

than I was at the first of the year to care for one. I would say then, it depends on how much you know about the business and how much time and money you have to put into it. A very good and safe way is to start with a very few colonies, give them the best care you can, and make them pay for all expense incident to increasing the plant. Thus you are out only time over the first expense of starting; and the loss of time is compensated by the education one gets.

The question is often asked, "How much honey will a colony of bees make in one season?" One might as well ask, "How many apples will one apple tree bear?" There are many conditions to be taken into account. In a general way we can say that an average of fifty pounds of surplus honey per colony each year for a term of years is considered good returns; some do better than that, but they are those who occupy favored localities. My bees have done well, but I cannot give exact figures. As far as individual colonies are concerned, I have had yields all the way from nothing up to 225 pounds of finished comb honey in a single season. In good seasons I usually make my apiaries yield about 100 pounds of surplus per colony, spring count, for the whole apiary. It is well to remember that a small number of colonies can be made to produce relatively much larger yields than a larger number, therefore, don't be figuring and be deceived into the conclusion that you can make a great fortune out of an extensive bee business because some one has reported making twenty or even forty dollars from a single colony in one season. I do not wish to discourage any one, what I want is to dispel the false and delusive lights that have played about this subject. The

worst kind of discouragement is that that comes to one, who, with a great amount of enthusiasm invests too heavily on the start, and meeting with severe losses finds himself with a lot of useless hives and fixtures on hand. I have known a number of such who gave up in disgust. I advise going slow at first making sure of every inch of ground gained. Industry and grit will win in this business as in any other.

CANDIED COMB HONEY.

How to Save Both Comb and Honey.

By M. M. Baldrige.

Since receiving Mr. R. H. Smith's reply to the question, which appears in this issue, regarding Candied or Granulated honey in extracting combs, the following article on the subject by M. M. Baldrige in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, came under our notice.

"Now, my plan of treating such combs is to uncap the sealed cells and extract the liquid honey, if any, and then fill the empty cells full, or partly full of water. I then set one or more of the prepared frames of honey in an empty hive, and under or over a strong colony of bees. Sometimes I remove one or two combs from the brood chamber, and replace with the frames of candied honey prepared as stated, with water. Any of these plans will do. The bees will then liquefy the candied honey and remove it from the combs, and with no loss of honey whatever, nor damage to the combs.

A good way to fill the cells with water is to lay each comb flat side down in a clean wash boiler, and pour the water over all the cells with a dipper or a tea-kettle, from the