Regarding *Nom de Plumes*, and planking down his "John Hancock;" perhaps he will kindly defend professors Wiley and Morris who did not hesitate to plank down their names when a lie was to be told. I could quote many more names if necessary, but these will do, and the fact that they can flourish in the U. S. is sufficient proof, that a mans "John Hancock," is no guarantee of its truth, while an Englishman's well known *Nom de Plume* has always been held to be like a British Trade Mark.

Mr. W. T. HUTCHINSON.

I think if our friend the Hallamshire Bee-Keeper, and our friend Hutchinson, met they would have a jolly good bee-talk. Being personally acquainted with both, I know how willing they would be to put their points strongly to each other, without the least unfriendly feeling. Our English friend being a "diamond" manufacturer no doubt tries very hard to put his points as forcibly as possible, but we think there is room for considerable difference of opinion, in reference to the temperature, especially of bees "hybernating," if we may be allowed the term.

If bees when clustering in a perfectly quiet state during the fall, winter or spring months are said to be hybernating, I have found them hybernating at different temperatures at different seasons, or times, as when they are brooding. The centre of a cluster of bees is of course much warmer than the outside, but as we cannot see the centre of the cluster, they may be dancing the highland fling to the tune of "Yankee Doodle," while the outside ones are perfectly quiet. Now the temperature at the outside of the cluster where this quietness is observed is sometimes very much colder than others, and the temperature, also inside the cluster I have found to vary considerably. For instance the temperature is higher in a large cluster than in a small one, so the temperature at which bees lie quiet almost or quite motionless may vary very much; therefore we ought to agree to disagree regarding the outside temperature of a cluster of bees, when they are lying in a quiet or dormant state.

CIRCULARS RECEIVED.

W. A. Chrysler, Chatham, Hives, Frames, Feeders, etc.

R. E. Smith, Tilbury Centre, bees and supplies generally.

Both the above were printed at this office.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

An Average Crop—Preparatory Study.

NOW that the season is ended and our pets, the bees are nicely fixed for the winter, which is already upon us, I will try to give you my report for the season, with some observations. Last spring found me with two colonies of bees, one wintered on summer stand the other in the cellar, both strong in bees. On the first examination one was found with a drone laying queen which I superceded on April 20th, and as I was to be absent during the best of the season I put in the full number of combs in the brood chamber and left them in the care of my father, who is but little interested.

On my arrival home on August 16th I found that the original colonies had each cast one swarm, thus doubling the number and had also gathered 86 pounds of honey, chiefly from raspberry, clover and basswood, mostly of the last.

After August 16th, they gathered 80 pounds of fall honey, principally from goldenrod, thus making the total of 166 pounds, but I fed 16 pounds back for winter which leaves an average of 75 pounds per colony, spring count, with plenty for winter.

HOW TO COMPARE ONE SEASON WITH ANOTHER.

Mr. R. McKnight says, *on page 859 of C B J*, referring to an average crop of honey; "What an average crop is I have yet to learn."

Now in my opinion it is quite easy for one to find the average of any crop, or how one year compares with another or the past, provided he has kept a correct account of each year's average yield per colony.

To illustrate I will take my own case for the past five years. In the table we have first the year, second the number of colonies, spring count, third the gross yield of honey, fourth the average amount fed back for winter, fifth, the net average of surplus after giving the bees plenty for winter.

1885—1	88	0	88
1886—6	11	2	9
1887—7	6	20	14
1888—2	10	5	5
1889—2	83	8	75
Total	177—14		163

which divided by the number of years, (5) gives 32 3/5 pounds as the average yield per colony, yearly during *the past five seasons*; thus should my bees gather next season 32 3/5 lbs, average per colony it would be 100 % of full crop. I think this the best way to obtain the average of any locality.

What is the best way to obtain a knowledge of apiculture? For myself, after after an experience of five years in its study I would un-