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WINTERING OF BEES.

The wintering of bees, in this latitude is, I know, a question of some anxiety to the bee-keeper, and for the benefit of those who are at all concerned in the subject, the following experiment, I think, will be of some interest :—

Last autumn, I had six hives of bees, and instead of putting them all away in the cellar as usual, I left four of them outside, where they remained during the entire winter.

I had to prepare them however for the ordeal, by putting on each hive an empty super to take off the moisture, which I believe accumulates from the cluster of bees hibernating during the winter months.

I then placed the hives close together on an elevated piece of ground some foot or so above the rest of the garden, and quite sheltered by the house on the north and west sides. I also took the precaution to place three or four boards over the top, to serve as a roof, over which I laid a carpet. I also placed a board all along against the hives and in front of the entrances, to prevent the snow from drifting into and closing them up—so that they could have all the ventilation necessary. And of course when the winter came on, everything would be covered with snow, and it was intended that with this shelter and covering they would keep sufficiently warm.

This spring, these four hives of bees came out much stronger than any bees that I have yet succeeded in wintering, and much better than the two hives put away in the cellar, one of which latter, I may say I lost from some reason or other which I have not been able to account for, as the hive was quite full of honey and seemed perfectly healthy.

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