

thought that statements were so guarded that no journal could reasonably construe them as personalities. As to "making mistakes," certainly we do, in fact sometimes think that when we don't we are an exception.

However, in the particular instance referred to, think I am entitled to some commiseration, as in a previous issue of the Canadian Bee Journal I gave proper credit to author and publisher of article in question. While in my second reference to the subject I am made to say "A.B.J.": it surely is a typographical error as all readers of C. B. J. would see in the copied article that you, Mr. Editor, gave credit to proper journal.

The funny part of the mix-up is that Editor Hill accuses me of crediting the article to "A. B. K." Surely there are "mistakes" all round.

We keep a "light burning in our room," not from choice, but for the accommodation of a young chap who has lately taken up lodgings with us, and who has not as yet learned the impropriety of doing most of his "talking" after 10 p.m.

Hardscrabble will please take the hint and delay his visit till a more opportune time, if he wishes to catch me unawares and give me a "raise" worth the trouble of travelling through space from Florida to Canada. York County, Ont.

WINTERING QUEENS IN SWARTHMORE MATING BOXES, WITH LITTLE OVER HALF A PINT OF BEES TO EACH BOX.

For years the northern queen breeders have been hunting for a plan to winter over extra queens in an economical way, in order that they might enter the market and compete with the southern breeders in the early-queen trade. It is in spring that demand for queens is heavy, and owing to the northerners' inability to furnish queens before the month of June, prices naturally range quite high, and many a

queenless colony has suffered because of the inadequate supply of queens in early spring.

If the honey-producer could winter a number of extra queens to supply winter losses at just the right time, many a good colony might be saved, which would mean at the close of the season so much more honey for market.

I have successfully wintered queens in Swarthmore mating boxes, with less than a pint of bees to each queen, and have, I believe, solved the problem of early queen traffic for the northern breeder.

It is surprising how well these little clusters of bees withstand the cold and blow of our severe northern latitude—the rate of death seems much less in proportion to the strong standard colony—but being in compact cluster directly on full combs of select honey, I suppose they have every chance. Where the full colony may become separated, these little clusters are closely confined in a given space.

I have not found it necessary to even cellar them. I, of course, provide shelter from the wind and storm, either by placing the boxes inside a standard hive body with a tight roof (four to a hive) and a flight hole on each side, or inside a shed or small house, with flight holes bored through the boarding.

In making up these wintering boxes I take up two or three cupfuls of young bees, as explained in my book, "Baby Nuclei," and just before winter actually arrives I give each box two fat combs of good honey; do this on a warm day to give the bees chance to settle as they like upon the combs. Do not disturb them again until spring, when they should be examined and supplied with more honey if needed, by changing the comb containing the least brood for one of honey.

To prevent any possibility of the queens wandering away from the cluster, place a piece of queen-excluding metal over the flight hole on the inside. A three-quarter-inch flight hole is none too large for wintering queens in Swarthmore mating boxes.

F. L. PRATT.
Swarthmore, Pa., March 15, 1905.