

we are prepared to defend 65° as the normal temperature of the inside of a colony of bees in winter," and calls it "the regulation temperature."

Now I'm not at all amused at the outlook, but am not a little worried. I have for years taken no little pride in the fact that I wintered my bees without loss, and now Messrs. Cheshire and Hutchinson pretty nearly knock me and my success into "smithereens" with "a regulation temperature." Please come to my rescue and get them to tell me before next winter how this 'regulation temperature' may be maintained in my cellar.

Last winter I tried the temperature of several colonies, at different times, and every time the thermometer showed 90°, and the same thermometer when hanging in the cellar showed 50°. It made no difference whether the colony was small or large. The temperature of the cellar was higher last winter by five degrees than I have ever kept it before, owing to a natural gas fire being kept constantly burning in the room over it. The hives were without bottom-boards, and the quilts just as the bees fixed them in the fall. I have always before wintered with tight bottom boards.

The average loss last winter from dead bees taken from the cellar bottom, was four and three-eighths ounces: being the largest I have had for ten years. The bees were quiet, and in testing for temperature I used a dairy thermometer, raising the quilt and running it down into the centre of the brood nest in the evening, generally leaving it till morning, but the same temperature would be indicated in a few minutes as was in the morning.

I'm not doubting Messrs. Cheshire's and Hutchinson's statements, but I'm anxious to find out what's the matter with my cellar, for I would like to save that four and three-quarter ounces of bees to every colony, and then they will be stronger in the spring than when put in winter quarters.

A. B. MASON,

Auburndale, O. May 2nd 1889.

How the Bees Wintered.

F. BRIDGMAN writes to the North-Western Farmer. "Spring has fairly opened again, and it is in order now to give our spring reports. These, upon the whole, I think, will be encouraging. My new winter repository has brought the bees through in better shape than I have had them yet, notwithstanding that the place was a little too damp. This trouble was lessened a good deal

by the liberal use of ashes on the floor as an absorbent of the moisture. April 8 and 9 being bright and warm, I set out a few colonies which had showed signs of restlessness. On the 10th they were carrying in pollen. The weather turning cooler, no more were removed until the 17th, when the remaining ones were carried out, except one which will be left in for experimental purposes. Some of the bees could not possibly have wintered better, everything about the hive being dry and clean and the bees very quiet. One colony especially was in such a dormant state that it could not get up a hum in response to a tap on the hive, and was set aside as having passed to the happy hunting grounds. Wishing to know the probable cause of their dying, I proceeded some time after to examine, and found upon lifting the quilt that they were still speechless; but they lifted up two or three legs apiece in silent but effectual remonstrance against further dissection. That colony certainly could have gone through winters much longer than ours.

Some hives were wet inside owing to the cluster not being able to keep up the required heat. Probably had the cellar not been damp the hives would not have been wet, as dampness necessitates a greater expenditure of heat in which to preserve the proper temperature. Some few colonies were affected with the diarrhoea, and these were either short of stores or wet.

Most of my correspondents report the bees coming through in fine condition, some report loss, which was occasioned chiefly by over-kindness or some other misconception regarding winter and preparation therefor. Taking everything into consideration, that this was a new and untried country for bees, and that we were all beginners so far as bee management peculiar to this climate is concerned, I think we have every reason to have great confidence in the future. There is every indication that this will be a good season."

Fernton, Man.

When to Set Bees Out.

F. BRIDGMAN, Fernton, Man., writes The Farmer. "When beautiful spring-like days come on it is just about as natural for the apiarist to want to get his bees out as it is for the bees to fly. The colonies in good healthy condition should be left in the cellar until willow bloom comes. If set out before they will be continuously looking around for something they cannot find—wearing out their lives for naught. The variable weather before bloom time is more conducive to a higher death rate among the workers than the more settled weather on the same colony, although somewhat older, set out at bloom time. It should be the policy in spring to save the workers as much as possible. They are older then and weaker, and can stand less work and worry than at any other time of the season. The longer their lives can be spared the more brood can be reared. This is the main object in spring. If they have plenty of stores on hand it gives them