

openings (entrances) at the bottom of the hive is sufficient ventilation? I have ventilators in my cellar which are open all winter, only shutting them on very cold days. Our climate is exceedingly changeable, the coldest day not exceeding 15° below zero. Do you think bees could be safely wintered outside in chaff hives? Often in midwinter we have days 50° and 60° temperature, Fahrenheit. Should I begin at once to feed bees, and how can I do it best? I have two frames out. Had I better return them? Does it ever happen that after the piping of the queen, as described by Prof. Cook, that no swarm issues? I distinctly heard this at the appointed time, but no swarm issued; still they may have stolen a march; if so, my colony is very weak in numbers to-day. If I get through the winter successfully, I will make another attempt in the spring. My bees are always building combs between the frames, fastening them together. Are these called "brace combs?"

By answering the foregoing questions, and giving me all the information you can in the matter, you will exceedingly oblige.

ONE IN TROUBLE ABOUT BEES.

Lochleven, Cape Breton.

REPLY:

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your inquiries, we would state as follows:—The reason why you could not get your bees to go into the sections, we presume, was on account of the scarcity of honey in your locality. During this season some bees have almost starved, while others did fairly well. When there is no honey coming in, bees are liable to nibble down the foundation. They may use some of it in building or capping the combs below. We have frequently known the bees to gnaw down the comb foundation entirely, or nibble it full of holes. If a flow of honey commenced, so that they would have sufficient to fill the brood chamber and store in the supers, they would immediately repair the holes, draw

out the foundation and fill it with honey as rapidly as possible. In reference to feeders, there are a large number of different kinds now in use. Mr. W. D. Soper, of Jackson, Mich., has a very valuable one. Also the feeder made by the late D. A. Jones Co., which covers the hive, and is not patented, so that any supply dealer can manufacture it. We rather favor the latter. It is now getting very late to feed liquid food.

The jar of putting the bees away frequently causes them to cluster outside the entrance, but, as you say, the most of them will return after they get quieted down, and the loss of a few from each hive may not affect them. It is a very common thing during the winter to find that a large number of bees have escaped from the hive and died on the floor of the depository.

Most certainly they can be safely wintered outside in chaff hives, and for inexperienced beekeepers we rather favor out-door wintering. It has this advantage, that you can pack them early in the season. Thus, you do not have to guess the best time to set them out in the spring, as they can fly out at leisure, the weather being suitable. When setting out bees from winter quarters it is sometimes accompanied with considerable risk should unfavorable weather set in. If there is honey in the frames, you had better return them.

Bees usually swarm in from one to two days after the piping of the queen commences, and sometimes on the same day; but I have known a colony to have bees piping and not swarm. It usually occurred in this way:—The old queen died just before the swarming season or during the summer, and a large number of queen cells would be started. If the colony were strong they would sometimes pro-