

DEAR SIR,—Will you please answer in your JOURNAL whether forest leaves are as good as chaff for packing bees in a clamp. Last year I lost a number of hives by doing so, and decided not to use them again until I saw that some one recommended them in *Gleanings*?—Yours truly, C.M.N., South London.

We have had as good reports from forest leaves as from chaff; but we think either, if the leaves are in good condition, would be all right. Our own preference would be in favor of chaff.

I would like, if some of our beekeeping friends would let me know through the BEE JOURNAL, how to erect the best kind of summer stands for the hives, of which I keep a few. I saw it advised in the JOURNAL to get 2x4 inch scantling and nail cross pieces the right distance apart to set them on, but don't like that, as it is hard to keep them clean from grass and weeds between the boxes, the scantling being in the way of cutting the grass?—Yours respectfully, G.G. McK., North Nation Mills.

We use inch boards four inches wide and about eight inches longer than the hive, cutting the projection off on a slope and nailing a board on the front. This makes a sloping entrance for the bees to climb up if they should alight on the ground before reaching the hive. There is also a three-inch piece nailed on the back end which gives a space for air under the hives.

SIR,—I have been trying to make foundation, but find it impossible, as it sticks to the dipping board and cracks. Kindly give me a remedy that will prevent the same?—READER.

Dipping boards must be soaked in water until they are wet through. We usually soak them for a day or more, if possible, before dipping, and always keep them in the water when not in use. During the dipping season, sponge off quickly all loose matter on the board before dipping; then dip your board in wax before any spot becomes dry. If there are any knots or pitchy spots upon the board that will not

soak in the water, the board must not be used, nor must there be any grease spots, as any grease, pitch or other material may prevent the freest saturation. When ready, dip your board into the wax and continue the dipping until the hot wax is about half an inch thick. Leave the wax on for about ten to twenty minutes; then cut or scrape it around the edge of the board and remove the two sheets which are too thick for ordinary use, but were so made to heat the board thoroughly. Now, if your wax is of the right temperature, you can commence dipping; if your wax is too cool it will curdle on the board; if too hot, it will crack. The room should not be lower in temperature than from seventy to eighty degrees, a higher temperature even is better. The cracking is caused by too rapid cooling, either from the low temperature of the board or the greater heat of the wax. Either difficulty may be remedied by raising or lowering the temperature of either. When dipping and turning the board end for end, the lap should be sufficient to keep the sheet an even thickness; otherwise it may crack in the centre, even when the other conditions are perfect.

What is the easiest and simplest way of feeding bees in winter?—SUBSCRIBER.

Feed them in the fall so that they will need no winter feeding. I devised a winter feeder some years ago that I think fills the bill. It is illustrated in the back numbers of the C. B. J. It prevents leakage, and enables the bees to utilize their heat to keep the food warm; as they cluster under it compactly, they are less liable to have dysentery. The food is the same as that now used for shipping queens. The Benton or other good food for shipping queens may be used.