

the drone comb out and give the frame to a weaker colony. They would then be likely to build out worker cells or else to put the drone comb in the upper storey with a queen excluding board on the hive.

Eighth. Can bees be wintered successfully in a cellar where fruit and vegetables are kept?

Mr. Forbes has wintered with success in cellar where fruit and vegetables were kept. He said that the cellar should be kept dark, and a person should not go in and out oftener than necessary.

Ninth. What strain of bees is preferable all points considered?

Mr. Forbes said that for honey gathering he liked a cross between the Italian and black; their only fault being their crossness. Some of the members had tried the Syrians, others had tried the Holy Lands, but the majority believed that for honey gathering a cross between the black and Italian was about the best. Dr. Harvey believes that they will make nicer and whiter comb honey than any other strain, but did not believe they were any better honey gatherers than the Italians. He said that some people tampered with Italians, because they were not so cross as the hybrids. He also said that bees were like a well-cultivated farm, the better they were handled, the larger would be the profit on them. The secretary then took down the number of colonies owned by each member of the association, there being 830 colonies in all.

This closed the proceedings of the day. Moved by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mr. Neff, that we adjourn to meet in the town of Forest on the 10th day of April next.

J. R. KITCHIN,  
Secretary.

From *Gleanings*.

#### PREPARING FOR WINTER.

**W**HAT prince among bee-keepers of twenty years ago, Elisha Gallup, once wrote that August and September were the months in which to prepare bees for winter, and after the experience of last fall and winter (which winter was the worst season for bees ever known in this locality, they being confined to their hives on the summer stands for five months without flight), I am ready to agree with Gallup exactly. A year ago I commenced getting the bees ready in August, finishing in September, and I never had bees winter as well during a severe winter in all my 18 years of experience. As I am again getting ready for next winter, I thought perhaps some of the readers of *Gleanings* would like to know how I did it. By beginning

at this date to put all in readiness as far as possible, I give the bees a chance to get their stores for winter placed just where they wish them, so that, by the middle of October, they are ready to go into that quiescent state so conducive to the best results. Working along this line, I proceed as follows:

I go to each hive, open it, and carefully remove each comb, noting the amount of bees, age of queen, square inches of brood, and pounds of honey. The pounds of honey are found by weighing a few combs of varying fullness till the eye gets so trained that every comb can be counted off as to weight of honey with an accuracy approaching perfection, while the square inches of brood is gotten by measuring a few different-sized patches, when it is easy to estimate it afterward. The age of the queen is told by looking at the last year's record, if her wings are clipped; if not clipped, I know she is of the present year's rearing, as the wings of all my queens are clipped in fruit bloom, and the amount of bees is told by observing their appearance on the combs. When I go over the hives in this way, I have some pieces of sections so that, as soon as a hive is closed, I can write down all about the condition of the inside. The piece of section may read something like this: "Aug. 20, 1887; 20 lbs. honey, 450 square inches brood. Bees, plenty, with good Italian queen reared in '85."

This piece is now laid on the top of the honey-board or quilt to the hive, and the cover put on, when two little flat stones are put on the cap to tell me that, inside said hive they are short of honey, but have brood to spare. For instance, if the stone is at the front right-hand corner, it says short of honey; if at the left back corner it says brood to spare; if at the right back corner it says honey to spare; and if at the left front corner it says short of bees and brood; while if all is as I wish for winter, a stone is placed in the centre of the cover. In this way I make these little stones tell me, at a glance over the apiary, just what each hive contains, so that it is now but a few minutes' work to go over the yard and equalize all so that each is in a similar condition for winter, when the little stones are taken off and slipped under the bottom-board of the hive where they belong when not in use. If any are still short of stores (25 lbs. is what I allow each colony) after equalizing, I feed to make up the deficiency, generally using honey, as I prefer it to sugar stores after repeated trials. As I write this out it looks like a long tedious job, and the readers of *Gleanings* will doubtless say that, rather than go through all this operation, they will simply lift the hives as heretofore and guess