

otherwise about the same, wintered well.

Last winter I put an extra outside shell on these hives, which gave room for about ten inches of air space over the packing, and they wintered as well as those in the other hives. Some hives, which were made to winter two colonies have only two inches of packing around the outside, and winter as well as those having more packing and only one colony. The lack of packing is more than compensated for by the heat of the other colony.

I believe that the earlier we can pack our bees for out-of-door wintering the better, as that gives them a chance to allow for free upward ventilation by using burlaps instead of the regular oil-cloth or inner cover, as my experience has been decidedly against the use of a tight cover overhead. Right here is where the air space comes in overhead, for without that, those bees with free upward ventilation will have their packing full of moisture to freeze up on them and this will soon finish the colony. With the air space over-head the moisture passes right on up through and the packing remains dry and warm.

Barryton, Mich.

PUTTING THE BEES AWAY FOR WINTER

By H. Harley Selwyn.

At this season of the year possibly a short discourse on the methods followed in placing a large apiary away in winter quarters would be appropriate—at least for those who cellar-winter their bees.

In our experience two things are essential, speed and gentleness. We have put away 110 colonies in three hours, or say two minutes to the hive. This time of course runs from the minute the first hive stood on the racks in the cellar.

Our procedure has been along the

lines mentioned herein. If any suggestions for improvement can be made, the writer would be glad to see them in these columns.

First of all perhaps it would be well to consider the exact time and conditions under which bees should go into the cellar. It is, of course, the wish of all beekeepers to leave the bees out on the summer stands as late as possible in order that they may get a good fly somewhere about the time of transferring. But, and this is a point worthy of consideration in our estimation, are those bees going to benefit in the long run when they are left exposed for a period, often of ten or fifteen days at the least, to the nightly frosts and cold and blustery weather, of that season, and then to enter on their long, long winter's rest without having had the opportunity of a good cleansing flight?

Now if such conditions are likely to prevail would it not be to everyone's advantage to choose a day following a night of heavy frost which in its turn has only just succeeded some warm sunny day when the bees have been flying freely? The frost at night will have driven the cluster close together and you will not be hampered when working at the entrance of each hive; each hive will be dry (and that word although not very big means a good deal before spring); and last but not least the bees themselves will be in an ideal condition for their winter's rest.

And now for the handling of the individual hives. We have found the long rolls of tissue paper used for sanitary purposes to be the best thing yet for blocking the entrances. It has enough spring when crushed to hold in place well, it permits of some ventilation, and there is enough in twenty-five cents' worth to do several hundred colonies. Then again, unlike cotton or cotton waste or any such material, the bees do not become tangled up in it and get

hauled out by the dozen when the time arrives.

After all entrances are closed off leaving nothing quilt on top of the frame, place one hand on each side of the frame and under the alight advance face forward with him, you of course, in the corners of the hive. It is only the weight of the frame between two, but the slightest danger of the frame's bottom and causing the body may be fastened at the back only and the rack or whatever material to hold it in the cellar, can be inserted in the frame elevated off the bottom block to permit of freer ventilation.

When all the hives are in place close up the cellar with the aid of a lighted candle and paper stuffing, but get a number of bees which fall on the floor are always some which run. You will be getting up your legs as to make one consider especially in the cramped space by a cellar full of hives. This is practically done. Go away from them to themselves and then let it be good and a bargain. In a very short time will settle down again, filled with the impression that it is snow arriving after all.

Ottawa, Ont.

WINTERING BEES IN

By H. W. Jones

I have read with much interest your recent discussion on the method of wintering bees. The following notes contain the results of thirty