

means tell us more about bees and beekeeping in Cuba.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### CELLAR WINTERING.

**Y**OU invite correspondence, and if my experience can be of use to your readers, I am willing to take time enough to record the items, for I have no motive in life but to be useful to my fellowmen. Your JOURNAL, I suppose, circulates mostly where winters are severe, and as I have had much experience in cellar wintering I will make a few remarks upon that subject. I have been conducting a series of experiments on cellar wintering for more than fifteen years, and at the same time have made careful observations relative to the effects of the efforts of others, and I believe I have perfectly mastered the science of cellar wintering. This looks boastful I know, but I feel so sure of it that I would like to insure the safe wintering of all the bees in northern U. S. A. and Canada—for ten cents a colony if the owner will treat them according to directions, and it shall not be expensive either. I have not lost two per cent. in one winter for ten years, and I have wintered from one hundred to two hundred each winter. I remove no pollen and leave their natural stores. I put them in early before the ground freezes any, and take them out when there is plenty of natural stores and not before. My greatest trouble for many years has been that they would breed too much in the cellar before I took them out: last year my hives (18½ by 14½ by 9½ inches inside measure) were more than full of bees when I took them out. After smoking in all that could get in, some of them would have a peck of bees on the outside of hive. I tried keeping them cool with ice for many years. I have a sixteen foot box, a foot square, running sixteen feet into the cellar from a window through which I have admitted air. This I would fill with ice when ever the thermometer rose above 50°. And sometimes I have elevated other boxes of ice in the cellar, but never until this year have I succeeded in keeping them quiet and without premature brood. But my bees, 120, are as quiet now as they were in December. They have bred some since, but by watering I have kept them quiet, and I do not think there are any more bees in the cellar than we carried in last fall. That is what I have aimed at. I have accomplished this by keeping the temperature even, 48° all winter, 50° now, and keeping the air pure without much circulation. All the air admitted during cold weather came from my kitchen, a slight even ingress, but I have two four inch

pipes connecting a constantly heated chimney with the cellar. This has kept the air perfectly sweet, with no perceptible circulation, and the bees have remained hybernated much longer. Nearly all my hives are now, April 15, as clean as this paper. I expect they will not spot any thing very much when we take them out, if that time comes in any reasonable season. It looks dubious at this date. Snow fell one foot on the 14th and there has been "but one or two days that bees could have flown with safety, and most beekeepers about here have set their bees out. Those who wintered out doors have lost nearly all, and many cellars are in bad condition. Yet all who have taken instructions and prepared cellars properly have their bees in fair condition.

H. V. TRAIN,

Maniston, Wis., April 15, 1885.

Many thanks for your interesting article. You are indeed doing good missionary work in your locality, and by giving us the facts through the columns of the JOURNAL you will assist all beekeepers. The degree of temperature you approve of agrees with our experience; we do not care to have our bees either colder or warmer than 45° until late in the season, and just before being set out, when we do not mind the temperature being a little higher. Ice or snow placed at the top of the room in bags or boxes is of much assistance in keeping a uniform temperature.

## QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

### HEIGHT OF HIVES FROM GROUND.

QUERY, No. 11.—COLLINGWOOD, ONT.,—How high 'above the ground do you prefer to have your hives?

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—From three to six inches.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—For high dry land four inches is high enough.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—From three to four inches.