

one third of the bees to remain laboring outside of the hive instead of inside, one third of the warmth is lost and one third less brood rearing will be carried on. All systems of spring feeding or feeding in cool weather when the heat is required in the hive should be carried on inside.

## SUBSCRIBERS' REPORTS.

J. W. K. SHAW & CO., LOREAVILLE, LA.: Bees swarming daily. Honey coming in. Thermometer 67° above; weather cool.

J. S. WATSON, WINGHAM, ONT. Our bees came through the winter all right, so far, we put them up in a box with about six inches space and filled it up with dry sawdust and chaff mixed.

Stratford "Beacon": Beekeepers hereabouts say the winter just over has been unusually hard on bees, the long continued cold causing the insects to consume an unusual amount of food. Quite a number have lost half their colonies already and expect still further losses. Those wintered outside are said to have suffered the most.

ISAAC LANGSTROTH, SEAFORTH, ONT.: Six, all in splendid condition at present, all seem to be healthy, all having queens and some rearing brood. A year ago, I only had one hive and I lost it in wintering. My loss made me study the wintering process thoroughly, with the above result. I wintered in sawdust clamp. Heavy losses are reported all around me, several losing all. I think from 50 to 75 per cent. will be lost in this locality.

WM. CLIMIE, JR., LISTOWEL, ONT.: I enclose subscription to JOURNAL. Am glad to see that your venture promises success. I would like to see the JOURNAL discuss the suitability of the Jones' hives with a second story for extracting. I am afraid that it is a little too high, but intend to try them double this season. At this date all my queens are living and laying, but a few hives were weakened by dysentery. They were all surrounded by shells, containing about six inches of chaff on all sides.

IRA ORVIS, WHITBY, ONT., 57-147: We put 108 colonies in the cellar and left 39 out of doors mostly packed in chaff. Temperature of cellar from 44° to 48° at the bottom, and from 50° to 56° at the top. Some of the hives were covered with 3/4 inch boards, some with burlap

and some had nothing over the frames. The outlet of the underground ventilator was snowed under nearly all winter, and is now filled with water. A 6 inch stove pipe leads from the top of cellar to the pipe of the coal stove. Loss, in cellar, one starved to death; outdoors, 14, and some very weak.

H. D. DAVIS, BRADFORD, VT.: My bees are in fine condition in New England No. 7 hive. In 1882, I had 64 colonies. In 1883 I wintered 84 colonies. In 1884 I packed on their summer stands 109 colonies, among them being 12 nursals, there being in none of them over three pints of bees. One of this number starved as there was not enough bees to remove the cluster to where there was honey on account of the steady cold weather. I left these nursals out that I might test the New England No. 7 hive and my method of feeding. I have lost but this one nursal for the three years. I have not a frosty brood nest or mouldy comb within my bee yard. My frames and comb are not defaced with dysentery. There was not a day previous to March 25th for eight weeks, but the thermometer stood at zero in this section, much of the time from 10° to 40° below. I deem my success in wintering to be due to a properly constructed hive, and suitable packing, with food adapted to their winter use. I fed pure granulated sugar syrup in August, when sealed I removed it to the store house, replacing frames for the bees to fill with fall honey. When the flowers were all killed by frost I removed them to the store house to be used for young colonies as they are cast off this spring. I then put in the frames filled with granulated sugar syrup, and packed the bees again for winter. I covered the top of my frames with porous cloth, packing with dry sawdust, fine shavings, or buckwheat hulls, to the depth of four inches for the purpose of ventilation. I closed entrance slide to one-fourth of an inch, and kept the front of my hives banked with snow for the winter. The object of thus packing was to prevent moisture gathering in or around the brood nest. I consider a hive with brood nest packed all around indispensable in a cold climate.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

### HOW TO GET COMB HONEY.

E. SCHULZ, LETHBRIDGE, MUS.: By nailing the hives I ordered from you, I find that the racks don't come flush with the top of the hive, and that I cannot raise the metal rabbets high enough to bring them so, a space of a quarter of an inch is left. I would like to raise some comb