

J. E. POND, JR., FOXBORO, MASS.—I am not aware that they do, and know of no reason why they should. If a frame is deep enough to hold the cluster, and large enough to contain sufficient stores for sustenance, nothing more is required. A large colony will bunch up in cold weather to a cluster of six inches or less in diameter, and the nearer the bottom of the hive (bearing in mind that heat ascends) the cluster is located, the more easily and economically can the heat necessary to maintain such colony be kept up and supported. I give these views as my own simply, and as the result of 20 years' experience with temperature as low at times as 20 ° F. below zero.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

C. E. WATTS.—I received the back numbers in due time, and find them very interesting reading. I think the JOURNAL is just what is needed by the bee-keepers of the north. Shall take it as long as I keep bees.

Rumney, N.H. Feb. 8, 1886

GOOD WORDS ABOUT OURSELVES.

H. BROWN.—The back numbers of the C. B. J. came to hand some three days ago, and I could not stop till I got through them, and now I must say I have derived more sound information from their perusal, than from my past three years reading of other journals; it hits the nail on the head, well printed, on good paper, and a marvel of cheapness, it should be in the hands of every bee-keeper in the land, and I congratulate you on your success.

Frontier, Que., Feb. 5th, 1886.

C. THEILMAN.—We have the largest amount of snow here now since 1857, and it is badly drifted, so that the travel in the country is almost impossible, the coldest weather we have had so far was 33 ° below zero. My 160 colonies of bees are very quiet (or hibernating as Mr. Clarke calls it) in the two underground bee-houses, where the temperature keeps steadily at about 42 ° above, they all look nice and clean with but few dead bees for this time of the year.

Theilmanton, Minn., Jan. 29, 1886.

In renewing his subscription for the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL a friend says: "I tried to introduce it into the reading room of the Mechanic's Institute here, of which I am a member, but the President said he had been keeping bees ever since he was a boy, and every pound of honey he ever got from them cost him at least a dollar a pound, so it was considered that a

journal treating on such an unprofitable business might as well be kept out of the reading room." What do you think of that friend? We don't mention any names, so that no one may know where the President lives that has such ideas of bee culture. Possibly his method of keeping his bees was as crude as are his ideas on the subject.

A NEW WAY OF INTRODUCING QUEENS.

Those who use bee-feeders arranged to fit on top of hive like the "Canadian," may try the method of introducing queens through bee-feeder by simply placing honey or sugar syrup in it and putting it on top of the hive to which the queen is to be introduced, and as soon as the bees commence working in it, the lid of feeder may be slipped to one side sufficient to allow the queen to run in at the corner; then slide the cover back and the job is done. This system of introducing will likely become popular with many. If it is not thoroughly understood from the above we will further explain it.

DEXTRINE, WHAT IT IS.

A gentleman of our acquaintance, having been advised to use dextrine to make mucilage, instead of gum, called on us to inquire about the material. Starch will not dissolve in cold water, but if it be heated at a little over four hundred degrees for half an hour, it becomes slightly colored, and will then dissolve in cold water; the chemical composition of the starch is not changed, but in its relations to cold water and in some other respects it is unlike starch; it is then called dextrine. When starch is moistened with very weak nitric acid, and dried, it is also converted into dextrine. "British gum," and "gum substitute," are other names by which dextrine is known in the arts and in commerce. Dissolved in water it makes an excellent mucilage. It is this which is used upon the backs of postage stamps. It is kept at the drug stores, and by dealers in photograph materials. It is used largely in calico printing, and various other arts. While it will dissolve in cold water, in making mucilage it is better to use hot water, as there is usually some unchanged starch, which heat will dissolve, and make a clear mucilage.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

KIND WORDS SHALL NEVER DIE.

M. SORRICK.—The CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL makes its weekly welcome visits. We have had four nice days, so that bees outdoors could fly nicely. I looked at mine on the 8th and found them in nice shape, dry and clean, and the present weather gave them a chance to have a cleaning fly.

Des Moines, Feb. 9, 1886.