

cellar, or if you are situated close to a lake with a strong cold wind frequently blowing and no chance for the bees to have a fly all winter as C. W. Post has been situated, I should say winter in the cellar. I have for many years felt confident that water running through a cellar would not injure it as a winter repository for bees, and now some of our best authorities go further and say a damp cellar is better or as good as a dry. My cellar is pretty dry. I prefer under my conditions cellar wintering, but have this winter twenty colonies outside for experimental purposes. I do not know but I sometimes think that if there are only a few colonies say under ten in a cellar there is likely to be a greater variation in temperature and they better be outside. Of course this can be remedied by making the compartment the bees are in of a size in proportion to the number of colonies to be wintered.

I take an empty Langstroth hive or body, about ten inches deep, place this upon the cellar floor, put a two-inch piece of scantling upon the back, and on this place the first hive, which brings the back about 12 inches, and the front 10 inches, from the cellar floor. Now as to cushions, I confess I do not know. See what is said in an editorial about this. If used, I would have them made large enough to fit firmly and squarely all over the hive, and particularly the outsides. The arrangement I like best for a chaff cushion is expensive. The cover projects all around, is in the form of a sloping roof, and has at a certain distance inside a lining. The cushion projects all around over the edge of the hive, and the chaff is forced a little prominently to the outer sides. When the heavy lid is placed on this the pressure is on the outer edges of the cushion, and it fits down better on the hive. Of course, they are of more use in the spring, and these lids are very heavy and expensive. In wintering outside I generally put a few sheets of paper over the sealed quilts and the packing over that.

For clamp wintering I move the colonies together gradually in early Fall and get them in the same relative position that they will occupy during the winter. I have generally put nine or ten colonies in a clamp. The clamp has a separate bottom, sides, ends, and the cover in two places all hook together. It is large enough to allow about two inches of packing at the bottom, 4 to 6 inches all around the sides and ends, and six or more on top. About the middle of October the hives some cool morning or evening are set back, the bottom of the clamp elevated from the ground, placed where the hives stood, the packing put upon

the bottom of the clamp, and the hive placed upon supports. The right height to keep the bottom of the hive is two inches from the bottom of the clamp. The sides and ends are now hooked in place, a bridge put over the entrance to allow the bees to pass in and out, and the balance of the clamp packed for winter, with the exception of the top covering, which is left off almost entirely until cold weather. The entrance blocks are adjustable, and I am not at all sure as to what is the best width. I generally leave it about three inches, but some have much less of an entrance. I like a board directly in front of an entrance to break sunlight and wind. But my experience for some years has been almost entirely cellar wintering, and perhaps some of our contributors will give their plans.

Spraying Plums for Rot.

The horticulturist of the Kentucky Experiment Station says, in a recent bulletin: On the Kentucky Experiment Station grounds several plum trees have always been badly affected with brown rot, which is a fungus parasite. Last spring it was decided to treat one of these with Bordeaux mixture, leaving another standing beside it as a check. The former was sprayed on June 9th with Bordeaux mixture, about two and a half gallons being applied to the leaves and young fruit with a knapsack sprayer. On July 5th the tree was sprayed again, about the same quantity of mixture being applied.

The season was unfavorable for fruit of all sorts, and neither the sprayed nor the check tree bore as full crops of fruit as usual. Some rotting fruit was observed at the time of picking on both trees and a good many plums rotted and fell from both during the summer.

On August 22nd the plums were picked and from the sprayed tree were removed 477 plums, weighing 11½ pounds; the unsprayed check tree yielded 251 plums, weighing six pounds. The difference in favor of spraying is thus about 5½ pounds in weight of fruit. Or we may say the spraying increased the yield about 18 per cent. The mixture was made of 22 gallons of water, 6½ pounds bluestone, 3½ pounds fresh lime. The bluestone is dissolved in three or four gallons of hot water. Slack the lime and make of it a paste as thick as cream. Stir the latter into the bluestone solution and finally turn the whole into the remaining water.—Michigan Farmer.