

closely, and thus far all is well. One can look into the well-lighted hive and see the bees clustered in perfect repose about the bottom-bars of the frames. Such an entrance is all right for ordinary winter weather, but may cause trouble when the temperature falls to 10 below zero or colder.

Though I do not advocate so extreme an entrance as last described, I do most assuredly advocate one which has the equivalent of at least five square inches. If there is any reader of these lines who has hive entrances smaller than that let him worry about his bees. That size of entrance is needed to furnish the circulation of air sufficient to carry off the moisture given out by the bees, and will go far towards preventing mouldy combs and sick bees.

Right here let me say that bees which winter with dry, clean combs do not spring dwindle to any serious extent.

It is desirable that I state that my hives are well protected; that the combs run crosswise of the hive; that the hives face the south; that every colony allowed a big entrance is a big colony.

There are conditions which will permit good wintering with small hive-entrances, and they are these: A mild winter in which bees can get frequent flights and can ventilate their hive themselves, or an arrangement for a slow upward circulation through a very porous cushion over the frames, in which case the regular cover of the hive is left off in the wintering-case. If the winter is cold and there is no opportunity for the escape of the dampness of the hive, the bees become uneasy, their abdomens become distended with moisture, the weaker ones die and make smaller the entrance already too small, the stronger bees become weak, and unless spring comes to the rescue the colony assuredly dies.

Let your bees have air.

—American Bee Journal.

## HANDLING BEES LATE IN THE AUTUMN.

If one is obliged to handle the bees late in the autumn, when they are much inclined to rob, it is often well to wait for a cool day when the temperature is just a few degrees too low for the bees to fly of their own accord. At such times we can work without being bothered by robbers, and I find that the colony being manipulated at such time is not exceptionally cross. There is one thing, however, that we must be cautious about when handling bees when it is too cold for them to fly naturally. As we open the hive we will find the bees on the outside of the cluster somewhat numb and not inclined to fly at us, but as we part the frames (combs) we must be on the lookout for those that are nearer the centre, and consequently warm and ready for business. They will dart out and use the business end almost before one can jerk his hand out of the way. It is, therefore, well to have the smoker in good order and quite handy, so as to subdue them when they make a sudden attack. At the same time it is well to use no more smoke than is actually necessary, for if too much smoke is used the bees become excited and frightened and soon fly off the comb. They then soon become chilled and will alight on the bee-keeper and crawl all over him, and some may get under his clothing, which we all know is unpleasant. Handling bees at such times is not to be recommended if it can be avoided, but I often choose to do in preference to working with them when robbers are constantly on the alert and will follow the smoker about the yard in order to be ready to pounce on to the combs as soon as a hive is opened. If there is only a few colonies to be worked with it can often be accomplished early in the morning, when it is yet too cool for the bees to fly. Progressive Bee-keeper.

DEV

Edito

De

Cour

sue

comm

altho

exper

I refe

confe

Cana

tryin

He s

so fa

trade

ruin,

Well,

to me

Jama

turing

plenty

honey

person

this

ery, a

consid

at the

West

the W

reap r

them

and v

keeper

to cre

But

of bee

quality

and w

marked

cause

mad

and co

case

experi

from e

time v

only o

only re

numbe

ar bu