

fer dry pine sawdust to chaff for filling in double hives.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Single walled hives, as they are capable of so much easier handling during Summer or Winter seasons, they can either be stowed away in special repositories, being of convenient size for lifting, or, cased in such a way if left out of doors, as to be practically as suitable for wintering safely as any chaff hive I have yet seen.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—Much depends upon the plan of wintering. If you have only a few colonies and desire to winter outdoors, chaff hives are preferable; but if your apiary is large and you are well provided with a good indoor repository, then I would prefer single-walled hives as they do not take up so much room, are more easily handled, and cost much less. I would also advise using the half-stories, filled with sawdust in spring and fall, to retain the heat, and in summer exclude it.

BY THE EDITOR.—Double-walled hives are most excellent in Spring and Fall; they keep the bees warm in the Spring, so that brood rearing can go on more rapidly, and they retain the heat in Fall so that the winter stores may be much better ripened, other things being equal; yet we use more single than double-walled hives, because they are more convenient to handle and less expensive. The new double-walled hive made of cedar is as light as a single-walled hive. Both styles have their advantages.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

SPRING DWINDLING.

G. H. SHEERES, CLARKSBURG, ONT. — How many bees with a laying queen and brood will build up to a swarm. A good many of my hives have got reduced down to three and four racks not many bees but having queen and a little brood in all stages. Will it be best to double them up or let them build up themselves?

We have never found doubling up to do bees that were Springdwindling badly very much good. Packing them around closely to keep them warm, so that they may carry on brooding even though they are weak, we have found to be the better way.

I see a good many bees crawling around on the ground in front of some of my hives. They seem to be swollen and cannot fly. What is the cause of it?

Their crawling out with swollen bodies is a pretty sure indication that they have not been very well wintered, and have lost most of their vitality which is doubtless one of the main causes of Spring dwindling. The old and worn out bees usually leave the hive and crawl about on the ground to die.

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT BEE HOUSES.

W. L. SOULES, HIGHGATE, ONT.—In building bee house for wintering bees in, how thick should walls of sawdust be, and about what depth of sawdust overhead, where bee house is to be built on top of ground "no elevation at all." Will common iron, gas or tube pipe, answer for underground ventilation and about what length of this would be needed underground. Will same size as gas or tube pipe do for ventilation through top of bee house.

From 20 inches to 2 feet. About 18 inches overhead. To have gas or tube pipe large enough would be too expensive; tile is better and costs less. From 100 to 200 feet, we prefer the latter. Would prefer wooden boxes with about one cubic inch to each colony of bees, or in other words for 150 colonies slightly over 12 inches square inside measure.

CLAMP WINTERING.

A. R. FIERHELLER, MOUNT ELGIN, ONT.—My loss in bees has been very great. The object I have in sending this paper to you, is to try and find the cause of failure. I have been guided by your mode of clamping as I understood it from your Price List. I will tell you just how I did, that you may give an intelligent answer, (if you will be kind enough to give an answer.) Have had a little to do with bees for three years. Last Fall they were in good condition, as I thought; most of them had natural stores, some were fed on sugar syrup—ten lbs. of sugar to half a gallon of water. As soon as cool weather came on I put chaff cushions on hives, left combs as they were in Summer, one and a half inches apart, put pieces of board on top of frames, that the bees might pass from one comb to another, and a clean quilt under cushion, made a clamp wide enough to set two rows back