

QUERIES and ANSWERS

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Mr. R. H. Smith or to the office of the C. B. J.

Question—1. Can a cellar in a vacant house situated at an out-yard be safely used for wintering 100 or 110 colonies of bees? If so, how would you arrange it, and how often should the place be visited during the winter months? 2. Would there be much risk in feeding honey for winter stores that has a considerable percentage of honey dew in it, quite enough to make it off both in color and flavor?—W. M. G., Fairfield, Ont.

Answer—1. It is hard to answer this question intelligently unless one knows the local conditions. If the cellar is well drained, banked up, and of sufficient size, there is no reason why it should not be a good repository for bees, even though the house is unoccupied. If this house is located in a district where the mercury often falls and remains below zero for some days at a time, I would take the precaution to leave an opening for ventilation, either through the floor above the cellar or to the outer air, and cover the upper floor with a good thick layer of hay or straw. The stands to set the hives on should not be less than 15 inches high, and three or four hives may be tiered on each. I would visit the cellar once a month if convenient, and if everything was found all right, might leave them for a longer time. A little poison scattered around will keep down rats and mice. 2. Honey dew does not make good winter stores

between was for nearly 20 years has now decided against them. I was once a convert to the beautiful theory of that hive, and wasted no little energy in their manufacture and use. Mr. Aikin recommends the use of starters on which to hive swarms, forced or natural, and such practice always gave me very good results, but this season it was a complete failure. No matter about conditions, except that our forced swarms were very large. For years it has been a surprise to me that the advocates of hiving on full sheets of foundation say nothing as to such swarms preparing to swarm again the same season, during the same flow, that often happens here.

If a Derrick becomes the popular thing for lifting supers, etc., in the colony, those of us who have cleats extending clear across our hives will have another reason for such construction. The cleat should be $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick, 2 inches wide and 16 inches long in the ten-frame hive, nailed exactly flush with the top edge of the hive, so as to strengthen the weak place left by cutting out of the rabbit.

Some of us think that we can do as well as C. Davenport at swarm control. We will know more about it at the close of another season. B. J., Page 136—"We don't extract the close of the season, as in that you don't give the bees the same violent stop as you do by taking out honey every now and then." We are forced by the unusual flow to some of our bees just exactly that of a "violent stop." Two days after I passed through the yard, and curiosity's sake I lifted a lid. I thought that we had surely missed the hive, but all were about alike. The flow was wonderful, the first of the kind that I had ever experienced. The Alexander method of queen-feeding is surely worthy of all praise. U. S.