

Apiary

Why Bees Die In Winter.

Lately a very interesting article appeared in the *Kansas Beekeeper*, from the pen of that competent authority, James Heddon, in answer to this all-important question: And yet the main drift of the theme, there, is in the direction of controversy with Bro. Demara's assertions, in regard to pollen as the cause of dysentery. The *Why or How* of the death being that dire disease, the cause of the disease not being so clear, while the *conditions* to secure, from the first cause or causes, might be reasonably expected to be the point sought to be demonstrated. At any rate this is what we want to know. We do know that bees die, and that often dysentery is the forerunner of dissolution; not always, however. They sometimes die dry, and sometimes they get well and thrive after dysentery. All the condition needful and effective to keep bees from dying in winter (and spring too) seem yet somewhat involved in mystery. But, freedom from damp, quality of food, temperature, quiet, sufficient numbers, time and mode of putting past for winter, out or indoor arrangement of winter quarters, each and all, no doubt, ought to be estimated of importance as bearing upon the keeping of bees alive, some of less and some of more importance, and even other factors may play a part in the why and wherefore of life and death. The one particular effort of small contribution to the controversy is distinctly this: to endeavor to place the several generally-admitted essentials for life in the order of their commonly regarded importance: 1st, sufficient numbers; 2nd, good stores; 3rd, enough thereof; 4th, early time of putting past, and late letting out; 5th, perfect quiet; 6th, ample ventilation, without cold current; 7th, protection from extremes of temperature. Now intentionally left unmentioned are the more disputed opinions, as to space between combs, supply of pollen, shape of frame, summer stands or cellar, upward or downward ventilation, artificial heat and sub-earth pipes, granulated sugar or sealed early-season honey, reversed combs, few combs in confined space, and yet many other variously practiced and advocated modes of wintering. The comparing of the reports—though seemingly conflicting—and the free good natured discussion of which will, no doubt, be helpful toward improved theory and practice. S.

Members of O. B. K. A.

Those who have not sent in the remittance required to renew membership for the current year, are respectfully solicited to do so early, and at the same

time by shewing our organ to neighbor bee-keepers, and explaining the liberal terms, induce additional members to unite so as to secure mutual advantage as extensively as practical. Send in also to the Sec.-Treas. (Jacob Spence, 251 Parliament St., Toronto) reports of hives, honey, &c.; and questions for our department is kindly help toward, having a successful year.

Convention Notes.

Many various questions were asked and answered during the several sessions of the late annual meeting. Some of these will supply useful subjects for further attention from time to time, and it is hoped that yet additional answers may be forthcoming. The CANADIAN FARMER, our organ, promises the apiary special prominence, and improvement in regularity in future issues. It is expected also that the large number of our bee-keepers, who are well able, will be induced to supply original matter so that but little clipping from other bee-papers may be needed to fill up an interesting and instructive bee-keepers' department.

Questions and Answers.

This department last year made rather a promising start, but who or how many were to blame is not so much the question now as "How shall we do much better in the future." The answer is not far to search for, simply those who ought do it. Quite ample material is not wanting. We are yet far from perfect in knowledge of our fascinating bee management, and the way is open for attainment; if we are willing to take the needful trouble to "ask and receive" and "follow on to know," a brighter future is before us. Progress is our motto. Please come along with questions.

Management of Bees.

Mr. W. F. Clark supplies some excellent suggestions in writing to the *Canadian Stock Raiser's Journal* on bee management at this season. These very strong broad hints ought to be heeded by us all. They apply indeed widely and well even beyond the bee-keeping line:—

"In this northern climate, the rush of the honey harvest is now over. It is a short, brief season with us, and needs the utmost care to make the most of it. One of the best uses to which bee-keepers can put their first leisure moments after the rush is past, will be to recall and record the mistakes and failures of the year. We can all see some particulars in which the season caught us napping. We were not ready with hives full of nimble workers, eagerly waiting the summons to gather honey. Or we had not a full supply of hives well-stocked with

foundations awaiting the exit of swarms, or we neglected to start nuclei, so as to have queens ready for any and every emergency. But what need of multiplying suggestions? Memory will furnish every bee keeper with reminders enough of lost opportunities. There is perhaps no human calling in which so much depends on taking time by the forelock as bee-keeping. The honey harvest is so brief a period, that a lost opportunity can hardly be recovered. It may print a lesson for next year, but that is all; hence the wisdom of making a record of these things. Every bee keeper should keep a diary of operations and experiences in his apiary, and whatever is noted, the mistakes should be written down, that they may be corrected next season. In many respects, apiculture is a valuable school of character, and not the least in this, that it is constantly giving us lessons on wise and prudent forethought. The want of this is one of the worst and most prevalent besetments of the human race. How many evils and losses we suffer from this cause?"

Questions Asked at the Convention.

Which is best for beekeeping—well settled country where extensive crops of clover are grown or a new country where bees will depend mainly on wild flowers? Answer by Mr. Jones. New country is generally excellent for early spring pollen from soft maple. Dwarf maple and wild raspberry are also good honey producers. Several opinions in favor of Alsike clover and cultivation of honey producing plants rather prevailed in the direction of the advisability of making the older country preferable to the new.

2. Do bees, gathering honey from honey and other flowers, impoverish the soil? Answer: The prevailing belief was, that the presence of bees is always a benefit in various ways, and no injury is any way.

3. Which is the preferable method of procuring surplus comb-honey—top exclusively, or side-storing as well? Mr. Cornell replied: Above the brood. Several members advocated both over, and side and exchange of sections, so as to bring the unfinished to the position of those first ready to take off. Some favored side-storing near to brood, but with separators having narrow spaces.

4. What is the best method of uniting nuclei with colonies having a queen say, 100 feet apart? Mr. Jones would take away the combs and shake the bees well up. Imprisoning also was propounded by some as the means of leading them to forget locality, and along with their being combless, shaking down in front of the hive, they might entertain the idea that they had just swarmed to new localities and act accordingly. (Other interesting questions are held over for later insertion.) S.

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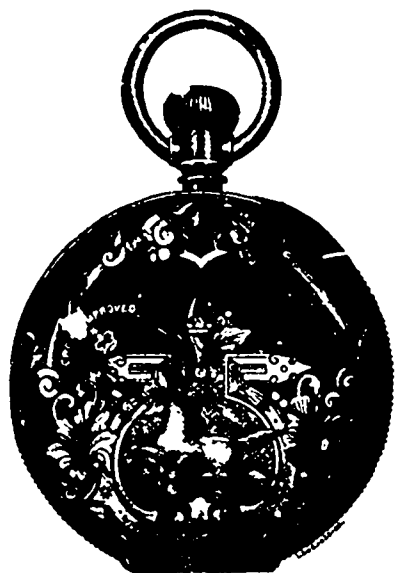
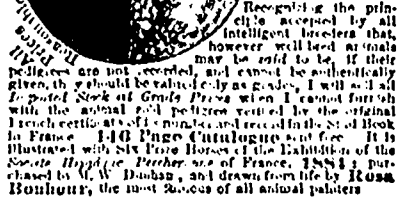
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