

## APIARY WORK FOR APRIL.

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WITH summer on the wane and the approach of autumn bees will develop that restlessness peculiar to them. This is due, no doubt, to the lessening amount of nectar available. At this period every enthusiastic beekeeper watches carefully his stocks until Father Winter lulls these with compelling force into torpor. How different is this rest and quietude to the commotion of a few short weeks before, when millions of wings sang music and the golden harvest of honey was being transferred to the combs! The proverbial busy little bee unwillingly relinquishes work. Those which laboured so laboriously in the summer sunshine gathering what was necessary to rear the future generation did, in a few short weeks, win death as a reward, and when their wings were so worn as to make it difficult to fly they sought oblivion and crawled from their hive-entrance to die. Those remaining evidently knew the necessity to keep quiet and not exhaust themselves by fruitless labour, for they live through the cold winter months and still retain sufficient vitality to give the colony a fresh start when the flowers bloom in the spring.

So live the bees; and their pleasure is centred in industry. If a queen fails in her mission the workers plan to supersede her, and she is suffocated as soon as her rival emerges from the royal cell. They plan to increase and spread themselves over the country to gather its wealth of nectar and prevent this going to waste. Thus it is that several swarms often issue from one hive and seek fresh fields for their labours. The study of bee-culture is a charming one, and appeals strongly to those who pursue it. Every beekeeper should read "The Life of the Bee," by Maeterlinck, to fully appreciate the sagacity of these wonderful little beings.

### THE FEEDING QUESTION.

Colonies of bees under proper control frequently require attention in various ways, and at this period a few descriptive notes on different feeders may be helpful to those who have not seriously considered this question before. I will endeavour to explain as clearly as possible the advantages claimed for each respective feeder. The beekeeper can then decide which he should use. It is seldom necessary for those keeping only a few colonies to resort to their use, but the practical apiarist frequently finds it helpful to do something of this