

### LARGE OR SMALL SWARMS FOR WINTERING.

QUERY No. 65.—Is it necessary to go into winter quarters with a large swarm of bees to secure successful wintering.—J. O. D.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON MICH.—No.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—No.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—No.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—No. I prefer a medium one.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—It is certainly preferable to do so.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—No. Medium sized colonies often winter better than very strong ones.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Not necessary if you have the right kind of a place to winter them.

T. H. ELWOOD, STARKVILLE, N. Y.—Yes. A good average swarm for the climate of Central N. Y.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—No. A stock of moderate strength may be protected so as to winter successfully.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I think it safer. In a good cellar I can winter even small nuclei at that, in the most severe winters.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—No. Most bee-keepers however feel safer with large colonies. Some think medium ones winter best.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—It is all the better if open-air wintering be meant. If a proper winter repository is meant, I would prefer small or medium swarms in the fall.

J. E. POND, JR. FOXBORO, MASS.—Not at all, provided due care is taken in winter preparation. I have wintered a three-frame nucleus with success, and can do it again I think. A large swarm is better than a small one as a rule.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—A moderately large sized colony of young bees will—other things being equal—winter better than a large swarm of older bees. A large swarm consumes less stores in proportion than a smaller one.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Ordinarily speaking it is not necessary—that is, if the winter repository is comfortable—but in the case of bees wintered in a low temperature without

proper protection, the more numerous the bees the better, provided they have plenty of stores

JUDGE ANDREWS, MCKENNY, TEXAS.—Other things equal, I would give, in November or March, as much for a colony of one quart of bees as for one of one gallon, looking to the results of the next year as well as to wintering [This answer is strictly from a Texan standpoint.]

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO.—A medium sized swarm will winter just as well if they have a prolific queen, they will come out in the spring with a fine lot of young bees. A great many of the bees put into winter quarters die of old age and if there is not a good queen in the hive your strong one would be the weaker in the spring.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KEN.—It is not necessary to have the colonies large. Good average colonies do the best as a general rule. Some years ago, in the fall when I was fixing up my apiary for the winter months, I tried this experiment. I chose the figures 100 to represent an average colony, and marked the hives according to the relative size of the colony, the figures ran from 75 up to 150. Well, on the first of April the following spring I went over them, examining them carefully and retaining the figures 100 as the average size, and when I was through I was surprised to see how the figures contradicted each other. Colonies marked 150 in the fall were marked 75 in April, and some put at 75 in the fall took on 150 and so on, up and down the scale.

## HONEY PLANTS.

WITH NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS.

FAMILY—"ASCLEPIADACEÆ."

THE following has reference to the sample sent us by Mr. George Strangways, of Elora: "The seed-vessel sent me last week, is a pod of a very common perennial herb—Family—*Asclepiadaceæ*, Genus—*Asclepias*, Species—*Cornuti*, commonly known as Milkweed or Silkweed. The stem is usually simple (having no branches), about four feet high, leaves, oblong-lanceolate, acute at both ends, the under side tomentose (covered with tangled hairs.)

Flowers—in nodding umbels, springing from the axils of leaves, each of twenty or more sweet scented flowers.

The calyx is five-parted—corolla five-parted and reftexed when mature. A horn-like process projects from the three-leaved staminal corona, and curves towards the stigma, hence