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The Canadian Bee Journal seems to be fair in showing up both sides, albeit the March number occupies less than a column to encourage the would-be improver, and more than five times as much in telling him "Its no use." Like the boy in the dark whistling to keep up his courage, I want to take up some of the points in the "no use" argument to try to break their force, at least a little.

Mr. Hand starts out on page 81 by noting the diversity of opinion as to improving the bee, apparently landing on the hopeful side by saying that improvement "is by no means impossible so long as sports and mutations occur." That's encouraging, and the encouragement is increased when a little further along he says: "It is evident that there is yet much to be hoped for by way of mprovement in bees by selection and breeding." And then a fog seems to be thrown over the hopeful landscape, and it transpires that the "much" to be hoped for by way of improvement refers only to color. While color may be changed "their habits and instincts must ever remain unchanged," because bees are incapable of reasoning, and are governed by laws which "are as immutable as the universe.

That seems to bring us dead up against a stone wall. But for all that I do not like to give up the idea of trying to improve bees. I'd rather think that Mr. Hand might be mistaken. There is some glimmer of hope in the thought that other things have been improved. There's the matter of cattle. Strains have been produced that run to beef. Others that run to butter. No dispute about it. And it has been done by breeding. I don't believe cattle have reason any more than I believe bees have reason. And if bees are governed by laws, are not cattle also? But there are the changes in the cattle. Why not in the bees?

The last two pages of the article are taken up with swarming and things more or less connected with swarming, all intended to show that the swarming impulse can not be eliminated. But, friend Hand, there are other things than swarming or non-swarming that those want to work for who believe in improvement, and I wish you had taken up one of them to illustrate and enforce your position, for swarming is a rather complicated affair, and it's a bit hard for me to follow all you say about it. Besides, since you have invented a way to prevent swarming without any change in the character of the bees, there is not quite the same need to breed non-swarmers. I wish you had taken storing. If I could get my bees to store twice as much it would be of more consequence than to breed out the swarming instinct. Swarming as you say, can be controlled, and that without any change in the bees, but we cannot in the same way control storing, and double storing demands a change in the bees themselves. If color is the only thing that can be changed by breeding, of course there is no use to try for anything else; still the scientific authorities to whom Dr. Bonney applied do not seem by any means to be hopeless of improvement even in the matter of swarming. And Dr. Bonney deserves credit for publishing their letters. Not everyone in his place would have done that.

Marengo, Ill.

SOME REFLECTIONS UPON MY WINTERING EXPERIENCES

By Jacob Haberer.

We wintered 50 full colonies and 10 nuclei in the cellar. Of these we lost two. They were set out on their summer stands on April 6th. The bees have been working well on willows during the past few days, so we have started "clipping" to-day (May 7). Everything has progressed nicely, and