

bees on a few combs and compare the results with those wintered on many, will soon be satisfied in the matter. We would have as few combs as possible, and those containing plenty of sealed stores well spread. When combs are placed close together the bees are more liable to start brooding than when they are farther apart. We will give full instructions for wintering another time and trust that you may be successful in future; there is no reason why you should meet with much loss. We make our hive covers out of extra dry lumber, either kiln-dried or lumber that we have had drying several years; the joints are then so perfect that we have no trouble with the wet coming through, even though they are not painted. Your plan of putting on canvas would prevent any difficulty in your case as long as they are kept well painted. Suitable paper could be used instead of canvas, which would be cheaper. We have our winter entrances about half an inch high, and eight inches long. It makes little difference whether the hive is tipped forward or not, if properly arranged otherwise. It is well not to allow the entrances to become clogged, they should be kept clean, which may be done by using a bent wire. It is not necessary when wintering in cellar to pack the hives, that is, providing your cellar is sufficiently warm.

harvest. Now I would wish to call your attention to the simple fact, 40,125 lbs of honey stored in sixty days by 113 colonies of bees in what you would call a weak condition, is evidence that there is plenty of honey here in the winter. But when we stopped extracting, the last of January, the bell flower was pretty much gone, but the honey flow was not ended, and as we wished to make 400 colonies, which as you know would require a large amount of bees and honey we concluded to take no more honey, but proceeded at once with our increase, which we did, but had it not been for the large increase we wished to make, and make it early, thus avoiding the great mistake we made last year, that of not increasing until the honey flow was gone, it is our opinion that as much more honey could have been taken as we did take in January and December, which would have run our average up to something unheard of in the annals of modern bee-keeping. While in this connection it will not be out of place to state that at the commencement of the harvest we had a few colonies (Jones' Holy Land Queens mated with native drones,) one of which stored 620 lbs., when they became queenless and no more honey was taken from them. Can any man tell *why* a hybrid colony will store more honey than *any* strain of *pure* bees that ever flew, (*i. e.*) the first cross. It has not been my experience that it is advisable to carry the crossing beyond the first, but for business and amount of stings they "take the cake." While it may seem idle to assert suppositions, yet, after the last six months experience, I feel that the record of B. F. Carrol, of Texas, (*i. e.*, 1000 pounds from a single colony,) would not be hard to duplicate here in Cuba, for the last honey taken from the colony that stored 620 pounds was February 27, while there was all of March and this month so far that the flow has been good. In my next article I will tell your readers of one kind of honey that surpasses anything for flavor the world can produce.

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### BEES IN CUBA.

FROM the 113 colonies--part of whose work was reported on page 9 of your JOURNAL--in just 60 days we took 40,125 lbs., making an average of 355 pounds to the colony, with 10 lbs. to spare. As I have said in several articles in U. S. Bee Journals, this yield is due to the great amount of honey secreted by the bell flower, and that we take but little credit to ourselves, for it was our first year in Cuba, and our first attempt at getting bees in condition for a winter honey flow, which I assure you, we found to our cost, needed different management from what we had ever practised for a summer

A. W. OSBURN.

San Miguel, Cuba, W. I.

Cuba must certainly be a wonderful place for the secretion of honey. If the average years are equal to the last, no doubt it will not be long before many will avail themselves of the opportunity of keeping bees there. If you had had strong colonies to commence with, your report would likely have been even more favorable, though it is the largest average yield we recollect hearing of, from that number of colonies. By all