

the spare one, scrape the old board and replace the hive. Remove all top boxes, as advised last month, and make the bees snug and warm for brood-rearing. Remove all weeds and long grass from round the hive. Long grass keeps the hives and bottom-boards damp and acts as a harbour for insects.

CLEANSING HIVES AND FRAMES.

Do not fail to cleanse all hives and frames that have been in contact with diseased colonies. This work may be undertaken now and the hives and frames prepared for future use. Where there is only a small number of frames to be cleansed it is hardly worth while to attempt to save them. However, if much material has to be treated the saving effected will more than pay the beekeeper for his time and labour. There are several methods for treating hives and material, but perhaps the simplest and most effective is by the use of boiling water and caustic soda. Many beekeepers recommend the use of a painters' blow-lamp, but this tool is not always handy, and, besides the charring of the hives, is an advertisement for all time that they once contained diseased bees.

The most suitable vessel for cleaning frames is an ordinary washing-boiler. To every 8 gallons of water add 1 lb. of caustic soda, and allow to boil. The frames may be tied in bundles of six and immersed in the liquid. The caustic soda attacks the propolis and wax, and this immediately floats on top of the water. Three to five minutes' immersion will serve to cleanse each bundle of frames. Skim the refuse from the top of the water frequently, and as the solution weakens add more soda. Stack the frames in supers and place in the sun to dry. The hive-bodies and bottom boards may be cleansed by means of a swab. Immerse the swab in the boiling water and carefully wash the inside of the hives. Care must be taken when using caustic soda, as it is liable to burn the hands.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE HIVES.

There is no set system of arranging hives, and they may be placed according to the preference of the beekeeper. The entrances should all face the north if possible, but on no account face them south or in a westerly direction if this can be avoided, as the cold driving winds from these quarters militate against successful brood-rearing. It is important that the hives be so placed that the beekeeper need not pass in front of the entrances when carrying on operations. Do not place the hives close together