the cellar bottom?

Mr. Fixter—I generally carry on my experiments on the second shelf. The first is eighteen inches and the second twenty above that; that would be thirty-eight inches from the floor. I thank you very much for your hearing and if there are any questions to be asked I will be pleased to answer them.

The President—I am sure as an Association we are very thankful to Mr. Fixter for the experiments which he has presented to us this morning. I know it would bring out a long discussion if we should dwell on every point, but time will not permit of that at this hour of the meeting, and so I hope that the members will be as brief as possible, so we can proceed with the next item of our programme.

Mr. Darling—Before the matter is discussed I would like to suggest that there is one other experiment that might have been tried if Mr. Fixter had had the time; that is, to either leave the top board on or leave a propolized sheet under the cushion and raise it up at the bottom and note whether there would be any difference. By taking the cushion off and putting the board on you allow the moisture to get away.

Mr. Fixter:—I have tried that but didn't keep track of the amount consumed.

Mr. Darling—What about the condition of the colony?

Mr. Fixter—It comes out very good. What I tried it for was to see how much heat there was between the cushion and the hive.

Mr. Darling—I fail to find any particular difference in the honey.

Mr. Smith—I think you said in the first experiment that it was single packed.

Mr. Fixter—Yes.

Mr. Smith—And that the consumption of stores was very much greater than in the other experiments. Have you ever tried them packed in four so that they have the benefit of heat from one another.

Mr. Fixter—No.

Mr. Smith—We have never conducted any experiments, but I think you would not lose so much with four.

Mr Fixter—In changeable weather I think it is harder on the bees. They must consume more honey in order to keep up the heat. I have come to the conclusion that it does not pay any person to winter outside where the temperature will go down to ten below zero. So far as packing is concerned, one can carry ten hives into the cellar in the time it would take him to pack one. The great fault had been that we have been leaving our bees in the cellar too long in the spring. Get them out. We are trying them every year a little earlier—about a week earlier. Last year I set out those in the out apiary, those in the closed apiary and those in the house apiary, and in the out apiary we had from a foot to a foot and a half of snow to clear away before we could set the hives down on the ground. I covered them over to protect them to a certain extent; I find that as soon as we take them out they start breeding and by the time the honey flow comes on they are in excellent condition.

Mr. Smith—Of course that is all very nice where you have the bees at home, but when you have out apiaries cellars are not always convenient. We have to use the next best thing. You will find if they are packed in fours that at any time during the winter you put your hand down in the centre of those four there is quite a warmth and the bees cluster to that side and they do not consume nearly so much stores.

Mr. Fixter—Taking all things into