

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

## Outdoor Wintering.

**W**ITH every year's experience I am more in favor of out-door as compared with cellar wintering. My bees in house always seem very contented until about March, and then they begin to long to stretch their wings in the sunshine and breathe the fresh air.

Even in the hardest winters there is generally a day or two in February or March, warm enough for those packed out of doors to have a flight which satisfies them, so that they will remain quiet for a few weeks longer. And this is one great advantage they have over those in the cellar.

My principal objection to out-door wintering used to be the trouble of unpacking in the spring, and packing again in the fall; but now, except those I put in clamps, I leave the packing around them just as it is in the winter, and I have had quite as good, if not better returns, from those so treated as from the unpacked hives. The surplus boxes are put on and tied up the same as on the other hives, and the cover of the case makes a roof over them and protects them from the sun and rain. My yard however is very well shaded, no part of it gets the sun during the whole day which I can appreciate as well as the bees when the weather is as warm as it has been this summer. It is also very well protected from the cold winds in winter.

In unpacking my clamps this spring I noticed the difference between saw dust and cork shavings as a packing. Though the clamps were made of tongued and grooved lumber and well painted, at the bottom I found a good deal of the sawdust was very wet, while the cork shavings, with the same chance to be wet, were perfectly dry. I have given forest leaves a good trial as a packing and to fill the cushions to put over tops of hives, and they answer admirably; but it is a good deal of trouble to collect a quantity even where the woods are conveniently near.

I have found that the great points for successful wintering both out of doors and in the cellar or bee house are:—Keeping the heat generated by the bees in the hive, allowing the moisture to escape, and allowing them to have good thick well-ripened honey. To secure the first I leave the summer quilt on over the frames merely turning back a couple of inches at the back of the hive to allow the moisture from the breath of the bees to escape; then putting a quilt made of a good thickness of wool tacked into canvas under the cushion filled with sawdust, or cork, or leaves, which cushion should be at least six

inches thick. To secure the second point, I never extract except from the top storey, and then only when the honey is all capped over, as I think this not only gives me a superior quality of honey, but while the bees are capping the surplus honey, and being crowded for room to store in, they will fill up the frames in brood chamber as much as possible. As in my locality I cannot depend on fall bloom for honey, I like to have my hives well filled in the summer. Instead of feeding, if any should be short of stores, I take frames of sealed honey from the top storey to supply the deficiency.

If it will not make my letter too long, I may as well take this opportunity of suggesting to any one who wishes to get small basswood trees to plant that an easier way than raising them from the seed themselves is to go to any woods where basswood grows, and they will find any number of tiny seedlings which they can take up with a garden trowel, and transfer them to nursery beds where they will grow rapidly. It is easy to find them before they shed their leaves. I have transplanted them in this way at any time in the summer, and by giving them shade and water they never fade a leaf.

This morning I had occasion to go to the woods for some leaf mould for my house plants, and within a radius of a few feet I found a dozen little trees, and could have found any number if I had taken time to look for them.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER.

Campbellford, Sept. 1892.

We are indeed pleased to hear from Miss Buller and trust she will favor the readers of the C. B. J. more frequently. We have a number of lady bee-keepers in Canada from whom we would like to hear.

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## Wintering Bees.

**M**R. EDITOR,—The wintering of bees is a subject of much importance to every bee-keeper. Much has been written upon it, and the topic will probably never be exhausted. The Lambton bee-keepers have met twice a year now for six or eight years, and I do not know that a single meeting has taken place without this subject being brought forward. Something would be referred to in connection with the wintering of bees, and before the members were aware of it they would be launched in to a discussion of the whole subject.

Every one has his own way of wintering, and it is quite likely that there are no two or more who winter exactly alike. I know nothing about cellar wintering, having never yet wintered a