

allow the bees to pass in and out when necessary, and to supply air.

Unless the bottom board is one of the reversible kind, a rim of four pieces of inch lumber about two inches wide, should be made and placed between the hive and the bottom board to raise the hive up from the bottom board and allow about two inches under the frames, so that bees which die during the winter may fall clear of the combs and not lodge between them and make trouble. If the entrance is cut out of the lower edge of one end of the hive body, this rim is made the same all around, but if, as is the case of a properly made hive, the entrance is in the bottom board, one of the end pieces in the rim should be set down sufficiently to close the entrance at the upper edge of the rim. This is done so that the dead bees may drop past the entrance in the winter, and not block it up as they would if it were on a level with the bottom of the hive. Several small strips of wood should be laid crosswise of the frames on the top bars, under the cloth, to hold the cloth up from the top bars so that the bees may be able to pass over the tops of the frames in the winter. This is important.

For packing material, dry leaves make a clean, dry, warm and in every way satisfactory packing. Dry sawdust, planer shavings or chaff will also give good result. Packing material, especially sawdust and chaff, should not be pressed too tight around the hives. Leaves, being lighter and looser, will stand a little more pressure. The winter case should be deep enough to allow a few inches between the roof and the top packing,

and a few small holes bored close under the eaves in the highest part of the walls will aid in keeping the interior dry.—E. G. Hand, Fenelon Falls.

TO BEES IN WINTER QUARTERS

[This poem, by the late Rev. W. F. Clarke of Guelph, appeared in the "Bees and Honey" page of the "Rural Canadian" 1886.]

Good-night! a long good-night, my bees!
I've packed you snug and warm,
So you can stand an Arctic freeze
Or Hyperborean storm.

You're two feet high above the ground,
Beyond the reach of mice;
I hope you'll winter safe and sound,
And keep your quarters nice.

I'll not come scraping with a wire,
To keep the entrance free;
You're fixed—how can you but admire?—
As in a hollow tree.

Nature's inimitable plan
Well ventilates your hive,
Better than all the schemes of man
For keeping bees alive.

The season's arduous toil well done,
Your larder full of sweet,
Enjoy the calm repose you've won,
And rest your wings and feet.

If you should find the household dull
Without some babies in it,
Rear them, for you can pollen cull
Indoors, at any minute.

Take things as easy as you can,
For you are growing old,
And spend your days, like mortal man,
As a short tale that's told.

Lifetimes are measured, not by days,
But by becoming deeds;
And they deserve the highest praise,
Who leave behind them seeds

To grow, to blossom, to bear fruit.
In months and years to come;
As generations follow suit,
And raise the busy hum

Of honest industry, among
The gardens, woods, and fields;
The toil that ripples into song,
And constant sweetness yields!

TO SPICE APPLES, PEARS OR PEACHES

—One quart of best vinegar, 1 quart of honey, ½ ounce each of cloves and stick cinnamon Boil all together 15 minutes, then put in the fruit, and cook tender. Put in a stone jar with enough of the syrup to cover the fruit. It will keep as long as wanted.