

-frame hive is bet-
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d Answers

EDITOR

ul Brood?

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other apiary.

A peculiar thing that I found in foul brood is the fact that it does not always show every day of the week, though a hive may be doomed. As an instance the inspector came over and examined my bees one day and declared them clean, though I had fought the disease for several years, and about the last fifteen were wiped out that same season. It is better and more comfortable to destroy each hive as you discover the disease.

J. J. DALTON.

Weston, Ont.

[We are of the opinion you did not have American foul brood. Your inspector did not know his business very well. Foul brood germs are conveyed by the honey. This fact is established beyond all doubt. They can, however, be killed by excessive heat.]

A Good Wintering Case?

Could you give a description in C.B.J. of a good wintering case. I have to winter a few bees outside, and have had no experience. I had thought of putting twelve 10-frame Langstroth hives in a clamp or case close together, three facing each of four different ways, but perhaps a smaller case, holding less would be more convenient. In a hurried chat with a prominent beekeeper a few days ago, I understood him to say that Mr. Sibbald of Claude, had a very fine wintering case holding four hives—two facing each way—do you know anything of it? What would you think of the dozen clamp?

NOVICE.

[Bees can be wintered outside in any kind of a case, or box, provided it sheds the rain and keeps the packing dry. The packing should be at least three to four inches at the bottom, and not less than six inches at the top and sides. The front of the hive where the bridge is placed for the bees to pass in and out, need not have more than three inches of packing, but more would do no harm. We would not

advise the packing of more than four in a case (or clamp as it is sometimes called); our choice is to have only two. One in a case is the ideal method. When looking after your bees in the spring you can examine one without disturbing the others. We have noticed however, that each beekeeper will work out his own pet plan, the kind of case, and how many there should be in a case. Anything from a drygoods box of ample size to a well-made case will answer the purpose, if sufficient packing is given, and the same be kept dry. Forest leaves are good packing. Very fine planer shavings are also good packing. Being of wood and containing large quantities of air they will take up the moisture that escapes from the bees, thus keeping them dry, while at the same time the heat is not conducted far from the bees. When this bed of shavings is once heated it remains heated all winter. Tar paper makes good roofing, but is only good for one season. Asphalt roofing is much superior and more lasting. Mr. Balmer of Burlington, has a splendid winter case. It is automatic and adjustable. The sides and roof are all collapsible. These are removed in the spring and the hives are left just where they are, the bottom serving as a platform for the bees during the summer. If you are about to build permanent winter cases you might do worse than follow his example. We do not know what kind of winter case Mr. Sibbald uses, but we have no doubt he will have a good one. Bear in mind, however, that a costly case is not necessary. One other suggestion occurs to us, and which we would strongly recommend: Make your winter case deep enough to allow a super to be placed on the hive in the early spring before being removed from the packing, and without in any way interfering with your cover. If you do this you can put a super on a strong colony as early as it may need it some time before fruit bloom, cover it up, and keep it