

during the early spring these condensations cease. They begin brood rearing early, and in order to prepare food for the young larva, must have water. The most vigorous bees go forth in quest of water, find it at some brook or tank where it is ice cold, fill themselves, and are chilled, and do not get back to the hive. The necessities for water steadily increasing, other bees go out, to share a like fate, until the colony is emaciated and the brood dies; and then we say to our neighbor bee-keeper: "I am bothered with spring dwindling."

Every careful bee-keeper well knows that one bee in early spring is of more value to him than half a hundred later on. In order to prevent spring dwindling we take one of the Mason half-gallon fruit jars, remove the screw top, take a seven-eighths board four inches square, and with a small gonge or a knife cut a groove nearly from one extreme corner to the other, taking care not to cut quite to the corner. We fill the jar with water, place the board over the mouth, invert all quickly, and place in convenient places in apiary. When the sun shines sufficiently so that bees can fly it will also warm the water through the glass, and we are always able to give them what they most desire, pure warm water, and no one until they have given this a trial will fully realize how much water a single colony will use during the height of brood-rearing. In order to draw them from the old watering place it may be necessary to slightly sweeten the water for a day or two.

I wish I could give some faint idea of the wonderful evaporating propensities of a colony of bees. Have you noticed early some warm evening when nectar is coming rapidly several bees were standing well up on their legs in front of their hive, and their wings were flying at a rapid

rate, that the hum of busy work appeared to come from the entire hive? This is the evaporating process. Other bees take up the air and pass it through the hive, while still others suck up the freshly gathered nectar, and blow it back into the cell. Place your hand carefully over the entrance; on one side the air is cool, on the other it is warm. This process is kept up during the entire night, if the weather is warm.

Is it profitable to keep cows on the farm and produce butter? Is it profitable to produce poultry on the farm? Of course one would not think of producing apples in Alaska or bananas in Dakota; but wherever the conditions are favorable bee-keeping is as profitable as any other branch of agriculture. It should receive more encouragement in the future, with a full understanding that, whether we are engaged in agriculture, horticulture, or market-gardening, bees are our best friends, and as such should be encouraged to lend help toward swelling the balance sheet, fully realizing that in the pure nectar of the flower there is not only health but wealth.

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### Bees in Box Hives.

Farmer's Tribune.

Bees may be brought up to the highest type of perfection by simply transferring them from box hives to movable-frame hives, and if they are the black or native bees, an Italian queen may be introduced. Transferring can be done with much more ease and with better results in the spring of the year, as at this time the occupants of the hive are few in number and the combs are light. It should be done at a time when the bees are gathering honey, as this enables them to do the work of patching up and repairing the combs more rapidly. We always aim to do our