

## WINTER TREATMENT.

The practice of feeding sugar syrup to bees in the spring to stimulate brood-rearing is not done nearly so much as formerly, but preference is given to the system of leaving in the autumn enough bulk stores to last the colony right through to the honey-flow. The reason of spring stimulative feeding was to make the colony rear early a large force of young bees to gather the harvest, but just when the flow was to be expected was a difficult matter of determination. Consequently when this was done too early more harm than good resulted from overstimulation: more eggs were laid than the bees could look after and keep warm, while robbing was encouraged. One of the main drawbacks is that swarming may be brought on prematurely. The system of leaving enough stores in the autumn to last right through, or of feeding in the spring, depends somewhat on the beekeeper and his locality. Many can doubtless practise spring feeding to advantage, especially



SOME OF THE HIVES BEING USED IN THE FOUL-BROOD EXPERIMENTS.

when dividing is intended for increase; but as a rule the best plan is to leave about 25 lb. of sealed stores to last the bees until they can gather more supplies for themselves. This method is especially recommended to beginners.

## FOUL-BROOD EXPERIMENT.

The four Apiary Instructors are at present experimenting with foundation manufactured from foul-broody combs, with the object of discovering if it is possible to transmit "bacillus larvæ" by means of comb foundation, and so set at rest numerous doubts on this point. The experiment is an important one, and may affect the apiarist who models his own wax to suit his requirements. The system of using steam in comb-foundation making is not adopted to any extent in this country, and on this account the experiments in question will be doubly valuable. They will prove whether foundation manufactured from foul-broody combs with the least possible amount of heat will transmit the disease to healthy colonies. The results of the experiments will be published in due course.