

Friend Hutchinson asked us to write an article on the above subject. We consented to do so, but owing to pressure of work have been unable to fulfil our promise. However, from the many valuable things we notice in reference to it, we think the matter is receiving ample justice.

#### Moving Bees Into the Cellar.

THE main points to be considered are when to do it and how to do it. Two or three years ago the question of when bees ought to be carried into the cellar was considerably discussed. The drift of the matter at that time was that we were leaving our bees out of doors too long, that the one or two flights that possibly might be secured by the delay were of no particular benefit. The bees had ceased to store honey or to breed, they seldom flew and consumed but little food, either honey or pollen; in fact they had settled down into a quiescent state and were ready for their winter's nap. No cleansing flights were needed. The intestines were not loaded, because almost no food was being handled or consumed, and nothing was voided in these late flights, if the bees did fly. It was argued that it was better to carry the bees in before they had even felt the touch of Winter's stern hand, and before the hives were dampened by frost or snow or ice. Instances were mentioned where bees were carried into the cellar unusually early, yet they wintered well. Some bee keepers said that, as time went by, each year found them putting their bees in the cellar at an earlier date. All this appears reasonable, and, for ought I know, is good doctrine, I have put bees in the cellar as early as November 10, and as late as December 15, and, so far as results were concerned, I could see little difference. It is my belief that after bees have ceased active labors (honey gathering and brood rearing) for a sufficient time to allow their systems to get rid of the waste matter resulting from such labors, and they have had one or two flights after cool fall weather has set in, that any slight accumulations may be voided, I say it is my belief that nothing is gained by leaving them upon the summer stands. That anything is gained by putting them in unusually early I doubt. I believe it has been argued that it disturbs them less to put them in early. That they have not yet reached so advanced a stage of "hibernation" as my friend Clarke calls it. Rousing a man just as he is on the point of falling to sleep is not so much of a shock as it is to awake

him from a sound sleep, is the idea, but I don't take much stock in it, unless we are to use it in comparing the bringing in of bees early in the fall with that of bringing them in at mid winter. In short, I think it unimportant when the bees are brought in, provided they have really settled down for winter's inactivity and they are not left out until freezing weather sets in.

When the time arrives for carrying in the bees how shall it be done? If there are only a few colonies and they are near the cellar they may be picked up and carried by "main strength," but if there are many to carry or the distance much, some other plan is needed. If there are two persons to do the work it simplifies matters, as the hives may be carried between them upon a hand barrow. The barrow used by my brother and myself is made of two pieces of fencing, each six feet long, the ends being shaved down to a convenient size for handles. The two pieces of boards are placed upon their edges, about fifteen inches apart, and then fastened together by two cross-pieces nailed in between them. As the bee cellar is in a side hill, four hives could be placed upon the barrow and carried directly into the cellar. When the cellar is under a building and must be entered by going down stairs this sort of a barrow would not answer very well unless there were stakes put in to keep the hives from sliding, and the frames were not of the swinging style. Mr. H. R. Boardman has a cart behind which he can walk and from the front of which project arms that may be thrust straddle of a hive and the hive thus raised from the bottom board and wheeled into the cellar without so much as touching the hive with the hands. Mr. F. H. McFarland, of Vermont, has a sort of neck-yoke to each end of which a hive may be attached by wire loops that pass under the hive. Mr. Doolittle and Dr. Miller have each, I believe, some sort of a device that enables them to use their strength to the best advantage when carrying bees into the cellar. I have forgotten just how their arrangements are arranged, the same as I have in regard to quite a number of other devices that have been devised for this purpose. Carrying bees into or out of a cellar is hard work at best, and if there is any "best way," either for one man or for two, let us find out what it is.

If an attempt is made to carry bees into the cellar during warm weather, or when the temperature is rising and the cluster expanding, there is trouble from the bees leaving the hives on account of the disturbance. When the temperature is falling and the cluster contracting is the time to move them in. If the bottom