

not come, it would be a distinct loss. Many bees are this winter going into winter quarters having already had four to five weeks of confinement, the bees are spotting a little. This does not say they will not winter well, but the bees are handicapped. All that can be done is to give them every care and the best conditions for successful wintering.

Outside bees should be well packed, quilts not sealed, thus allowing the moisture to escape through the packing above without freezing, plenty of stores of ready access to the bees and sheltered from strong winds. In cellar wintering less stores are required, as the bees can move about more readily and consume less. The hive must be ventilated and the cellar dark, an even temperature, running from 42 to 45 degrees. I believe the safe way is to remove wooden covers from the hive, put a warm cushion on the quilt or warm carpet, and then raise the brood chamber three-eighths of an inch or more from the bottom board at the back.

Brantford, Ont.

### THE ALEXANDER METHOD OF INCREASE.

#### Why F. L. Day Failed.

Mr. E. W. Alexander writes the following in "Gleanings on Bee Culture," in reply to Mr. F. L. Day, whose report on the Alexander method of increase we copied in the "Journal" for October:

"In justice to myself and the method of making increase that I recommended in the April 15th issue of 'Gleanings,' I wish to say a few words to friend F. L. Day, as he, in the October 1st issue, condemns what is now called the Alexander method of increase. In that article of April 15th I said, 'Now leave them about 10 or 11 days in this shape, during which time the queen will get a fine lot of brood started in the lower

hive, and every egg and particle of larvae that was in the old hive on top will have matured so it will be capped over and saved; then separate them, putting the old hive on a new stand.'

"Now, instead of leaving them only 10 or 11 days, as I advised, friend Day leaves them from the 22nd of April until June 1st, some 39 days, which changes the nature of the whole operation, and shows very decidedly that the excluders he uses are worthless as queen-excluders, for we all know that the queens he speaks of as being about ready to hatch in the upper hive on the day he separated them must have been newly laid eggs only 15½ days before, which also shows that the queens he thought were shut below in the under hive were having full swing in each; therefore, the only change the four colonies had by his manipulation was to give them an additional set of combs, whereby, in the course of a month, they had a large amount of maturing brood, which was the cause of their swarming. I can hardly see how he could have fixed them in any better way to swarm naturally and continually than he did.

"Now a few words to all who try new methods which the writers for our bee journals recommend. Either carry out those methods to the letter or let them alone; don't mix up a lot of your own ideas with those of others, and then condemn the writer for not giving a practicable method, as friend Day has just done in this case. I find this is the worst feature connected with writing for our bee journals—so many bee-keepers with limited experience will undertake to put in practice some new method, and frequently omit some of the most essential parts, thereby making a perfect failure of what otherwise would have been a perfect success.

"In conclusion I will say that, during the last three months, I have received dozens of very complimentary letters from parties who have adopted this method of making their increase, at the same time securing a large amount of surplus honey.

Delanson, N.Y.