

being confined in the hive on the approach of spring, than they will if allowed to fly out.

The time to put bees into winter quarters depends somewhat upon the severity of the weather: usually the last of November or the first of December: if the weather is not too cold, they may safely remain out until near January. They generally suffer more in the latter part than in the beginning of winter.

Position of the hives when placed in the cellar.—If straw or the old fashioned board hives they should be turned bottom-side up with the bottom boards removed. Their animal heat will then drive all the dampness and mould out of the hive. The only disadvantage in turning the hives bottom-side up, is, all the dead bees and particles of comb will drop among the combs in the bottom of the hive. But if there is honey enough, there will be no trouble resulting from it when the hive is carried out of doors, and placed right side up, the bees will readily clear it out. If moveable comb hives are used, the boxes, &c., should be removed and the hives placed to remain right side up, with the entrance closed.

The time to remove bees from the cellar depends in a great measure upon the forwardness of the spring, and care should be taken that the weather is warm enough that the bees can safely fly from the hive and return again, always obliging to never set but a part of the hives out the same day, and always place them as near as practicable on the same stand that they occupied the year previous, to avoid confusion and error.

After the bees have all made their excursion, they always will do on the first day, and discharge themselves, thousands of bees might then be saved by setting them back into the cellar for three or four weeks and at the same time supply each hive with substitute for the food which is rye meal (or common flour will do) as bee bread or pollen is the first thing the bees will visit the fields for, in early spring. Applying them with this useful article the life of a large number of bees will be saved, if allowed to stand out, would be lost.

B. P. KIDDER,
Practical Agriculturist.

FERRISBURGH, VT., Dec. 1862.

THE AGE OF FERTILITY.

I believe that the time which intervenes between the birth of a queen and the laying of her first egg, varies very considerably, according to the season, and the influences of weather and temperature.

Having raised a large number of artificial queens during the last two seasons, I have been able to notice a great difference in the egg-laying of the queens, even in cases subjected to the same influences. Three boxes were started with cells just sealed up, and cut out from an-

other stock on the same day. Two of them possessed newly-deposited eggs in about seventeen days, but in the third after the lapse of a month, no eggs were visible. As, after a searching investigation on two separate days, no queen could be discovered, I determined to unite the hive to another, but when on the point of lifting out the frames for the purpose, I caught a sight of her. The frames were returned to their box, and the intention of breaking up the stock relinquished. In a few days subsequently, the first batch of eggs was deposited, so that five weeks must have elapsed, in this instance, from the time the cells were placed in the hives until the queen commenced egg-laying.

Again in another hive, earlier in the season, the weather being warmer, I do not think ten days had elapsed before a young queen, given to me the day after its birth by Mr. Woodbury, had filled a large space of comb with eggs.

But the most singular instance of an opposite character to the last, occurred in a stock which lost its queen on the 20th of September, 1861. Royal cells were immediately commenced, and a young queen hatched out some time about the 1st of October. I had not a single drone in my apiary; therefore the hive was sent out to a garden in the close vicinity of Mr. Woodbury's bees, he having still a few left. Although the hive was closely examined between that date and February of the following year, yet never could I discover a single egg, and expected nothing more than to find the bees dwindle away, or the queen take to laying the eggs of drones only. It suggested itself as possible that impregnation might have taken place in autumn, late as it was, and that the queen had the power of withholding any eggs until the spring: but I must confess it hardly appeared probable that such should be the actual state of the case, and I was very agreeably surprised to find on a subsequent inspection, that she had not only been duly impregnated, but was in reality a very prolific breeder. For in March there was an immense quantity of brood in all stages of development. —S. BEVAN FOX, in *Cot. Gardener*.

Horticulture.

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF UPPER CANADA.

We have as yet seen no published notice of a meeting, held about a fortnight since, of this Association, in the city of Hamilton. We are glad to hear, from a private source, that the meeting was well attended; that a very useful discussion took place on some of the most important topics connected with Canadian horticulture, and that much interest was excited