter feeders filled with honey or granulated sugar, or in other words "good candy" over them. We will try some *with* combs and some *without*. We will try some with one, two, three, four, and five combs each, thus allowing the cluster under to form the same as when wintered

on ordinary stores, we will follow the test down to a single comb. When the weather is warm in localities where no honey is coming in, it is better to feed in the afternoon or evening, after the bees stop flying, as feeding in the heat of the day is apt to incite robbing.

DESTROYING MICE.

Those who winter in bee-houses and cellars should destroy all mice, so that their colonies should not be injured by them. Perhaps it would be well to give the simplest, easiest and most effective means, that we have found to destroy them. Take equal quantities of white sugar, flour, and arsenic. Mix them well in a dry state; no water should be added. Then place about as much as you would hold on a ten cent piece on small pieces of paper, and lay these about where the mice can get at them. If you can get the crystal arsenic and have it pulverized you will find it about five times as strong as the pulverized. One spoonful of arsenic to four spoonfuls of flour and four of sugar. We have known places infested with mice to be cleared in almost one night. Have never known cats or dogs to touch it; still it would not be advisable to leave it in their way.

CLAMP FOR WINTERING.

WE have been asked to give a description of the clamp exhibited at the Toronto Exhibition, or some other suitable for wintering outside. The one on exhibition was probably gotten up with a little more care than would be necessary in ordinary cases. It was eight feet long, four feet wide and about four feet high in front and three behind with a roof sloping from front to rear. The bottom was nailed on four two-by-four scantlings, set edge ways, thus keeping the boards about four inches from the ground. Then a rack was made to set on this platform, keeping the hive six inches above it, and so arranged that chaff or sawdust may be packed under the hives. There is a little spout made and placed against the entrance to the hive reaching to the outside of the clamp. This entrance from the hive to the portico in front, which is formed by putting boards in a slanting position, projecting in from the front six inches, thus reflecting the rays of the sun into the entrance if desired. It has also a hinged board at the front that you can let down and close this portico up in cold weather or when you do not wish the bees to fly. Hives