

In this district, the winter has proved fairly favorable for the bees. In fact some fifteen colonies for which we had neither wintering cases nor cellar room have come through in first rate condition. We were hoping for a much more severe season in order to test how far we could winter the colonies without any other protection than that afforded by a three-frame space packed well with planer shavings on each side of the brood nest and a closed up ante-chamber in front of the ordinary entrance. We kept the supers on the hives and over the brood chamber placed several quilts together with a good thick cushion of planer shavings. We intend to repeat the experiment, but next time placing the hives in groups of four with the six frames upon which we usually winter, placed in each case close against the side adjacent to the neighboring hive.

W. W.

THE SWARMING INSTINCT

Can It be Eliminated by Selection.

In the last issue of the C.B.J. the assistant Editor refers to the possibility, or rather, from his point of view, the impossibility, of producing a non-swarming race of bees. He remarks that the analogy of the non-sitting hen is false. This may be so, but I hardly think he has made his point. He states that the productiveness of the Leghorn hen has actually been increased. Quite so, by the aid of the skilled poultry man and incubator. But what is the matter with the skilled apiarist and increase by nuclei? If an appeal to nature is to hold good, it must be made under natural conditions, and I maintain that in a question of a survival of the absolutely non-sitting hen and the absolutely non-swarming colony, the latter would have the best of it. In the first case, the life of the race would be simply the natural

life of the hen. In the second, there is no reason why the life of the colony should not continue indefinitely. If there were no other colonies in the neighborhood, it would eventually die out through in-breeding. Otherwise it would take some such accident as the loss of its queen, at a time when there was no brood, or the destruction of its home by fire. Of course, in the long run, both hens and bees would become extinct, but that is hardly the point. Man has succeeded in the case of certain breeds of hens in practically breeding out an instinct that is necessary to the continuance of the race under natural conditions. Why is it impossible for him to breed out a similar instinct in bees? It is generally admitted that where variability exists there is opportunity for improvement. There is certainly variability in the matter of swarming. Whether the production of a non-swarming race is desirable is another question. Instincts do not stand alone and the honey-gathering instinct might be impaired at the same time. Evidence on this point, however, indicates that the contrary would occur, as most bee-keepers agree that colonies that make fewest attempts to swarm are the best workers. I think it is a pity to throw cold water on the attempts to produce a non-swarming strain. Even if the desire to swarm is only slightly diminished, it is all to the good.

WM. L. COPER.

Hatzic, B.C.

We are strong advocates of proper methods of selection in breeding bees, and it is far from our intention to "throw cold water on attempts to produce a non-swarming race." In fact, we regard the matter of selection as one of the "major things" of bee-keeping. We shall be glad to hear from others of our readers, especially from any that may have been experimenting along these lines.—W.W.

WOM

We hear a great deal of the boys on the farm and the boys a chance. Th how often do we hear girls on the farm and a chance? Yet year are leaving the farm they desire a chance economic independence. life is to be made att esting, it is just as n girls be kept on the f Of the girls who go f we can make no compl must be taught, and a sponsibility nor the em ing the rising generat appeal to the young m have to fill the need. all the girls who leave school teachers; many fices and shops and fa not go in the hope of 1 tunes, or becoming the l ness concerns, or if the their ambitions; the be forward to is a comfor with the possibility of which their work by ne fit them. Yet for man it is imperative that the perhaps the family fin stretched sufficiently fa or it may be that a b ried and they have been possibly it is a wholesom by their own exertions; —Heaven prosper their e quenchless ambition to s in the service of humani of our educational system been to educate the girls country. It does not di