

in as fine a condition. Now, this beautiful weather has also given us the opportunity of examining them and seeing that they all had queens, as this is probably the last time that we will look over them. All the queenless ones have had new queens introduced and now we have not a queenless colony in our yard, and have 27 beautiful tested queens which we can spare yet. Even our last drone colony has now got a queen. Some of our new subscribers may fancy that this is too late to have drones, but we purposely kept the hive queenless in order that the lives of the drones might be preserved. A young queen that just hatched in a nucleus a few days ago was fertilized and is now laying nicely. Now that the bees are all in good shape for winter, the warm sunshiny days induce them to fly about in search for food, with no prospect of securing it—this, with the cool nights, causes a much larger consumption of stores than if they remained inactive.

SETTING IN WINTER QUARTERS EARLY.

Have any of our bee friends ever tried placing them in their winter quarters thus early in the season before cold weather sets in? It is usually a month later than this, and sometimes two months later before we put them into winter quarters. Supposing some of our best bee-keepers place a few colonies in winter quarters now and just about the last couple of favorable days before they put the rest into winter quarters, place part of them out on their summer stands and give them a fly, leaving the remainder in, and see how they winter. We are pretty well convinced that we have been in the habit of setting bees into winter quarters too late. Might it not be a great advantage as soon as the honey season is over and they are properly prepared, to place them in their winter quarters so that they may save their stores, and not only save much food but also save themselves from being worn out. Who of us that have gone to our hives in the morning after a severe frosty night have not found more or less bees frozen stiff, and apparently dead on the outside combs? Frequently a continuous cold of several days kills them and it is not unusual to find a large number of these bees when it comes warm, at the entrance. Now,

this loss of bees would not occur if put into winter quarters earlier in the season. The constant cold and chilling causes them to gorge themselves with food in order to keep up the animal heat. We have known bees to live in their winter quarters a month after they should have been set out in the spring, and yet come out in good condition. Now, it seems to us that setting them in earlier in the fall than we have been in the habit of doing would be a great saving of bees and stores, and it would not be such a sudden change. Here we are in the habit of leaving them out until it is cold weather, then putting them in a place much warmer than out doors. All these changes must have a bad effect. We believe that if this matter were tested thoroughly that good would come of it. Let us give it a trial. It is not necessary to place all our colonies in winter quarters, but supposing one has a hundred and he puts in ten now, and ten a week later, putting some in on warm nights and some on cold, giving the matter all the consideration in the way of different trials which your better judgment indicates. No doubt this matter will profit us if we give it more careful attention than we have been in the habit of doing. Of course, we would have to have repositories where the temperature could be kept moderately uniform. A good cellar and good repositories properly ventilated ought to help us very much; and right here, friends, is where our sub-earth ventilation system, of which we are the originators, at least so far as we know, is going to become very useful. But it will not require much ventilation, if any, in cold weather, in well-protected cellars. In one that would winter 100 or 200 colonies successfully, 20 to 40 colonies would scarcely make any perceptible change in the temperature, if set in carefully without arousing them. Now, in placing them in their winter quarters would it not be well to mark the date on each hive; to weigh the hive carefully, and mark the weight of it. Suppose 10 were placed in their winter quarters so weighed and marked. Take ten similar ones and weigh them and mark them on their summer stands, leaving them to consume as long as they pleased in both cases. Then say in one month or just before you place your bees in winter