

and cold; by putting a cushion of dry saw-dust or chaff on top, leaving the entrance open full width; by setting another hive or super on top, and placing a few warm bricks in it, it will cause a draft and absorb the moisture. The bricks should first be put in a stove oven and heated until perfectly dry, and the warmth and dryness will cause them to take up the moisture very rapidly.

STARTERS FOR SECTION HONEY.

S. MIREAULT—I have read somewhere in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL that starters ought not to be too narrow. Will you tell me what width I must have them to insure success in working for comb honey?

The width of your starters may vary with the season, and system of management. If you do not wish to use much foundation perhaps two inches would be wide enough.

SUPERSEDING AND REARING QUEENS.

I wish to know the best method of superseding old queens and when? I prefer to do so at the beginning of the season if I can just as advantageously.

About swarming time, or when they swarm is a very good time. Queens raised at this season of the year are usually better than those raised very late or very early. After the first swarm issues and they have commenced working and the queen begins to hatch in the parent colony, you can remove the old queen from the swarm and give them a queen cell just ready to hatch, or a queen just hatched.

Can we raise good queens from queen cells after the issue of the first swarm. I tried to do so but I obtained poor queens. Tell me the wherefore? There are many methods explained in the C.B.J. how to raise good queens, but please refer me to the best and safest.

Before the queen-breeding season commences we will try to give you further instructions in queen raising which will enable you to produce the best.

A CELLAR EPISODE.

CORNELIUS SMITH.—Last spring I commenced with seven colonies, some very good others weak. I averaged fifty pounds surplus per colony, spring count, and increased to nineteen. To some of the late swarms I fed sugar syrup for winter and am afraid some of them are running short of stores. Ten are in chaff hives on summer stands, nine in an outside cellar built on purpose. This cellar is 12x15 with store and extracting rooms above. Last week I had what might be called an accident in this cellar. The temperature got so low that I proceeded to raise it by means of a combination lamp having three burners. It worked very well for I could light

one or more burners as desired. To shade the light from the bees I set the lamp inside a tin can. It exploded and melted the inside of the can and though the heat was so great as to burst the thermometer suspended from the ceiling, yet it did not set fire to anything else. There are some of the bees living yet and I don't know but that they are all right. There is a ventilation pipe out of cellar. Last summer bees did not do well around here.

Iphellen, Feb. 13, 1888.

Thanks for your report. We are sorry to learn of your mishap in the cellar. Think the cause of your lamp exploding was the accumulation of heat inside of tin sitting over lamp. It is fortunate it did not set the place on fire. If you had the outside wall of cellar well banked up, built on top of ground, you might put a terrace, say six feet wide, allowing it to run up to top of wall. This would make it as warm as if built entirely underground. Then you should have between the joists over the cellar and under the floor of your store room above, about one foot of dry sawdust. It would prevent the cold air from getting down. We presume you have double and treble doors, making one or two dead air spaces to prevent cold from entering by way of door. The above precaution would have made the lamp unnecessary, but this has been an unusually cold winter. One of our cellars is 30 feet wide and 90 feet long, and frost never entered it until this winter.

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