

poor success with it, has always appeared to me, in some ways to be **reasonable**, and that factor no doubt explains the fact of my fixing up a few colonies each year that way in the hopes of making a success of the plan. Right here let me remark that where the bees can be readily attended to at any time and the entrances carefully watched, I have no doubt but what the small entrance works all right, but let me add that with the large entrance **always** works all right. So with this years experience again, I believe I will again resolve never to contract the entrance of a strong colony to as small a capacity as is so often advised these days. "This years experience,"—yes, that is the reason that prompts me to mention the subject just now, so I might as well briefly explain, even if it does show poor management or whatever the fraternity may chose to call it.

Some time in early December I happened to be at one of the yards, and as I passed down among the hives I thought how **cold** those big entrances 12 by $\frac{1}{2}$ looked, and so for **humanitarian** reasons (certainly past experience does not justify me in giving any other reason) I decided to contract those entrances up a bit. This was done by splitting shingles and nailing one over each entrance, after having with a knife cut out an entrance in the centre, about 4 inches wide and $\frac{3}{8}$ deep. This merciful (?) act was done to sixteen colonies if I am exact, the others being left with the big cold doors as some would say.

Yesterday (February 28th) the bees had a partial flight, and as I happened to be near the yard where the entrances were contracted, I went in and removed the snow from the hives so that the bees could fly if they were so minded. Just here let me say that these colonies were very strong with bees in the fall, and by all appearances in this section there has been more honey dew in the hives than was anticipated, as there are more dead

bees in front of the hives than is usual, and some colonies are showing unmistakable signs of dysentery. Well, the moment I began to take away the snow from these colonies with contracted entrances, it was easy to see that all was not as it should have been. February has been a steady cold month with no thaws, and as a result the dead bees had not been gathered out at any time and the floor had got covered and then the **entrances** had got jammed. That is at least what had happened to these sixteen colonies, and if I had not got around when I did, no doubt all would have been badly damaged, if not destroyed. As it was, one colony was completely closed, and as I came to it there was a roar that could be heard outside plainly. After some work the entrance was cleared and the bees came out with a rush, but judging from the odor of the colony and the looks of the entrance after the flight, the colony in question is to be of the no good class for 1910, even if it should not die outright. I might yet add that in the cleaning of the entrances, the first thing that was done was to pull off those shingles and throw them at least far enough away so that I would not be tempted to tack them on again before April at the earliest. To-day I was at the Cashel apiary that has received no more attention than the bees I have been talking about—less in fact, as I did not **shingle** any of the entrances there. Of the ninety colonies in the yard, not one was bothered in the least with dead bees in the entrances. Those that want to close up the entrances for winter may, this is a free country, but as for this scribbler, we want for a strong colony nothing less than ten or twelve inches wide by one-half inch deep. A number of our hives have entrances five inches wide and one inch deep, and aside from the danger of mice entering, this entrance gives best results of all in yards that cannot be visited often during the winter,

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and that are apt to be for any length of time

Again referring to ed covers versus porced the bees, we would sa ter with sealed covers the bees so much be style of packing, we r to leave the plan that

TAKING BEES F HOFFMAN Indexed

Enclosed find orde subscription for the (nal. I think the Jo proved under the p and wish you every s

I would be obliged your correspondents, hint on the best mod from cellar, (which with bottom boards Boardman plan, havi tween each hive), so tl out around cellar wh hives; also if you thi practice to commence frames. I have now on the wide top l frames, and like the as I will require m spring, and think the advantages over the s used the former) wou it would be advisable when ordering new with the stapled one interchangeable? A any of your readers received.

Mt. View P.O., We

[Answering the las would advise you to s you have. They are Hoffman frames are i them, but you will f