

A good many questions are being asked as to how late one can feed in the fall. Ordinarily we would say the sooner the syrup can be given the better. As to how late one can do so will depend upon conditions. We have sometimes fed, in our locality clear up to the middle of November. However, at that time the bees have but very little opportunity to manipulate the syrup, much less cap it over. The purpose of early feeding is to give them a chance to "invert" it to some extent, and at the same time make a winter nest. This they do by emptying the cells in the combs at the point where the cluster is, so that the bees at both sides can get the advantage of body heat. When the syrup is fed late they can not make this winter nest before cold weather comes on, and consequently there will be a space one inch thick, or as thick as the comb, containing cold syrup between several clusters of bees.

Such a condition is not according to nature; and one can readily see that a bunch of bees, no matter how large, that is separated by slabs of solid honey or syrup can not keep as warm as where the combs are empty and the bees can crawl into the cells, thus establishing bodily contact heat between several divisions of the bees separated only by the midribs in the combs.—Gleanings in Bee Culture.

We take the following from Gleanings because it contains a statement that is entirely new to us, and differs so much from the opinion we have hereto held. A frank discussion of the matter can, therefore do no harm. If Mr. Root is right, we will be glad to find that we were in error. He refers to the bees making winter nests—these nests consisting of empty comb upon which they cluster. He says further that it is not according to nature for bees to cluster on cold slabs of honey, no matter how large the cluster. Does Mr. Root know this as a matter of fact, or is it only theory? If it is only theory, all we can say is that our theory is the very opposite. Before writing this we discussed the matter with some bee-keepers, and we have not found one whose opinion agrees with Mr. Root. Bees that have been wintered on full frames of capped honey have come out

in perfect condition in the spring. We know that abundance of food is one of the chief requisities for successful wintering. To our mind it does seem unreasonable to suppose that bees cannot cluster on combs full of honey. We have been laboring under the impression that this was the ideal condition. The cluster keeps the honey warm. Feed is at hand at all times. As fast as the honey is consumed the cluster moves upwards and follows the food. The idea that the bees crawl in the empty cells for the purpose of keeping up "bodily contact heat" does not appeal to us. How often do they back up and go and feed? How long do they remain in the empty cell? Would they not have some difficulty in backing up? We have frequently seen combs taken out of winter quarters with the bees buried head downwards in the cells, all dead. Is it possible they were seeking food that was not there? And not having found it, died of starvation? That was our "theory" at all events. Given a good swarm of bees and full combs of honey, you have clusters of bees between four or five combs of honey or syrup as the case may be. You then have warm slabs of honey—in proper condition for food, and this "cluster heat" is retained throughout the winter. Your hive is then in the condition it ought to be. Bees clustering on empty combs and going off at intervals to feed on cold honey is an idea that is difficult for us to accept. Mr. Root may be right, and if we are wrong we will be glad to be put right. We would like to have the opinion of our readers upon this matter.

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Many thanks to Mr. Ross for his suggestion as to the usefulness of the ten-pound honey pail as a feeder. We have tried it with the utmost success. In taking the cover off the pails one is apt to spring or bend the edges slightly. The edges of the cover require to be put back tightly, and care is to be taken to see that

none of the circle. They have a splenetic pail, turn it dish until a set it on a hive, and get frames with under it. They to get under how quickly while it is yet may have the Mr. Ross often will greatly ap

Gleanings in readers not to in the brood One of its co take his chanc take such cha such experime ings, however, ple duty to its it for counsel of opinion amon dew will ruin in the spring, northerly clima

As an evide sold with a litt John Symington some bees in co sold our combin in all about ei Brantford mark tion to the cost pail in which it a hustler. We ve ket for honey in to the extent of

Later advices ing in Toronto, 11th and 12th, gi gathering. All of the best meeti