

QUERIES and ANSWERS

Q.—I am thinking of building a bee-house above ground. Will you kindly tell me how to build one which will be safe from frost? I can get plenty of leaves from off trees. What size shall I require for 50 hives and supers? By so doing you will greatly oblige.—W. M. S., Madoc, Ont.

A.—From what I have seen of winter repositories for bees above ground they have not proven satisfactory, probably because they were built too large for the number of colonies that it was intended to winter in them. If I could not have a good cellar, where the temperature can be maintained at 40° to 48°, I would pack the hives in clamps, using leaves for packing. However, if you prefer to try a winter repository above ground, I would not make it large; 10'x10' or 12'x12' inside, and 7' high, would be large enough for 50 colonies, it depending on the number and size of supers. I would make the walls and ceiling of 2"x4" scantling and matched lumber, this being built with a triple space, the outer and inner space being packed with dry leaves or sawdust and the middle space being left hollow. Double, tight-fitting door should be provided, also a ventilation shaft running from near the floor up through the ceiling, with a slide to regulate the flow of air.—R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, Ont.

A sensible man neither depreciates himself nor makes light of his abilities.

If dogs and children dislike a man let's up to others to avoid him.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES.

(By Arthur Laing.)

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Perhaps I might be justified in calling this letter "Stray Straws," like Dr. Miller heads his articles in Gleanings. I am afraid however, that the quality of the straw will be so poor that anyone who looks them over will be sure that they did not come from Dr. Miller's stack. I wish to refer for a moment or two to two items by J. L. Byer in September number of C.B.J. First, his reference to the bees' apparent dislike to dark clothing. On the 24th of May I had a friend in my yard who wore a black hat and the way the bees prodded that hat was certainly an eye-opener to me, and it would have been a miracle if it hadn't been an eye-closer for him, but for the fact that he had a yell on.

In the second place, with reference to Bro. Byers' experience with the buckwheat this season. Well, I, too, have had a little experience this year with buckwheat, but unfortunately I had to move 16 miles in order to reach it. I moved 18 hives to where there was about 100 acres about the first of August, and went over just before Toronto Fair, thinking I might get 400 or 500 lbs. Well, by hard scraping I got 20 pounds of thin buckwheat honey to show at the fair and when the fair was over I went back looking again for 400 or 500 pounds, and got 12 sections that I believe I could sell for \$1.25, seeing that I am a good salesman, and the price of honey being unusually high. I also got one comb that I think has nearly 5 pounds of honey in, and the bees will require little, if any, feeding for winter, but on the whole, I feel as though I had had a lot of work for a little pay. This is the first time I have ever moved any