

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

In reply to the query of an amateur in another column, "What is to do in April?" we may say: Look well after your bees, and see that they have plenty of feed during the first part of the month, and are kept fairly warm and dry. Now is the time to do this. It is a great mistake to suppose that bees can take entire care of themselves at this most difficult period of the year. Examine your hives the first thing but take care that they don't get chilled. See which of your colonies have a queen, and which may be required to be doubled up, or divided among other colonies. and prepare for the operation. Having found that your colonies have queens, see that they have sufficient stores still left, and supply or equalize those that have not. How this is best done, and how to prevent robbing, which is a usual practice at this season, may be learned by reference to past numbers of your *Bee Journals*. The bees should be left comfortably warm and no heat be allowed to escape, so as to chill them. Care should also be taken not to leave entrances open too wide. They should be sufficiently open in the mornings to allow the bees an opportunity to work without being crowded; but at night the entrance should be closed. If the nights are very cold, it is an excellent plan to move the hives to a warm room, thus keeping the brood warm, and encouraging early swarming. If this is done, however, be careful to put each hive back on its old stand, for any exchange of hives on the stands may prove fatal to the queens.

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We are in receipt of a catalogue and price list from A. I. Root, Medina, Ohio.

## QUESTION DRAWER.

DEAR SIR,—I would be pleased to receive answers to the following questions through the pages of your valuable Journal,—

1.—Does D. A. Jones take his comb honey in the supers, or by hanging the sections in frames in the body of the hive beside the brood chamber?

1.—I now use the improved supers for comb honey, and honey boards with reversers if I have time to attend to them.

2.—Would a frame of the Langstroth depth and three-fourths inches long, inside measure, not be a desirable shape for forming a compact winter cluster, and still preserve some of the advantages of shallow frames for summer use?

2.—Yes, but it is not desirable to have too many sizes of frames, as it causes confusion and loss in selling bees, on account of the frames not being the standard size and consequently not interchangeable.

3.—What races of bees do you find giving best results now? Are the Syrians proving to be superior to Italians?

3.—The Italians, as they are now termed, will give satisfactory results. Most of them have a slight touch of Cyprian or Syrian, as the Cyprians and Syrians were so largely raised and sold both in Europe and America; so in all probability few Italians are without a slight touch. There is little doubt that they first sprang from Syrians taken by the earlier traders from Syria; and as bees, honey, and wax were some of their principal articles of commerce, is it not reasonable to suppose that the Italians are descendants of the Syrians, and kept isolated in Italy so long that they have by climatic influences changed somewhat for the better especially in temper? The pure Italians are better than the pure Syrians, but there are some valuable points in both races which, if combined without the objectionable points, would improve the race.

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