

quarters weak and sickly are subject to spring winding.

In wintering, you must study very closely each colony. What is the cause of its failure in wintering? Upward ventilation. What about it? I consider it a perfect farce. Does the nature of bees teach them to make holes through the covering over the top bars? I guess not. Do bees require an opening back and front at bottom of hive for ventilation? None whatever. Wintering without the bottom board might do in the sunny south, but not here.

The bottom board I use is very simple. It is reversible—one side for winter and the other for summer. The floor of your cellar should be so constructed that not a dead bee would mould on it. It is the mouldy bees that cause the foul air and make them restless. If you can get the bees to winter so quietly that when you went into the cellar you would not know they were there. You hear a sound, but it seems a long ways off. If you get your bees to that stage, they will come out well; you won't have to bother your head about that silver lining in the clouds that some writers talk about.

Well, I guess I will pull up stakes, and just say here I am not trying to tell my exact system of wintering, nor the construction of my cellar, which I am quite willing to give, if wanted, also the nature of my preparation previous to putting the bees into winter quarters, which I consider very important.

Lancaster, Ont.

### Busy Bee.

Perhaps the brightest song in "His Excellency," Gilbert's latest opera, which we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing, runs as follows, to a guitar accompaniment:

A hive of bees, as I've heard say,  
Paid to their queen one sultry day:

"Please, your majesty's high position,  
The hive is full and the weather is warm.

We rather think with a due submission,  
The time has come when we ought to swarm?"

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz.

Upspake their queen and thus spake she—

"This is a matter that rests with me,  
Who dares undertake thus to form?

"I'll tell you when it's time to swarm!"

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz.

Her majesty wore an angry frown,

In fact, her majesty's foot was down—

Her majesty sulked—declined to sup—

In short, her majesty's back was up.

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz,

Her foot was down and her back was up!

That hive contained one obstinate bee  
(His name was Peter), and thus spake he—  
Though every bee has shown white  
feather,

To bow to fashion I am not prone—  
Why should a hive swarm altogether?  
Surely a bee can swarm alone?"

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz,

Upside down and inside out,

Backwards, forwards, round about.

Twirling here and twisting there,

Topsy, turvily everywhere.—

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz.

Pitiful sight it was to see

Respectable, elderly high-class bee

Who kicked the beam at sixteen stone

Trying his best to swarm alone!

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz.

Trying his best to swarm alone!

The hive were shocked to see their chum

(A strict teetotaler) teetotum—

The queen exclaimed, "How terrible  
very!"

It's perfectly clear to all the throng  
Peter's been at the old brown sherry.

Old brown sherry is much too strong—

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz.

Of all who thus themselves degrade

A stern example must be made,

To Coventry go, you tipsy bee!"

So off to Coventry town went he.

Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz.

There classed with all who misbehave,

Both plausible rogue and noisome  
knave,

In dismal dumps he lived to own

The folly of trying to swarm alone!

### A Question.

Please find enclosed my dollar to renew my subscription to the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. I find it a great help to a beginner. Kindly answer the following in THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. In running for comb honey is it best to put the full super on and raise it pulling the empty sections underneath, or to put the empty super on top of that partly filled. JAMES KERR,

Seymer, Ont.

[Will some of our readers kindly reply to the above question, a reply from various sources will be of interest to our readers.—Ed.]