

J. L. GROSJEN, COBOURG, ONT.—I have thirty-one hives all strong. I put thirty-four in the cellar last fall; raised the hive one-half inch off the bottom board and put a cotton cover on top. I had a cover 5 x 5 for ventilation with a slide on the inside to regulate the temperature, and an elbow on the outside. Most all the bees are dead that were left outside, except a few that were covered with snow.

F. L. SMITH, CHITTENANGO, N. Y.—Bees wintered poorly in central N. Y., the past Winter nearly, or quite, one-half failed to respond at roll call. Spring has been backward up to May 15th, since which they have done finely; but little swarming has taken place at present writing. This present season I have prevented swarming all that was possible; prefer to wait until just previous to opening of basswood, which at present indicates a large harvest, by the buds, or pebbles, with which the trees seem loaded.

WM. MILLER, NICOLSTON.—In Spring of 1884 I had two colonies. Bought three more, increased to fourteen, two of which left me for the bush. Extracted 210 lbs. In Fall fed granulated sugar till colonies weighed 60 lbs.—no guess work. Put in sawdust clamp second week in November. three inches underneath hive, nine inches on top and ten on sides. Took them out April 24th; one dead, queenless, but with plenty of stores, and one very weak. Tried to feed the latter but weather was unfit to open hive for five days and they spring dwindled for want of food. Sold one and had nine left all in fair condition. I kept chaff cushion on top of racks all Winter. My first swarm came off June 13th. Bees all in Jones' hives except two in Langstroth's.

A REPORT FROM WEST VIRGINIA.

W. B. ZINN, HOLBROOK, RITCHIE CO., WEST VA.—We had a cold Winter here. A great many bees perished for the want of food and suitable gums to stand the hard freezing. Bee culture is in its infancy yet in West Virginia, there are a good many bees in the old box hives yet, some transferred their bees last Spring to frames, and the Summer being so dry the bees did not gather enough honey to winter on. Feeding is a great hobby with some people, yet fully one-half of the bees died in our neighborhood. I had twenty-seven stands; lost none; doubled back to twenty-two, and fed 190 pounds of granulated sugar; I had eighteen of this number in Root's chaff hives. I took all the frames out of the upper story and put in six inches of wheat chaff, they all wintered well, but one stand starved to death; that was my fault of course, the other four stands were in single

Simplicity hive. I took out four frames, slipped in a thin board and put in chaff between the boards and gum. They wintered as well as those in the chaff gums.

JOSEPH LUX, UPPER MONTAIN, N. J.—I have no bees at the present time, but ten or twenty years ago I tried bees and gave them up on account of being punctured more than I thought I deserved. I hope to hear of some talisman that will maintain the cuticle intact. This subject, (the stings on account) of honey expectancies, and that of which you seem to have had such tough experience the past Winter, are the two drags on bee-keeping. We must learn to disarm the bee or iron clad our hides for No. 1, and for No. 2 invent some big fix that will induce Mr. Bee to stay through the whole Winter and the first half of Spring. I think he would gladly stay for the balance of the year, or at least until decrepitude from honest work launches him into the realms of the departed, perhaps to solicit a new make up in the guise of a honey monger, minus the aforesaid caudal appendage. I am anxious to see your new "comb-honey hive."

G. L. PEARSON, CLARKSBURG. — Went into winter quarters with thirty-three hives, eight non-swarming hives, four Langstroth, two box, nineteen Jones. Lost six—two Langstroth, two box, two Jones. The non-swarmlers came out all well and in first-class condition. All my bees were wintered on their summer stands. The non-swarmlers had some pea straw in the cap of the hive that I use for sections in summer, the others mostly were packed with sawdust on three sides with pea straw in the cap. I gave little, some not any, ventilation at the entrance, but plenty at the top through the straw. I am satisfied that successful wintering and prevention of Spring dwindling is to attend to your bees well in the months of September and October; this is my experience. Last September I went over all my small hives. I found few bees, no brood worth mentioning. I commenced to feed on granulated sugar syrup. I fed about twenty pounds to each hive. When I again examined them I found they had used it nearly all in raising brood, so I had to feed nearly as much more for wintering on. I cut holes through every comb in the hive but the outside ones. My hive had plenty of young bees which I consider is of the utmost importance in safe wintering and a complete remedy for spring dwindling for it is the old bees that die in the Spring. My bees are all doing well.

LISTOWEL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION meets in Listowel on Friday, August 28th. Geo. Brown, Sec.