

STRENGTHENING COLONIES.

QUERY No. 145.—Which is the better way to strengthen weak colonies in the spring, double them up or buy bees by the pound?

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—If your queens are good buy bees by the pound.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I have tried doubling up with very poor results, so I just let them alone.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Give young bees from strong colonies in May or double up in June whichever you prefer.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I have had no experience in buying by the pound, but my experience is against uniting very weak colonies in spring.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—In early spring I would do neither. A little before the honey harvest begins they may be doubled up to advantage.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—The latter especially if your queens are valuable and you can get the bees in time to save the colony from becoming entirely extinct.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I would not do either, pack them up close and warm, give them plenty of feed and a frame of brood from some colony that can spare it as circumstances will allow.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Buy bees I should say, doubling up weak colonies in early spring, seldom ends in producing colonies of much value during the season.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Neither. The best way is to pack closely above them, confine to so few frames that all will be covered, and practice stimulative feeding. It is best to feed a gill of warm syrup each evening.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—I cannot make doubling up in the spring succeed; if I could, I would say double up. If you know just how to do it you can strengthen weak ones from very strong stocks profitably, by giving young bees, so young that they have not had a fly.

O. O. POPPLETON, HAWKS PARK, FLA.—Two or more weak colonies doubled up in the spring, will probably be no better at commencement of honey harvest than each would have been if not doubled, at least such has been my experience. A Mr. Spalding of Iowa, reported at the last

State Convention that he last year strengthened up his weak colonies by giving them bees bought in the south, and the result was so satisfactory that he intends to practice the same much more largely this year. This seems to us to be very much the best way to strengthen up weak colonies in the spring.

BY THE EDITOR.—We have tried both ways, but prefer to leave them if they are not queenless, keeping them closed up and warm until later in the season. Doubling a lot of weak colonies never appears to improve them very much, and bees by the pound early in spring have never been a success with us.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

A GOOD WORD FOR THE HEDDON HIVE.

ROBT. KENNEDY, SR.—I wintered a colony in the Heddon hive, and it did well. Less stores were required in it than the Gallup. Thanks to your winter feeder, all my bees came out well, save one.

Bethany, April 22, 1887.

BEES NEVER WINTERED BETTER.

W. H. SANFORD.—I see by last JOURNAL you ask bee-keepers for their reports on wintering. I may say that mine never wintered better. I put away eighty-two colonies, packed in chaff on their summer stands, and all came through good and strong but one.

Tottenham, April 23, 1887.

COLD WINTERING.

B. LOSEE.—Bees on their summer stands seem all right. Four late colonies placed in a cold cellar, ranging between 32° to 38° (to-day 42°) are quiet, losing on an average a bee a day since Nov. 20th. Breeding has been going on for weeks, and a drone-laying queen has cast out eggs in quantities, and reared drones, all through the winter, and still they have survived their long confinement. Pollen first appeared in the Alder, April 17th. Bees enjoyed the first Crocus on the 19th.

Cobourg, April 23, 1887.

LOST TWO OUT OF ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN

C. FRENCH.—I can say that I am well pleased with the way my bees have turned out. I put 116 colonies into winter quarters and took out 114; not bad, is it, considering the hard winter? They are all on their summer stands and are bringing in pollen, at present, and what is better, they are all good and strong.

Oshawa, Ont., April 23rd, 1887.

You certainly have been very successful in wintering. Keep it in mind and