

capped, was thin and sour. In such palpable cases as this the bee-keeper has only himself to blame. Sometimes, however, the bees will die of dysentery having the best of food, but not probably in a cellar where the temperature is about right. I am satisfied that too low a temperature is a prime factor in producing the disease. The past winter, of the thirty colonies I had wintering outside about half were packed in chaff and sawdust and the balance stood on their summer stands. Of these latter all were in the Jones' double-walled sawdust hive except three or four which were in single-walled hives. All had number one stores of good capped honey. As I had previously repeatedly wintered successfully in single-walled hives without any special protection except the snow which I kept well shovelled up around and over them during the cold snaps, I expected to bring them through the past winter as usual. But this time I reckoned without mine host—old Boreas. The other day, upon gently "calling the roll" outside, there came no response from the single-walled hives, except one which had been somewhat sheltered and buried in a snow drift. The other three were still—an ominous stillness—the stillness of death! An examination revealed that two had died of bee-diarrhoea and one had starved with plenty of good food left. The excessive cold caused both the diarrhoea and the starving. But the bees in the double-walled hives are all right, having successfully weathered the intense and prolonged cold and the storm. Their food was no better—their condition in the fall was no better in any respect, except that they were in the double-walled, sawdust hives. For outside wintering, this is the hive I would strongly recommend after trying various kinds. It is also a better hive for spring and fall and even for summer as it preserves an equable temperature. As to the condition of the 60 colonies in the cellar they are (to a use platitude) "as well as could be expected under the circumstances." At this writing, April 6th, they are all quiet, as they ought to be, except four or five, two of which have the dysentery and are very anxious to get out on wing, which anxiety I will not fail to relieve the first suitable day. They have now been in the cellar about one hundred and thirty five days. I find on referring to the record that last spring I set the first of my bees out on March 23rd and the last April 15th. The first pollen appeared April 19th. From present appearances it will be May before they are all on their summer stands for good this year. I find as I grow older I am getting more conservative about getting bees out early in the spring. This spring, as an experiment in part, I intend to leave a few colonies

in about as long as their patience will hold out, and then compare the results with those of similar colonies set out earlier. As a rule, the colonies with little or no pollen, ought to be set out earlier than those with plenty, and this matter as to quantity of pollen ought to be noted in the fall when preparing for winter and a record made of it. It must be remembered, however, that good colonies in the cellar having plenty of pollen and honey will be breeding freely late in the spring, and these may often be kept quiet by supplying them with water. Some colonies appear to get along very well without the water, while others make a great fuss till they get it. During the latter part of winter and in spring bees in cellars ought to be looked to every once in a while, and where uneasiness is noted without any signs of disease, water ought to be supplied which often proves a panacea for the restlessness. A little piece of sponge which will hold a tablespoonful or two of water may be placed under the quilt on top of the frames.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ontario.

You're right, Friend Pringle, about too low a temperature being one of the principal causes of losses in wintering. We usually find that the coldest winters on record have been the ones in which the greatest losses have occurred. Many who protected their bees this season in cellars and otherwise did not anticipate such extreme and continued cold, and although protected sufficiently to bring them through an *ordinary* winter in safety, the cold of the past one has proved too much for them and many have lost half and some *all* the colonies they had. A Mr. Smith, of Grimsby, Ont., has just paid us a visit and he informed us that all his bees wintered splendidly in the double-walled sawdust hives, with the exception of two, one of which was queenless and in the other the combs were broken down in the centre, dividing the brood chamber into two parts. Probably we can induce Mr. Smith to tell us all about it. Though the season is very late and many may be anxious to set out their bees early, it is a mistake to try and get them out until the weather is suitable; it is better to lose a few in the cellar from not having been set out