

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSBURG, IOWA:—Spring dwindling is undoubtedly the result of not having wintered well. I have never seen a case of it from any other cause. Bees that are diseased at the close of their winter confinement don't seem to retain enough vigor and strength to live until young bees can be raised to take their places. The more diseased they are, and the more changeable spring weather we have the worse the dwindling. The only way to prevent spring dwindling is to make a perfect success of wintering, but what means to take to insure that is too large a question for this place, but a right course of proceedings during early spring may lessen its evils very much. As soon as the weather will allow the bees to be handled at all, I thoroughly clean all dead bees and rubbish from the bottom boards and close down all weak or diseased colonies into as small a space as possible, by means of division boards, and protect thoroughly from changes of the weather by the use of chaff cushions and double-walled hives. I would no more think of going back to single walled hives and abandoning the use of cushions during our changeable Springs than I would of going back to black bees.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.:—Answer,—Spring dwindling has various causes, and it would require a page or two to go fully into the causes and remedies. Sometimes spring dwindling is owing to the bad management of the apiarist, sometimes to adverse and perverse weather, and sometimes, which is usually the case, to both. Briefly then, the principal causes are—weak colonies, poor queens, too early setting out, injudicious feeding, and unfavorable weather. To prevent spring dwindling the beekeeper must begin the year before, by weeding out in the fall the poor queens and giving a good supply of wholesome food to each colony. Then when spring comes he must not be in haste to get his bees out of winter quarters, and when they are out he must watch the weather and fight the spring dwindling "out on that line if it takes all summer," as it came near doing two years ago. When old bees resume active life in the spring, their lease of life is exceedingly short, and they very soon disappear, especially if the weather be unfavorable. The object then, should be to protect and prevent the old bees in the spring from exposure and unnecessary activity outside the hive until the young can take their places.

By THE EDITOR: If bees are wintered

bees are badly wintered it is difficult to prevent it, especially if the spring is unfavorable. As soon as bees are set out from their winter quarters in the spring, they should be examined, and their condition ascertained. Should they be very weak, and you have no other way of strengthening them, they might be doubled up with the next weakest colony. All combs should be removed from the hive that the cluster cannot cover; and the space should be contracted by division boards, and packed up so cosy with cushions, &c., that the cold of Spring cannot affect them. By having them thus warmly protected, they can carry on their brooding operations without much waste of heat. Thus it will be observed that a few bees so arranged can carry on brood-rearing, while, if not so protected, they would "spring-dwindle," and perhaps swarm out, as their inability to keep up the necessary heat to carry on brood-rearing would discourage them. In a future issue we will give in more detailed shape, an arrangement for the prevention of spring-dwindling, with illustrations.

SETTING OUT BEES.

QUERY No. 2.—When do you consider the best time to set bees out of their winter quarters, and how should it be done to prevent "swarming out," and to produce the best results?

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.: When the elm and soft maple furnish pollen. Set out 10 to 20 each day about 4 o'clock p. m.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.: Soon as pollen is plenty—here about April 10th. As soon as out, clean hives and comb thoroughly, and commence stimulative feeding at once.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.: Set the hives out as soon as their is pollen to be gathered. I never had any swarming out. We set them out early in the morning and they begin to fly gradually as the day grows warmer.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.: I winter the most of my bees on the summer stands. Pro-