

they might remain in a more dormant state. If their sacs were filled with honey and their stomachs also, why might they not be kept in just that particular state that would require no consumption of food to keep up the animal heat, and as they had no muscular exertion to perform in supporting those in the cluster, but hang there, as it were, asleep—if we might be allowed to use the term—much better results ought to be secured. Who among us will be able to invent a machine or repository that would work automatically to keep the desired temperature stationary. There is no longer any doubt in our minds that when a colony of bees only consumes a couple of pounds of food during the winter they must lay in a semi-dormant state much of the time, or "hibernate" in the sense that friend Clarke puts it, because two or three pounds of stores would scarcely fill the sacs of an ordinary colony of bees, yet it is not an uncommon thing to have them wintered on even less than two pounds. Now, this small consumption of stores does not occur in out door wintering but in either cellar or special repository, or if out-door wintering, then protected from the outside temperature by packing. Those with cellars or repositories winter on about half the stores that are usually consumed outside. Can we not further improve those repositories or cellars? The same colony that will winter out-doors on twenty pounds of stores will winter in-doors on ten, and frequently be in better condition. Now, it appears that the quantity of food that they consume is not the essential that keeps them in the best condition, but that temperature and surroundings have more to do with it. In fact we invariably find the bees that consume the most food come out in the poorest condition, and those which have consumed the least come out in the best condition. We have frequently set colonies out in our apiaries in spring, even when the days were quite warm that did not attempt to fly even after having been out for perhaps an hour. We have sometimes raised the lids off the hives supposing they were dead, and found them clustered between the combs scarcely making a move, and when we went to lit a comb out the bees appeared to be packed so tightly together that

it seemed almost like pulling them limb from limb to rouse them. We would jar the hive and allow the sun to shine in on them, but they would seemingly take a long time to wake up. Now, we have found these colonies invariably do better than those that had been more lively and consumed more stores. They never spring dwindle and the old bees do not die off nearly so quickly in spring. In fact, they live nearly as long again and seem to work with more vigor, care for more brood and are the first to swarm. We should like to hear Prof. Cook, or any other, who has given the mattersome study, give us their opinion. There cannot be much harm in giving it due consideration at least.

We caught bees in a fly trap made of wire where they had an opportunity to fly around and try to get out. They worried themselves to death in a very short time in some instances. We have known them to worry themselves so that they would die in less than two hours when flying on a window; at other times they would live much longer. If they are excited from excessive labor they will die in two hours, but by being kept quiet they will live three weeks on one meal. May we not reasonably expect better results when we fully understand their requirements?

THE "RICH" BEE SUIT.

READERS of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL will remember our having given an account of this matter sometime since. It has only just come up before Judge Boardman, of Ithaca, for hearing. Mr. John McKeon, of Dryden, N. Y., supplies us with the following information taken from the dailies where the suit was tried:

DELHI, N. Y., Oct. 6.—What is known as the "bee suit," between S. W. Rich, defendant, and John M. Olmstead, plaintiff, both of Hobart, Delaware county, is now being tried in the Delaware county court here. The suit is of general interest. In the spring of 1886 Olmstead ordered Rich to remove 40 skips, Olmstead asserting that the bees were a nuisance. He said if Rich did not remove them he would make him do so. Rich has about 300 skips of bees, fifty in a place. He is a member of the National Bee Keepers' Association which has headquarters at Chicago. The Association is backing Rich, and if he is beaten in the Delaware county court the case