

# Queries AND Answers

Q.—What effect will it have on bees to take honey from a hive diseased with foul brood or other infections, heated to boiling point, and feed it in September for winter supplies? Will the boiling injure the honey for feed?

Kettleby, Ont.

E. W. L.

Ans.—I have no experience in feeding honey from a diseased colony, but I would certainly expect that if the honey were only brought to the boiling point that it would spread the disease. Some of the best authorities claim that it is necessary to boil honey two hours and a half to make it safe for feeding. I have boiled honey of a poor quality to kill traces of fermentation, and used it for feed; the honey should be first mixed with an equal quantity of water. Boiling will darken the honey, but does not injure it for feeding to the bees.

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Q.—Is it better to unite weak colonies than to try to winter them? Those I refer to have scarcely more than a comb and a half.

Norwich, Ont.

J. S. S.

Ans.—When I have had choice queens in nuclei that I wanted to save, I have wintered them when they only had enough bees to cover two frames, by placing two in a hive by placing two in a hive, with a tight-fitting wire screen division board between them to keep the queens apart. The entrances were at opposite ends of the hive. In the usual way, I would unite them

with a queenless colony, or one where I could change the queen to advantage.

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Q.—Can bees be safely wintered at an out-yard in the way you described in last Bee Journal, and without any further attention until the following spring? Would you prefer this system to a poorly ventilated cellar?

Grandview, Ont.

D.H.T.

Ans.—Bees that are properly prepared, that is, with a young queen, in a hive in size proportioned to the strength of the colony, with 25 to 30 lbs. of well-ripened stores, should winter without loss, when protected in the manner described in The September Canadian Bee Journal.

Of course, this is supposing that the apiary is at least partially protected from high winds or drifting snow. If in an exposed location, I would advise that a board be leaned in front of the entrance as a wind-break, and the apiary be visited after heavy falls of snow or sleet, and any accumulation cleared away from the entrance. I would prefer the above method to wintering in a cellar where I could not control the ventilation and temperature.

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Q.—I find some of my bees have not sufficient stores, and I have no combs left. Would you advise me feeding back sufficient of a poor quality of honey, or give them sugar syrup?

ORILLIA, ONT.

Ans.—If the honey mentioned was merely dark, but well ripened, I would feed it for winter stores without hesitation. If unripe, or gathered from decayed fruit, etc., I would prefer the best granulated sugar syrups.

The greatest enemy of bees is the ignorant bee-keeper.—C. Zwilling, in "La Revue Eclectique."