

Mr. Armstrong. My entrance is about five by three-eighths inches.

Mr. Gemmell. Some three or four years ago, when I went to California, I had no time to loosen the covers, I simply lifted the hive into the outside packing case. My intention was to go around and loosen the covers. With some I did it and with others I didn't do it at all, and I must say I could see no difference in the hives as far as that was concerned. Those with the solid covers were no worse than those that had the covers pried loose. The entrance would be four or five inches, some of them a little more. This winter two-thirds of my bees have no quilts on them at all, just the ordinary wooden cover. Whether I shall loosen some of them or leave all that way, I haven't made up my mind.

Mr. Atkinson. How much packing do you use on the top?

Mr. Gemmell. A good foot, that is on top of the hive proper. I press it down pretty well with my hands.

Mr. Atkinson. You think they winter better with a foot than five or six inches?

Mr. Gemmell. I think so.

Which Bees are the Most Subject to Spring Dwindling, the Bees Wintered in the Cellar or Those Wintered out Doors?

Mr. Emigh. I don't winter outdoors, so I don't know anything about how much they dwindle when they are wintered outside, but if they are wintered properly in the cellar, and taken out at the proper time, I have never had great trouble in spring dwindling. I don't think any person can winter outdoors with very much less spring dwindling than I have had by wintering inside.

Mr. Pickett. I have wintered two seasons out of doors, but it is practically indoor wintering. I have been packing them with sawdust. For my own part I would hold up my hand for indoor wintering. As for dwindling, I see but little difference if necessary care is taken.

Mr. Atkinson. How soon do you take them out?

Mr. Pickett. As soon as we feel confident we are going to have warm weather. If I get them all out in April I do very well.

Mr. Smith. I think in the future we will put more out in March. The last two seasons I have put them out on the 8th of March. As far as I can see I think I shall winter more in the cellar. We have a good deep cellar, with high temperature. Some say 45°, but I would say from 45° to

50°, because I notice those on the top always come out in the best condition. I always raise them about 18 inches from the floor, and the cellar is perfectly dry.

Mr. Pickett. My experience has been much the same as his. The top rows always winter best.

Mr. Sibbald. I recommended putting them out in March in my paper. If they are contracted, if they fill the hive, it don't matter whether they are put out in March or not; if they occupy ten frames, half of it empty space where cold and frost can get in, they will spring dwindle.

Mr. Holtermann. There is such a diversity of opinion through the country as to spring dwindling. In five cases out of a hundred there is spring dwindling as a result of the season. Where you have these catchy springs; the sun comes out warm, and the bees get out, and then cold weather comes and spring dwindling is the result. But generally it is the result of poor wintering. If you have a good cellar, that you can keep an even temperature, and I must confess I don't like one between 45 and 50, I would sooner have it between 42 and 50, but if you can do that I believe you won't have much trouble with dwindling, but if you are wintering so that the bees are getting restless put your bees out early, because the longer you leave them there the more restless they will become. I wintered my bees last year, a good many of them, according to the Alpaugh plan. I like it, and I believe you can get every condition inside or out, and you want to select what is best for yourself. Unless you have a good cellar, and any temperature you like, I would say winter outside, and you will have less danger of spring dwindling.

A Hive Cover.

"The hive could be made much lighter than we make it by having a cap or cover fitting over it dove-tailed or simplicity fashion instead of telescoping cap, but we have tried both and no one can run fast enough to catch up with us to make us a gift of such a hive for our use. We want the overlapping cover for several reasons."
—C. T. DADANT, in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*.

[This from so prominent and well-known a bee-keeper should have weight. The Holtermann cover has the overlapping feature.]