

have settled that query myself. I had always been successful and slighted them somewhat in the fall of '84, as I did not pack them heavy enough for such a winter, or feed enough to cover the pollen well, which, I think, will be all that is wanted in that direction. Here let me say that I have thrown away my sawdust, as it is mostly hemlock and hardwood now-a-days; much of it was frozen around the hives. I have about 70 packed outdoors with flax stems, very fine and dry, with two quilts on top, well covered with flax.

UPWARD VENTILATION.

You see we all seem to practice it. Will you please unbutton and tell us why we do it? It is a lot of trouble. You see, the first thing bees do, is to seal up every crack and keep it sealed. I don't think this is the natural home of the honey bee, or they would be trying to make upward ventilation in fall instead of hunting in November. Could we not pack with the summer cloth, lid, and all on, and get the same results? If you keep the frost away from the hive, where would you get the moisture? Bees could be packed any time after harvest, and it would save a world of trouble in spring stopping this upward ventilation. I am not surprised at the vast number who winter outside, and I think something on the subject of Packing Boxes would be very useful. When spring comes, I think bees packed outside have the advantage. My cellared bees, when set out last spring, would fly every time the sun shone for a few minutes, while none of the packed bees flew.

WINTER FEEDING.

Let me say it is a poor business at best. As the honey does not melt the sugar, there is always a loss from sugar falling after the bees lick away the honey. Next I tried the muslin, and more bees got hung getting their heads through than looked well. It is a safe investment to feed enough in fall to do till spring. I hope I am done feeding bees sugar, and if I cannot get along without it, I will quit the bees. When will we know what our honey costs, if we buy sugar by the barrel with ready cash before the honey is sold? There is something deceiving about feeding sugar; it seems to evaporate very soon in the hive to the weight of dry sugar. I don't think honey loses in the same proportion; four or five pounds of extracted honey to thirty pounds of sugar syrup, will make the feed very thick, and stop it entirely from turning to sugar in the feeders. I am satisfied that winter feed should be made into clear candy, or put into winter feeders.

OLD BEES.

Well, Friend Jones, those bees you moved will

be pretty old in May, as they could not have bred much, and as for my own, I believe nine-tenths of them are bees hatched in August. However they are saving their strength to a great extent as they have flown very little since September, with not a single sign of diarrhoea in November. This leaves only two sources for dysentery, viz., exercise or young bees.

Now then, if we get such a winter as last, and just such a spring, with no brooding in early spring, the loss in Ontario will be just as great. Let me say that 612 pounds of honey was taken from a two-story Simplicity hive of twenty-two frames—a one-story hive would have been useless, as it would not begin to hold the bees—and in two days after hiving them on empty combs, we took fifty-seven pounds of honey.

DEEP OR SHALLOW FRAMES.

I have been partial to the deep frames, and had quite a theory rigged up in their favor. But I have been using both for five years, and somehow the bees seem to come out just as well on shallow frames; in spite of myself, I find nothing in them to condemn, and when the top story is taken off, they are much easier packed or stored in the cellar. I will leave it to the readers of the C. B. J. if Mr. Jones has not outdone himself in conducting this discussion impartially. If any one thinks the JOURNAL partial to his frame or hive, it was his choice long before the C. B. J. was born, and he has a right to prefer it still.

FOUNDATION.

These last two seasons I have hived bees both with it and without it. Now the honey ceased altogether for the season about July 30th, and those having foundation were fit to winter, while those on empty frames were almost without a drop, with not even a full set of combs. This I can prove, and it will happen every time in such seasons.

I suppose you are overcrowded with good matter. The above on "upward ventilation" was written before your query on it appeared.

CHAS. MITCHELL.

Molesworth.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked of, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

BEES RETURNING TO OLD STAND WHEN REMOVED.

QUERY No. 81.—If a colony of bees be moved a few yards only, all the