

board is all that is necessary to stimulate them to brooding until first bloom.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BEES ALL RIGHT.

I AM glad to be able to report that I have succeeded in bringing all my bees through the very long and severe winter and now have them in the best shape I have ever had them in the spring, all having queens and being strong in bees. I had four in the cellar and three outside. The cellar was not ventilated and during a great portion of the winter the temperature was down to thirty. They had no flight from the time they were put in until set out yesterday—about five months and a half. They had a cushion of forest leaves over them and unwisely the caps were left on. About a month ago I lifted them off when I found the cushions wet and mouldy. The three outside were put into packing boxes, one packed in forest leaves and two in chaff. The chaff only came up as far as the caps which I left on. The half-story was filled with cushions of leaves. They were fed entirely on syrup. In September I took away the combs having most pollen and crowded the bees into the smallest space I could, nearly all having only five combs. I then fed them about thirty pounds of syrup each. Those outside consumed the most stores and were much the driest, but these are the only points of difference I can see. I attribute my success to the absence of pollen and to the bees being crowded into such a small space. It is evident that some of the rules laid down by beekeepers have exceptions. One is that the temperature must be kept about 45° in cellars. Had the caps been left off those in my cellar I am of the opinion that they would have kept dry though the temperature was down near to freezing point a great portion of the winter.

Bond Head, April, '85.

J. CARSWELL.

You are right Friend Carswell about the removal of the caps. Had they been removed no doubt your bees in the cellar would have remained fully as dry as those which were packed and left outside. We are glad to learn that you have been equally as successful in guarding your little flock as you have been in guarding and caring for the spiritual wants of your larger one.

THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL from now until January, 1886, for 60 cents.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

WHAT DISTANCE SHOULD COMBS BE APART?

QUERY No. 13.—QUEBEC, QUE.—In preparing colonies for winter, how far apart should the combs be placed to give the best results?

MARTIN EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—If the combs are well filled with stores, 1½ inches.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—One and one-half inches is what I use. Have tried greater distances but see no advantage in more than 1½ inches.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGONWORKS, O.—I have not experimented, having wintered successfully the last six winters with combs the same distance apart as in the summer.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—Have experimented a little but not much on this point, and came to the conclusion to leave combs during the winter the usual distance apart, same as in summer.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—As my greatest experience is from indoor wintering, I find that it is not necessary to spread combs for this purpose. For open air wintering I would take out the seventh comb and occupy the same space with the six remaining.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—If a good strong colony, I leave the frames same as in summer, 1½ inches from centre to centre of frames. If a small colony, crowd up as close as possible, and have the bees get around, then put in one or more division boards.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—Some years ago I spread the combs in the middle of the brood nest so that in some cases they were 1½ inches and in other cases two inches from centre to centre. In spring found that the bees left the very wide spaces and clustered at one side or the other where the combs had not been spread. Since that time I have left my combs as they were in summer.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—I don't think it advisable to spread the combs much, as this