

stanced a case of two little girls 14 and 16 years of age who took care of his bees during the last season and whom he paid in bees and honey. These little girls have now a bank account of \$75 or \$80.

R. McKnight—said that in no occupation could women compete with men as well as in bee-keeping.

Mrs. Geo. Sturgeon had found great health in the occupation though she had always received assistance with the heavier part of the work.

R. F. Holterman—said that his wife and his mother were both bee-keepers. That his mother had kept bees on her own account for years and had been able to make it pay.

C. P. Dadant—His sister had an apiary which she managed entirely with a little occasional assistance for the heavier work.

Following the above discussion came a paper from Mr. R. McKnight, of Owen Sound, subject being:—

Cellar vs. Out-door Wintering.

I have been assigned the duty of saying a few words on the subject of wintering, with the view, I suppose, of opening up a discussion on this important matter.

Safe wintering is of prime importance to success in bee keeping in high latitudes, hence the best method of accomplishing this cannot secure too much attention, for upon it depends in a large measure the result of the season's work.

I am not expected to treat the subject exhaustively. This is clear from the fact that I am limited to eight minutes in discussing it.

Successful wintering either indoors or out, depends not so much on where bees spend their season of quietude and repose, as how they are treated during the time of their activity.

Preparation for wintering should begin when the first notes of our sylvan songsters fall upon the ear, as they return from their temporary stay in the sunny south.

"When through the neighboring fields the sower
Stalks with measured tread; and liberal throws
the grain.

Into the faithful bosom of the ground."

It should continue while the floral world fills the air with its balmy odors, and nectar is being distilled in plenty. It should go on

"While the mower sinking heaps o'er him the
humid hay with flowers perfumed."

And only cease when on the last mellow autumn day,

"The insects swarm from their dark nooks,
To sport through one day of existence more."

It is only then the bee keepers work of preparation should cease, and that of gathering in in one group his pets," be entered upon, that in peace and safety they may pass the time when "The sky saddens with the gathering clouds, And through the hushed air the whitening storm deepens.

If only proper treatment be accorded bees throughout the successive stages of their active life, it is not a matter of vital importance whether they spend their season of repose in the cellar or out of doors provided they are properly protected.

Preparation is not my theme however. My text has been furnished me and I must stick to it. Cellar vs. Outdoor Wintering, that's the question." As it stands I suppose I am expected to put in a strong plea for the cellar. But I am somewhat at a loss to know just what cellar means in my text. Usually it is an elastic term, that may mean anything from a damp and dismal hole in the ground to a well built, well ventilated and well appointed apartment. If I am to interpret cellar to mean the underground room of a dwelling house well built and suitably ventilated, it will be a safe enough place in which to winter bees. However safe it may be, if this be the cellar of my text I must at once declare myself in favor of the outdoor system, for I am entirely opposed to the use of the house cellar as a winter storing place for bees to any great extent. I am opposed to it not on the bees account, but upon sanitary principles when a cellar is so used it cannot be other than disagreeable to those who live over it. The exhalations thrown off by the bees—floating up as it will and diffusing itself through the atmosphere of the rooms above—must be the reverse of agreeable to people who inhale it. It may be worse than disagreeable. It may be positively injurious to health. I incline to the belief that it is so. If there is such a disease as "bee asthma," and if it is contracted by inhaling the odours arising from an opened hive in the open air, how much more likely is it to manifest itself when its inhalation continues for months at a time? For these reasons I cannot advocate cellar wintering in the literal sense of the phrase.

An underground or partially underground structure is however, in my judgment, the best wintering place—best because most convenient and most economic; both of which are important considerations. Speaking as I do from years of experience in various plans of wintering carried on simultaneously I know whereof I affirm. During these years I have had two bee yards—some years three. At home I winter in a bee-