

or chaff. This is all-important. Then feed from above as is required. If the hive has the full number of combs or loose division-boards, the bees cannot keep up the necessary heat, nor can they so well protect themselves from moth or robbers. The robbers will actually rob out the side combs before the few bees in the middle seem to know it. I never had bees swarm out till this Spring. Never before have I had any adversity in bee-keeping. To put it fine, I did not know till this Spring that I *knew* so little about keeping bees and I think from my past sad experience that I can do better in future, and think perhaps, after all, that it is a good thing so many bees have died.

JOHN YODER.

Springfield, Ont.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

CAVE WINTERING.

 SET my bees out on their summer stands March 26th, and one lot, 40 colonies, which were wintered in a sidehill bee-house, in which the temperature was 28° and 30° above zero for about three months, did not stand the bad weather as well as the sixty colonies, which were wintered in a cave, in which the temperature kept near forty above, nearly all winter. The outside temperature hardly affected the inside of the cave and the bees that were wintered in it were in fine condition; they were set out on the same day as those in the beehouse. My experiments of the two past winters have satisfied me that the temperature in wintering bees (in door) has more to do with good or bad luck, than has all the other theories together, which have been advocated in the bee-periodicals for a number of years. I have just received a letter from a friend living at or near Hastings, Minn., whom I visited last Fall, and while there he wanted to know of me in what way he should winter his 100 colonies of bees. I told him that if they were mine, I would make a hole in the ground seven feet deep and large enough to cover the roof with about two feet of earth and have a double door to it; also ventilating pipes etc; he has done so, and tells me in his letter that his bees are wintering nicely, and is satisfied that a cave is the place to winter bees in in our northern climate, as the temperature can be regulated at will and there is no danger of it getting too low, and this I could never do in any other repository without disturbing the bees more or less, in the twenty years of my bee-keeping. To my own observation, I will only say, that my friend expressed it just as I will and after this, the cave will be the place for my bees in Winter, regardless of pollen, hiberna-

tion, brood rearing and the many other theories but would rather not have them rear brood of any amount in Winter, if I could prevent it, and have the bees save their strength and vitality till Spring appears.

C. THEILMANN.

Theilmanton, Minn.

There is no doubt that a repository entirely under ground is a most excellent place to winter, providing it is properly ventilated and arranged with double doors. A side hill would be a good place to make such a repository especially if the ground were sandy or a dry soil. We would not object to a spring or creek running through the bee house but would object to stagnant water. The bees should be placed above the bottom of cellar at least two feet. By the way, it seems to us that this would be a good way for our southern friends to get over their long spell of hot weather and the robbing season; when no honey is in the flowers if they would set their bees in an underground repository where the temperature would not change perhaps they could be kept from three to four months in such a place, with a very slight consumption of stores and little or no trouble except placing in and out. Who of our friends in the south will try this experiment. It will seem odd for them to keep their bees in a repository in summer a thing which we do in winter, yet perhaps such a system would work well. Let us hear from some of our southern friends on this subject.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BEE NOTES FROM VIRGINIA.

RIEND Jones.—In accordance with my promise I am going to give you a few bee notes from Virginia. But perhaps before doing so you would like to hear a little of my history as an apiarian. It was about twenty years ago when I first became interested in bees in dear old England, since then I have kept bees in Scotland, Ireland, and more recently in America. My first imported Italians about 18 years ago came through the hands of the late lamented Joseph Woodbury, of Mount Radford, Exeter—that queen of county towns—in lovely Devon.