

when all other plans had failed yours proved successful. We have frequently tried your plan which, other conditions being right, never failed, but when honey is scarce we find considerable care is necessary to prevent robbing unless sugar syrup is used.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

WHO SHOULD KEEP BEES?

WHIS is a question concerning which there is considerable difference of opinion. Many seem to think that none but those who have a special aptitude for it should assume the role of bee-keeper. But how, I ask, is this aptitude obtained? Is it something that is natural or acquired? I think it is a little of both. A person to succeed in bee-keeping must have a taste for it, and having this, experience will give him skill and facility in the management of bees. To excel, however, something more than this is necessary. He must to some extent be an enthusiast in the business, giving it a prominent place in his thoughts and conversation. Such will not be satisfied with the facts stated by others as the result of their experience; he will be continually making experiments for himself and only when his own experience agrees with the conclusions arrived at by others, will he adopt them and put them into practice. But whilst all may not possess the enthusiasm necessary to excel in bee-keeping, all may attain to a very fair measure of success, that are willing to give the question study and attention. Some go into the business without the slightest knowledge of how to run it and so failure is certain to ensue. It is with this as with every other industry, that a certain amount of knowledge is indispensably necessary. We must know what to do and when to do it, if we are going to succeed. But along with these, promptness in doing everything at the right time is absolutely necessary. Procrastination has been the ruin of many a bee-keeper, and closely connected with this and often giving cause to it is idleness which cannot exist in a well conducted apiary. No idler need apply for distinction in this business. The drones must be confined to the hives and not be found among owners. Any one who goes into bee-keeping to make an easy living will be disappointed. There is a great deal of good solid work about it. Still it is not so heavy but any one of moderate strength can perform it. This is evident from the fact that many of our most successful bee-keepers are ladies. What some of them have accomplished shows what

may be done by others. Many of them that are wearing their fingers out in sewing for a living could do very much better by turning their attention to bee-keeping. School teachers may also add a little to their too small incomes by keeping a few bees. They have the evenings to devote to them and the time that requires special attention when swarming and honey gathering takes place is just when their holidays occur. Clergymen is another class that may keep bees with pleasure and profit. They require some recreation and exercise, and this at certain seasons furnishes all that is desired. It also furnishes a most delightful study and the more they know of this one of the first little architects, the more will their minds be filled with wonder, admiration and praise at the wisdom, greatness and goodness of the Creator of all, and to join with the Psalmist in exclaiming "Great and marvellous are thy works Lord, God Almighty, in wisdom hast thou made them all." There are few things in which ministers of the Gospel can engage in, in order to augment their stipends that are not more or less objectionable. This, however, furnishes something which no reasonable person can take exception to. Unless that he goes into it too extensively it need not in the least interfere with the higher duties of his calling, for the time that the bees require attention is a season of the year when little pastoral visiting is done as many in the towns and cities are away on their holidays and the male portion of the farming community are all in the fields. Without any interference with his special work he may materially augment his salary and obtain the means for the education of his family which would not otherwise be available. Farmers might easily keep a few stocks sufficient to supply their table with the luscious sweet all the year round. Where there are several sons in a family one might devote his attention to the bees and add very materially to the common fund. Mechanics who have only a small piece of ground might easily devote a small corner to the blessed bees and realize more from them than from the entire garden planted with fruit or vegetables. In some of the cities where ground is scarce and not possessed by a large number of the inhabitants, bees are kept with profit on the roofs of the houses, showing that there is almost no position we can occupy but we may to some extent carry on this favored pursuit. It follows therefore that nearly every one may keep bees. There may be some who constitutionally are unfitted for it, the virus from the sting so affecting them as to endanger life, but these instances are rare, and as the system becomes inoculated these alarming symptoms