

for health. I am of opinion that Mr. Doolittle's bees were poisoned with carbonic acid gas, from a coal oil stove placed in a compartment from his bee-cellar, separated by a thin wall, the winter before last. Had he applied the above test, early in the winter, it is probable he might have remedied the defect in the arrangement, and so saved his bees.

S. CORNEIL.

Lindsay, 31st August, 1885.

This exceedingly interesting and valuable article contains many very practical hints which it will be well to read and digest carefully. One point reminds us of what occurred with ourselves many years ago. We built a bee-repository and made the floor so tight that no carbonic acid gas could possibly escape; about a hundred colonies were placed on shelves in the room and a few hives on the floor. After they had been in their winter quarters for some time we took a small hand lamp and went in to examine them. We heard a tremendous roaring coming from the bees on the floor, while those on the shelves appeared perfectly quiet; could not imagine at first what the trouble was, so placed the lamp on the floor and knelt down with the intention of tipping up the hive (a large box one) and looking in to see what was wrong, but the lamp had scarcely touched the floor, before it went out. Thought we had set it down too suddenly so lit it the second time and took the precaution to set it down more slowly but out it went again as quickly as if it had been placed in water. It then struck us that the carbonic acid gas was the cause of it. By lighting matches and holding them down we found that it was about six inches deep on the floor; opened the ventilator and allowed it to pass down into the cellar. In a short time the lamp burned without difficulty, and as soon as the air became pure the bees quieted down. Since then we always make provision for the escape of the gas. We quite agree with Friend Corneil as to keeping the brood chamber sufficiently

warm that the bees may evaporate the moisture, when little or no trouble will be experienced from dysentery. The great care with which Mr. Corneil conducts all his experiments is a sufficient guarantee as to their accuracy.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

PREPARING FOR WINTER.

MANY seem to suppose that November is the month to prepare bees for Winter, or at least their actions show that they do, for from personal knowledge and numerous correspondence, I find that the majority of the bees in America are left without attention, regarding fixing them for Winter, until Jack Frost has several times shown his grim visage throughout the north. This is a great mistake, as the thousands of dead colonies of last Spring too plainly showed, and the object of this article is to influence all who read it, to prepare their bees during the present month (September) for Winter, if such are not already prepared. Where fall flowers do not abound, so that the honey harvest ends (as it does here) by the middle of August, the latter part of said month is the time to get all in readiness for Winter. As this is just what I am doing at this date, August 25th, perhaps I can do no better than to tell the reader how I manage. Every colony is carefully examined by lifting out every frame in the hive and the exact condition regarding brood, queen, and stores, noted on a piece of honey section, which piece is to be left on top of the quilt of the hive until next Spring. If the colony has enough honey in from five to seven combs to insure their safe wintering, these combs are placed all on the one side of the hive, and a division board placed next to them, so as to make all as compact as possible. If any frames still have brood in them with but little honey, these combs are placed next to and at one side of the five full ones, and thus left till the brood hatches out, not adjusting the division board until later on. By the middle to 20th of September all brood will be hatched when the combs are to be taken out, the bees shaken off, and the division board placed where it belongs. I find it a good plan to have the combs a little farther apart for the winter months than they are during the Summer, and also to set the combs having the most honey in them in the centre of the given number, and those having the least in on either side. Probably one-half of all the bees which died the past Winter, starved to death with plenty of honey in the