

all unfertile fruit falls. The crop was so heavy that it had to be thinned out. As a check test one tree was protected so that not a bee could get to it. On this tree all the fruit dropped at the stoning period. Bees and other insects have a duty to perform in the orchard, for which there is no substitute provided. This is the distribution of the pollen from flower to flower and from tree to tree. They insure success in the orchard and every fruit-grower should encourage the bees in their work by not spraying or doing anything that would be injurious to the bees while the trees are in full bloom.—Farming.

For a Beginner.

Editor Canadian Bee Journal.

I wrote you some two years ago from St. Marys, in regard to the self-hiver, but circumstances at that time prevented my engaging in bee-keeping. However, I have decided to commence operations on a small scale next spring, and as my college course gave me no more extended information than the lectures of Rev. Mr. Clark, I would like to get your opinion regarding:—The two best text books on the subject? Whether the self-hiver can be made to fit any hive? What style and size of hive, (large or small) is best for a beginner? Whether on account of the colonies having died of foul brood, you advise my buying the hives cheap and what method could be adopted to eradicate traces of disease? Is May a much safer month than April in which to start? Could you suggest how I might obtain a copy of the lectures, (notes,) which you deliver at the Ontario Agricultural College, as I cannot take the course next spring, but probably will next year?

J. H. BURNS.

[I am in receipt of yours on the 21st. The two best books on bee-keeping are the "A. B. C. of Bee Culture," price \$1.25 post paid, and "Langstroth" on the Honey Bee, price \$1.50 post paid, the latter by (Dadant).]

The self-hiver can be made to fit any hive, but not conveniently the double walled. The "The Langstroth" Hive is probably the best to use and is being used by the majority of bee-keepers. Contrary to the inclination of beginners in bee-keeping, I would say, begin by producing extracted honey, it can be produced more successfully and with less experience.

As to hives which have traces of Foul Brood, I would say that they can be dis-

infected by cutting out all the old comb and wax and boiling them in a solution of Carbolic Acid. Unless you can get the hives very cheap, I do not think I would care to invest in such goods. If you are buying bees, especially if you are moving them any distance, May (in our locality) is the best time to buy. There is no more risk from spring dwindling and robbing, and you have then the honey season ahead of you.

As to my lectures on bee-keeping at the Ontario Agricultural College, and the best method of securing a copy, I would be pleased to furnish you with this, but I have only headings as a guide, and at present I do not know of any way of securing them, unless you know of a student or ex-student who takes pretty full notes. If I can be of any further use, do not hesitate to write.—Ed.]

Early Setting Out.

To the Editor of the C. B. J.

It must be cold up at Brantford when you have to scrape the snow of the ground to set bees out on the 6th of March. I set a number out on the 8th and the balance of twenty-eight colonies on the 12th, but there was no snow on the ground where I placed the bees. On looking some of them over I found one dead (queenless), the rest were clean and bright, queens laying and a number of colonies had hatching bees. Eighty colonies packed on the summer stands in the same yard were all alive. Pollen was brought in freely on March 16th, the earliest I remember.

I used to wait till soft maple bloomed before setting out, but last year for the first time I set bees out early and they did better than those packed outside, and if they do as well this year, I shall not hesitate to put them out early another season.

I find that artificial heat in an adjoining apartment is a great help to keep up the temperature in the bee cellar, and I don't want it below 45°. Last winter we kept it at from 48 to 52° and everything was dry. This winter with less fire the temperature was from 42 to 41°, and there was more moisture than I like to see.

The prospects are good for the coming season, bees have wintered well and the clover has not been injured. I have only been to one out yard six miles south of the city, found all alive but one; the other yard to the north I expect to be as good, so with three yards and a fair season,