

and neatest. I have never entered the lists for an expert's certificate always feeling so timorous, but I have a lively recollection of winning a half-sovereign in a drizzling rain for driving out a weak lot in four minutes. There were seven competitors, three of them "certified." Some took twenty-five minutes to find the queen, and others never did find her, but like all competitions there is a fluke in it.

Just a word or two about "bumping." We will suppose I intended to take the bees in the skep shown in the pail Fig. III. by bumping instead of driving I should remove the top skep, take the bottom one in my two hands and strike the skep on the ground a violent bump *about the spot where the left ear of the pail now is*. The effect of the blow on the edge of the crown of the skep just at that spot would be to jar all the combs away from their attachments. I should then clear the combs of the bees, as described in driving, by brushing them off each comb and allowing them to run into what was the top skep. The thing about the whole process that would surprise you most is, that if you had well gorged the bees at the commencement, very few of them would take to the wing during the operation, probably not a dozen. Bumping is often attended with great sacrifice of bee life as well as dripping honey, but it is very expeditious.

If there is any point I have not made plain, do be so good as to name it in the C.B.J. Nothing will please me more than to try to clear up the obscurity.

AMATEUR EXPERT.

England, Oct. 5th, 1887.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

"Setting in Winter Quarters Early."

BEES PUT IN OCT. 25TH.

I WAS much interested in "Our Own Apiary" Oct. 26th, relative to setting bees in winter quarters early, for that is just what I had done. On Oct. 25th weather was cold, some snow falling, mercury about freezing point, windy and everything dry, with prospects, I thought, of a little winter, nor was I deceived, as next morning 20° was reached, and on the 30th 10° above zero was registered. Such weather I have not felt before at this time of year.

A few days before this was beautiful weather and the bees had a good fly. I have noticed we will often miss putting them in just after a good fly and leave them on and on for another fine time, but alas it does not come. Perchance half a day or so may be fine enough for a few to venture out, but of little account. They get a

good deal of frost when it reaches near zero weather; we then put them in and it is so cold outside that ventilation cannot be given successfully unless there are underground ventilators and such like improvements, but many have not got all these equipments and need moderate weather to ventilate for a while until the bees get rightly settled down to winter torpor, when it seems to me the cellar can be closed pretty well up without disastrous results.

I commenced carrying the bees down after dinner. It is a cellar four feet underground and two above, with double floor above filled between with eight inches of sawdust. Above this is a workshop 12x16 feet. Cellar 10x14, with an addition at the east end on the side of the slope extending six feet from the main building, having in it three doors. This is double boarded, having on sides and on top twelve inches of sawdust. Left the doors open a few days and nights to cool off. Thermometer indicated 41° when taking bees down. I set them on stands eighteen inches high, left on the propolised quilts, also adding another. I carried them down with entrances open so carefully that out of very few hives did bees appear at all, while others, some came out of the entrance and looked about and went back; only single ones flew at all. The doors were open while carrying down the thirty-seven colonies. Weighed the hives a few days before and marked it on the hive; am much pleased with results. To-day, Nov. 9th, there is scarcely a murmur heard, everything dry and nice. Thermometer 47° in cellar, 21 outside, with high south east winds. Very few nights have been without frost.

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EARLY HOUSING—MORE ON THE SUBJECT.

In re putting into winter quarters early, I put in 20 colonies on Nov. 5th and 24 on the 9th, and will put in the balance later on. Before seeing your article in regard to it, I had come to the conclusion that I was always too late in putting them in. I believe that leaving them out until cold weather sets in is a mistake, as when they are transferred from a temperature of say 20° or more of frost to say 12° above freezing is considerable of a jump and I think tends to make them break cluster more than they would at an even temperature. In the former case I notice that they crowd out at the entrance considerably and in the latter case very little, and if carefully handled, not any. Of course, as you suggest, I intend to give those put in early