

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

WINTERING PROBLEMS.

A. E. JONES.—The wintering problem is already occupying my mind and no doubt that of many others and has prompted me to forward a few questions pertaining thereto. (1) Would it be prudent to spread combs at present for winter. Have a number of colonies which were at swarming pitch on 12 frames, Jones hive, up to July 17th when, owing to cool weather, have cut short preparations; will they be too populous to winter well on 8 frames, if so, how shall I proceed to lessen them? The following is a description of our cellar. Situated under kitchen, is 16 x 31 feet, stone wall, in clay land, very damp, water sometimes rising to the depth of 10 in. in part of it, can ventilate by a pipe by connecting with stove pipe or by trap-door in pantry off kitchen, with precaution is frost-proof. Sub-earth ventilation may perhaps be obtained. Would bees winter safely, preparation being well made? Would cellar be preferable to clamp wintering?

We spread our combs two weeks ago, reducing twelve-frame hives to ten and shall allow the bees to draw out cells and seal sufficient stores for wintering, viz., from five to eight frames in front and extract those behind. There is no danger of there being too many bees for eight frames when going into winter quarters if there are plenty of stores well ripened and sealed. Your bees will winter in cellar even though water is deep. Keep bees at least 18 inches above water, give ventilation at stove pipe, bank your building around. Do not allow the temperature in the cellar to go below 45° and not above 50° or 60°, better to keep it from 45° to 50°. Prefer wintering in cellar to clamp.

QUEENS LAYING TWO EGGS IN ONE CELL.

Have a queen which is laying sometimes to two eggs in a cell, what is the cause? Is the queen of any value? Give as much light as possible upon this, and oblige.

North Bruce, Ont. July 27th '86.

The colony is either too weak to take care of the queen's eggs or there are fertile workers in it. If colony is strong there is no doubt the fertile workers are laying the eggs. If any of the larvæ are sealed over and have conical tops projecting out from the comb there is a drone layer or fertile worker. In either case the queen is useless, cage her, in-

sert an empty comb in centre of the hive and seeiflaying continues. Should you find eggs in the bottom of drone cells, and sticking around the sides of cells it is a fertile worker beyond question. They usually lay their eggs in such a manner; though they have also been known to lay them nearly as regularly and perfectly as a queen.

COLONIES WITHOUT DRONES.

Mrs. S. HAZLETON.—Will you please give me some advice regarding a hive of bees that have not swarmed, and have as yet no drones, except a few sealed cells, but are otherwise in splendid condition as regards brood, bees and honey. I have no other hives to give them drone comb from. They are just starting to cluster outside. I have plenty of empty comb. If I give them the second story to work in will it prevent them swarming?

Brantford, June 29th, 1886.

You could probably prevent swarming by giving them the upper-story as you mention. If you were anxious for more bees, rather than honey, perhaps it would be better to let them swarm naturally, giving them empty combs. Should they be strong enough to produce second or third swarms, it might be well to give these a frame or two of brood from the old colony, putting the empty comb in its place.

H. HILKER.—Quite a sight was to be seen on a bee farm a short distance from here the other day, the farmer is the owner of between 200 and 300 colonies. The swarms started to come off in the morning and he was attending to them alone. He had hived four or five when they began coming too fast, he could not attend to them, and to make matters worse the ones he had hived swarmed out again and all formed in one grand cluster, he supposed about twenty swarms were in it, and in describing the size of the cluster he said it was nearly as large round as a man could span with his arms and about five feet long.

Underwood. July 5th, 1886.

SKELETON CRATES.

S. MIREAULT.—How are your skeleton crates arranged on the hive?

The skeleton crates fit in the super of the comb-honey hive. They are also made for the top-story of our regular Jones hive.

THE "NAMELESS DISEASE."

Mrs. H. HILLS.—The colony of which I wrote you as having last season had the "nameless disease," and which, on being given fresh stores, built up and made a very fine colony this year,