

three hundred pounds of comb honey ; I didn't have much time to bother with them, I had a farm to look after and I couldn't look after the bees much ; I didn't understand the business the way I ought to, I think I will learn after a while. I thought I would write to you to see if there is any way to keep mice away, or will they do any harm in wintering. They are pretty thick around here.

Black River Bridge, Ont.

We gave a recipe for mixing arsenic and pulverized sugar or flour in a late issue of the JOURNAL to which you can refer. This seems, with us, to be about as expeditious a way of getting rid of mice as can be found.

PERSEVERANCE.

JOHN MINERS.—My experience in bee-keeping began in 1882. On Sept. 4th I caught a swarm ; not knowing anything about bees, I lost them. In June, 1883, I bought a young swarm, and in July caught another ; put the two away in winter, packing outdoors ; I lost one, the other did well and swarmed twice ; the second swarm went to the woods ; caught another ; packing three outdoors in chaff hives, I lost two, and almost the other ; by hard work I saved them and also bought one for \$9 ; lost the queen, got another, and lost that ; got another and lost that ; doubled this hive and another together this winter ; I had two and lost one, and now am trying to winter the other. I am still going on in the way. I am a subscriber to the JOURNAL and read with pleasure your instructions on bee-keeping.

Ostrander, P. O.

Stick to it, friend M., and you'll come out victorious yet. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

SHOULD NOISY BEES WINTER WELL ?

O. E. P.—Should bees in good health, in a dry, well ventilated cellar, kept dark and at between 40° and 45° of heat, with sticks on frames, two thicknesses of coarse bagging on sticks, three inches of loose chaff on bagging, lids of caps off, entrances wide open, plenty of honey or syrup sealed over in September, make any noise or enough (28 hives) to be heard at a distance of 20 feet ?

We have frequently known bees to make as much or more noise than you mention and yet winter splendidly. If you examine them closely perhaps you will find that the noise comes from a very few colonies, which are either too hot or too cold—probably the latter, and by giving them a little more protection, the noise will cease. By so doing you will prevent air passing up through the hive which sometimes causes them to become excited.

Mr. J. H. Morrow, of this village, is the possessor of a bee-hive which has sent forth the fifth swarm of bees this season. The first went out on strike on May 30, the second on June 11, the third on June 12, the fourth on June 14, and the 5th on June 16, all within 18 days. Mr. Morrow, succeeded in capturing them all and feels justly proud of his prolific honey factory. By the way, mightn't it be in order to ask the usual question, "who can beat this?"—*Elora Express*.

HAS CONFIDENCE IN HER PLAN OF WINTERING.

MRS. H. SWITZER.—I think the sweet pets are some of the most wonderful insects in the world. My husband caged a queen for 24 hours, he then let her out and the bees balled her ; he gave them a good smoking and left them for twenty minutes ; when he returned, they were all in a faint, lying on the bottom of the hive ; we got them out on a table-cloth, and spread them around ; in half an hour they were all right again, so that we came to the conclusion that they would accept the queen after that ; we went back in half an hour and they were balling her again ; I think neither chloroform nor brandy would be of use after that. We have 52 colonies in fine condition ; had a large swarm to-day (May 28th) ; it would do the heart of any bee-keeper good to hear them humming on the apple blossoms. The last two winters we have not lost any bees ; I think we have found a safe way of wintering. We feed for winter the first of September and pack them in sawdust hives on summer stands, take off summer quilts and put on 5 cent cotton, then cover with dry sawdust the depth of two or three feet ; we do not pack it on top.

Fergus, May 28th.

GEO. H. POTTER.—What do you think the prospect is for my bees wintering ? Cellar located under kitchen, well walled and verandahs on two sides, with ventilator running up between kitchen and main part of house to the roof ; tight partition between bee cellar and vegetable cellar. Size 11 x 16 ; 54 swarms put in Nov. 16th, in L. hives ; have small stove in vegetable cellar. Thermometer went down to 36° last cold spell, though usually stands at 40°. Bees very quiet and no bad smell as yet.

Ionia, Iowa, Jan. 16th, 1886.

You had better bank the cellar or protect it in some way so that the thermometer will not go lower than 45°, but make an extra effort to let it get not below 43°. If you can only keep the temperature high enough, which you have not done so far, there will be no difficulty.