

losses that are reported be accounted for by the statement that the colonies are not in a normal condition? One cannot lose what he never had. Too many colonies are lost that were reported short of stores or the stores were not in the proper position in the hive, or the colony had a poor queen, or was queenless, or the bees were all old and ready to die, when they were placed in the cellar.

If I put a worthless stock in the cellar to take chances I can hardly speak of its death as a "winter loss."

What we want to go into winter-quarters with is, colonies that are strong in young bees and well provided with stores. In order to have such a condition we must work toward it, and not put off all effort until the end of the season. All summer long, as we work with the bees, we should keep in mind to have the colonies in good shape for winter.

There is no mystery about the loss of queenless stocks or those that starve, or those that die from dysentery caused by using sour or unripe honey, or stuff stored from some cider or cane mill. Could not many of the losses reported be accounted for under one of these heads?

Some one has made the statement that white honey is the only proper thing for winter stores. We all agree that it is good, but I have found that good ripe honey from autumn flowers such as heartsease, golden rod, asters, sunflowers, buckwheat, etc., is all right to winter on, and I always depend largely on this amber honey, except on fields that do not produce it.

I like to leave the store combs on hives that are run for extracting until along in the fall, both for the protection of the combs and in order to catch any surplus that may come along. It often happens that the chambers of such colonies will contain little or no honey at the close of the season. In such a case we must go

through them some warm day in October, and place some well filled comb below.

If at the time of putting the bees away, I find some that are too light, and I have no more combs of honey, I put on a super of No. 2 comb honey full or part full according to the needs of the colony.

There is much to be thought of before we come to the question of

Protection,

yet it is all very simple; only giving heed to certain conditions that should be pretty well understood by this time.

Under-ground winter repositories seem to be the most popular in the North, and I believe that a double wall containing four inches of dry leaves, and the same on top, will make safe wintering out of doors if the other conditions are right. Last winter was said to be a hard one on out-door wintering, but I wintered a number that way. I lost one from lack of stores, and one from depredations of mice.

Advantages of Out-door Wintering.

I should like to winter more that way were it not for the cost of making outer shells. The advantages are that one can prepare the colony for winter at any time during the fall, and have no trouble with them, escaping the hard work of carrying them into and out of the cellar. The bees get early flights and first pollen, which is a relief to the bee-keeper, if not an advantage to the bees.

Improving the Atmosphere of a Damp Cellar.

I have made several wintering cellars in side hills that did good service, and have a cellar under my dwelling at Monroe, Wisconsin, that is all right. An underground repository should be comfortable to the bees. Bees are just like men in one respect; they live by breathing, and they cannot be contented in a damp, foul-smelling at-