

Early in the day the air became so chilly that bees dropped in thousands and lay on the earth, or ice, as the case might be, for four days, during which period the nights were frosty, and yet after coming through that lots of them were again able to take wing, but would then be looked upon as intruders, and treated accordingly, if seeking admittance into their own hives.

12 degrees with a breeze from the north and threatening rain which did come to quite a shower. By about 10 a.m. the day cleared up, however, and although the mercury only rose to 50, the bees set out the previous night had a fine airing, whilst but few of those which had had their cleansing flight ventured out, and I felt pleased that I hadn't got them all out the previous day.

My case-wintered bees had their first fly on the 23rd ult., with the mercury at from 48 to 50, with a breeze from the south, this I consider is as low a temperature as it is wise to let bees have their first airing; after that not many will seek daylight at so low a degree.

Wintering cases should have an entrance at least four inches square with a sloping bridge from that to the hive entrance which allows the one in charge to control the entrance more easily, it also affords a pocket into which straw can be stuffed to keep out the winter storms and also darken the entrance on sunny days in early spring, when yet too cold for bees to fly (pea straw preferred). I use four inches of packing (forest leaves) all around the hives, about the same amount below and considerable more on top weighted down. My case-wintered bees (some 40 odd colonies) have wintered well, but just wintered as well, I fancy, a year ago, when there was so much mortality reported.

The advantages of case wintering are these: 1st, no carrying to and from the cellar. 2nd, if there is a day fit for a bee fly in February or March they are on hand and benefited. 3rd, combs scarcely ever show mould. 4th, should a cold spell strike us, such as has been since 1st inst., to time of writing (and it might have been worse) they are still in winter quarters, so to speak, and can stand it better than those from the cellar or unprotected.

We have looked at the cold side. Let us now look at the opposite, for there is danger both ways. On the morning of the 29th ult. I set out about a dozen colonies. It was so warm that they were flying quite strong by 6 o'clock. The day warmed up until the mercury reached 73 degrees in the shade. It is allowed that bees fly one mile per minute, but methinks their speed was doubled that day. My case-wintered bees had had their cleansing flight six days previous and now jubilated with those from the cellar the bee war-whoop, or robber hum, was very evident. There was excitement everywhere, which in some cases would no doubt cause the balling of queens. That night about midnight I carried the balance of my bees (some 50 colonies) from the cellar with the mercury standing at 54 degrees outside. The entrances were full open all winter, with back of hive raised a little from bottom board, and carried to the yard in that way. The bees seemed quiet when I started operations, but some of them gave me their attention before the work was over. There was just enough light from a lantern burning low in cellar to barely show me the hives, and they were carried to their summer stands by the light of the stars. Took about two and a half hours to do the work, retired shortly after 2 a.m., the atmosphere was still warm at that hour, but fancy my surprise when going out in the morning to find the temperature down