

Until the disease is thoroughly stamped out all the droppings should be carefully gathered up and burned, or deeply buried with lime. Where possible, the quarters where infected birds are found should be given a rest, and the runs turned up, heavily limed, and sown down. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that prevention is the only way of combating this disease. It is therefore imperative that the environment should be as sanitary as possible, and the birds strengthened and invigorated by good feeding and sensible management generally.

THE APIARY.

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By the time these notes are published extracting will be over in most districts. All utensils used in the work should be thoroughly cleaned and dried. Parts liable to rust may be given a light coating of oil or vaseline, and then covered over to be kept free of dust.

WINTER STORES.

The question of leaving sufficient stores for the winter and early spring months will now occupy the attention of the apiarist. In examining hives in the autumn care must be taken to prevent the starting of robbing. It is therefore necessary to carry out the manipulation of the hives as expeditiously as possible. In estimating the amount required to successfully winter the bees locality may be taken into consideration. In districts where there is an abundance of early spring flora, such as willow, &c., less stores are required. It is generally recognized that it takes from 30 lb. to 40 lb. of honey to carry a colony through in good condition until the following spring. A Langstroth frame of honey will usually average about 8 lb. in weight. Five full frames or the equivalent in partly filled frames should therefore be sufficient.

The high prices being obtained for honey will probably tempt beekeepers to extract very closely. In such cases autumn feeding will have to be resorted to. Where such feeding is necessary only thick sugar syrup or candy should be given. The syrup should be made up of two or three parts of best cane-sugar to one part of water. This may be made up in quantities if it is brought to the boil. Candy is perhaps safer to feed than syrup when the honey-flow is over, as it is less liable to set up the excitement of robbing. Where gable roofs are used a slab of candy may be placed over the mat, making a small hole in the mat to allow the bees to gain access to it. Always feed inside the hive, and towards evening, so as to discourage robbing.

PREVENTION OF ROBBING.

It is much easier to prevent robbing than to check it when once started. Every care should therefore be taken to leave no pieces of honey about, nor to spill any syrup in the apiary, as nothing will set