any other material which I have tried, prevents the radiation of heat, and permits the escape of moisture, thus securing warmth and dryness. Hives should be placed eighteen inches above the bottom of the cellar or winter repository, and in tiering them up one above another it is better that they rest on a rack prepared for the hive rather than one upon another.

My report for 1885 covers the period from June 1st to November 25th, when the severity of the winter forbade further out-of-door experiments. As nearly all the colonies in the apiary had been subjected to very frequent, almost daily, disturbance and annoyance incidental to the experimental purposes for which they had been used, they were, almost without exception, in very poor condition for passing into winter quarters. November 25th I packed twenty colonies for out-door wintering. Notwithstanding the lateness of the season, and the altogether unsatisfactory condition of the bees when packed, eighteen of the colonies wintered fairly well. These twenty colonies were provided with dry sawdust packing eight inches thick on the sides, and covered with a quilt and dry forest leaves to the depth of eight inches on top of the frames. A rim two inches wide is placed under the body box of the hive, making a two-inch space under the bottom bar of the comb-frames. A covered tunnel leads from the hive entrance through the packing. This packing is left on the hive until warm weather is assured, thus guarding against danger from chilling of the brood when building up the colonies rapidly in early spring. The hive should incline from back to front permitting the moisture to flow out at the entrance.

I placed ten colonies in the cellar from which the hive covers were removed and the frames covered with woollen and cotton quilts. These were used for observation and experiment during the winter. Eight of the ten came through the winter alive, but being subjected to a wider range of temperature, and being very frequently annoyed and disturbed, their vitality was very low, and the old bees, of which most of these colonies were composed fell easy victims to spring dwindling.

HIBERNATION.

For the purpose of determining the degree of temperature in a dry cellar necessary to secure the minimum of functional activity within the hive during the period of hibernation, I framed comb-frames across each other at right angles, and into these frames I fitted and fastened combs filled with choice sealed honey. These were suspended in hives having glass sides and top, exposing the cluster to view from all sides and from the top. Removable wooden doors covered the glass.

My observations covered a period of ninety days from December 1, 1885, and included a range of temperature from zero to 65° F. The hives were placed in a dark apartment, and an oil stove with a radiator was used for heating. Different degrees of temperature were maintained for several consecutive hours, and, as occasion required, for consecutive days, and careful observations were taken.

At a range of temperature from 48° to 52° F., according to the humidity of the atmosphere in the cellar, bees, according to a rule of nature, enter into the hibernating state. After repeated trials over a wide range of temperature, at 41° F. I found the shape of the cluster most permanent. While that degree of temperature was maintained, little change in the shape or location of the clusters could be seen, and functional activity on the part of individual bees, and of the whole colony as well, seemed to have reached the minimum degree of manifestation, even respiration seemed to be suspended. The change in the form of the cluster was determined by outline drawings on paper. The colonies presented substantially the same outline for days together when a uniform temperature of 41° was maintained. I placed some colonies in a darkened building late in the fall of the year, and when the temperature was 40° F. natural heat on a dry day above ground, the same phenomena were observed.

The temperature of the cellar was lowered by admitting the air through an outer room, so that no perceptible currents entered the apartment where the bees were kept. The degree of unrest and activity increased in proportion as the temperature neared the zero point. Thirty-seven degrees F. in a very dry cellar is a danger point, the danger increasing in proportion as the temperature is lowered or the humidity of the atmosphere is incresased.

The degree of activity shown by bees when the temperature in the repository or cellar is 44° F. is not much greater than at 41°, all other conditions being the same.

At intervals of about one week the bees arouse to activity, the form of the cluster changes, and after three or four hours of cheerful and contented humming, having in the meantime appeased their hunger, the cluster is reformed into a compact body, the humming ceases, respiration becomes slow, profound silence reigns in the hive until change of temperature or the demands of hunger rouse the bees from the coma in which they have been bound. The more perfect the