

THE APIARY.

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FEEDING.

As advised previously, keep a strict watch on the food-supply. As the spring advances this matter becomes of paramount importance. On no account allow the stores to dwindle. The queen's laying-powers are to a large extent automatic: as she is fed so will she lay, and when food is abundant brood-rearing will be in proportion. Do not forget that artificial feeding is invariably stimulating, and once undertaken must be carried out regularly and systematically. It is poor policy to fill a hive with brood and then leave it to starve. Spring losses are usually due to lack of stores, and are therefore preventable on the part of the beekeeper. Feed sugar syrup only in the proportion of 2 parts of water to 1 of sugar, and place in the feeder while slightly warm.

WATER.

In the absence of a natural supply, water should be provided. Bees require a good deal of water for brood-rearing throughout the whole season, and it often happens that numbers of bees are lost if water is not close at hand. Moreover, bees often become a nuisance at cattle-troughs and by congregating round domestic supplies. Where a large number of colonies are kept it is imperative that the beekeeper should see that the bees are well supplied. Many contrivances are used for the purpose of supplying water. "Simplicity" feeders make excellent vessels for containing water, but they require to be filled frequently and occasionally cleansed. A good contrivance is to use a kerosene-tin as follows: Having thoroughly cleansed the tin, punch in the bottom a hole about the size of a sixpence; through this hole pass a piece of clean rag so that the water will fall a drop at a time. Under the tin a container may be placed to catch the water, and this, if filled with sand, will afford an excellent watering-place for the bees. The supply can be regulated according to the requirements of the apiary. Bees prefer to take water from damp situations, and they may often be noticed in numbers sucking water from the ground where there has been any overflow. Feeders should be placed in a sheltered spot in the apiary.

FOUL-BROOD.

At all times when examining the combs keep a strict watch for symptoms of disease. Beekeepers should never lose an opportunity of acquainting themselves with foul-brood in all its stages. This season if isolated capped cells are discovered in frames which contain