point for comb honey is to have a strong colony with a good queen early in the season. As to the other point of your letter (no upward ventilation) it may prove a very practical thing to do. I have never experimented in that direction, at first I thought it seemed a little difficult to accomplish practically. This is a grand point for some of our experimental stations to determine.

For twenty years I was experimenting and fooling over these nice new points of theory. I did it till I had all the conceit taken out of me. I never expect to have any more of that commodity as long as I live. I am quite content to stand outside of all this discussion and trouble. I never expect to get in the harness again. I have written this hurried rambling letter, if of the least intrinsic value to you, you are welcome to it. Do not allow beginners to put big money in expensive appurtenances, nor to experiment on these disputed points of fancy management, keep them along lines of established practical management. Experimenting on a large scale in former years cost me more money than my business could furnish. There are unfortunately too many men of sanguine temperment, ready to rush to the front and proclaim some new idea or theory, untested for more than one season in most cases. They are generally good talkers and often men of experience who ought to know better. An example in the case of a man in Minnesota, some twenty years ago, put forward the fact, as he proclaimed it. That a small cluster of bees (I think he advocated one guard) was much more advantageous and better every way for practical results than a large swarm, and advocated reducing the clusters by shaking the excess on the snow in preparing for winter, This seems absurd but it is a fact that this theory lost very many thousand colonies of bees to the country, because, while this idea was at the front of every bee-keeper, who had small clusters in the fall would say, 'a la! Hosier" and lose them of course.

In this industry I believe you are surrounded and supported by a grand lot of men. I admire their frank outspoken habit of putting things. Kindly remember me to Mr. Cornell and Mr. McKnight the only two of your co-laborers I have had the pleasure of meeting. Wishing you every success in you enterprise. I am

Fraternally Yours,

J. E. HETHERINGTON.

CHERRY VALLEY, N. Y., Mar. 10th, 1894.

I am pleased with the Journal under its present management both in appearance and quality. GEO. WOOD.

The Kind of Wood for Bee Hives

—D. W. HEISE.

During the spring of 1891, in the way of making preparation for increase from a few colonies of bees, I went to a manufacturer of hives with the intention of purchasing hives from him made up. But not liking the hive in its entirety, I concluded to make the hives which I might need for the season myself. Being a builder by trade, the labor of making hives fell right in my line, but not having sufficient dry pine lumber of proper dimension, I concluded to use some very fine soft elm boards, which I thought would answer the purpose equally as well, and in order to have the hives as light as possible, I had the boards planed down thin. I made up the hives all double walled, a two inch space being given sides and bottom, stuffed with dry sawdust. Swarms were hived in all those hives the following summer, and were left on the summer stands for winter with a sawdust cushion placed over the frames. The bees appeared to winter fairly well in those hives, but upon several occasions when raising the covers, I noticed a collection of dampness and frost in and about the cushion. Not having any double walled hives to compare them with, and having had no experience in wintering bees, I accepted the fact of the frost and dampness being present as an unusual occurance where bees are wintered on the summer stands. The following spring on examination, I found the combs in those hives thickly covered with mould; especially the outer frame, but by aiding the bees a little by way of house cleaning, we soon had everything in apple pie order, and the bees did well, the following winter being the hard winter of 92-93 (to bee-keepers in this locality at least) the bees in half of those hives died, and I again found the inside of those hives damp and frosty and combs mouldy. Having also lost bees which were in hives constructed in the same manner as those already mentioned, but made of soft pine lumber, I gave the matter very little consideration, although the latter I did not find in such a filthy condition.

Now for the verification of the fact that the kind of wood has a great deal to do with a successful outdoor winter bee hive. Last fall I prepared my bees for winter in the usual way, and all in the same manner. About January 5th last, I walked over to