

be two or three degrees warmer, the bees remaining just as quiet. We think it would require a very damp cellar to keep the bees quiet at a temperature of 50°. We consider yours a very valuable article, there being many very good and interesting points in it, regarding sugar feeding, and the temperature necessary to success. We think you will recollect as many others do, that we advised these many years ago at our National Convention, while many others advocated "Coffee A" sugar or natural stores. We have persistently advised the use of pure granulated sugar syrup stores. With regard to the bees freezing, there is very little danger of its occurring, if the combs are placed far enough apart to allow the bees to cluster compactly between the ranges of comb.

DRY FÆCES.

FRIEND CORNEIL IN "RURAL CANADIAN."

I HAVE lately spent a good deal of time in searching for dry bee-fæces amongst the matter collected on the bottom boards in winter. I am pleased to be able to state that I have satisfied myself that bees do void fæces in the hive of such consistency that the form is retained, and no stain is left where they drop. If any one has any doubts about the matter I hold myself ready to take the debris from a bottom board and pick out bee-fæces for him in his presence. This is no new discovery. The late Moses Quinby, Mr. Abbot, of England, and others knew the fact long ago, but of late it has been called in question. Those who write in favor of the pollen theory claim that healthy bees never void except on the wing and that their excreta is always liquid. They also claim that the retention of pollen for several months in the intestines is sure to produce dysentery. They are mistaken in both cases. Bees do void their excreta in a solid state in the hive, and it consists very largely of pollen or pollen husks. On their first flight my bees discharged long strings shaped somewhat like a sausage of several links, and so dry that no stains were left where they fell. In some cases the voiding occurred while the bees were on the wing, and in others after having alighted and while walking off. I shall always aim to enable my bees to evaporate the water from their bodies so that they can void their excreta in this form. This is the hu-

midity theory in a nutshell. I have exactly similar pieces in my collection picked from beneath the clusters, besides pellets of fæces matter in nearly a globular form. The best way to collect these particles is to sweep contents of the bottom board into a sieve in order to get rid of dead bees. Some of the matter may then be shaken from a finer sieve on a pad of writing paper and the fæcal articles picked out with the aid of a magnifying glass. My experience is that the matter taken from the bottom boards where stocks have died is richer in fæcal droppings than that from stocks which have wintered well. I shall be very much pleased if some of our friends will take an interest in this matter. There is still much to be learned, and close observation will reveal matters of interest where none are supposed to exist.

S. CORNEIL.

Lindsay, May 4, 1885.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

MORE FROM CUBA.

AS YOU have expressed your opinion that the Holy Lands would probably be the more desirable bees for Cuba, on account of the climate being more like that of their native country, I must take exception to it. Now in my opinion, it is not the climate, for in natural history I can find nothing to prove that you are right in your conclusions. The Holy Land bee is all ambition, ever restless, ever in a hurry, at work early and late, ambitious and persevering. Now, Mr. Jones, is that characteristic of the people, or the animals of hot climates? I think you will admit that it is not, but quite the reverse. That the Holy Land is the best bee for this country, there is no doubt, for their ambition to breed and gather honey can be fully satisfied here. Now, let us think the superior ambition of the Holy Lands are due to a combination, or concentration of most of the desirable traits in one. I have thought, and have so expressed myself, that if I could only breed the irritable disposition out of the Holy Lands, and still retain their ambition and prolificness, I should have made one grand step forward, and to that end I have been directing my energies for the last year, and now I am happy to say I have some as quiet and peaceable Holy Lands as any of the most docile Italians; and they have not seemed to have lost any of the characteristics that have made the Holy Lands so popular. But in an apiary as large as this, in spite of all our efforts to control the rearing of objectionable drones by full worker sheets of foundation in both stories, drones will come into existence, that we would