

we usually set down a couple of hives on the ground in some convenient place, and with a dipper or dish of some kind, dip off the bees, putting an equal quantity in front of each hive, watching at the same time for the queen, and putting one in each colony. If you refer to C. B. J. pages 260, 490 you will see what course to pursue when a number of swarms are to be hived. (2) We do not think it is true that bees separate when put together in a box. When bees swarm and all alight together, the odor seems to make them accept each other as one family. We have frequently known them all to go together, destroying all the queens but one. We would divide them by all means, or leave them all in one colony. Should you postpone the operation, in all probability the queens would be destroyed in a few hours.

## SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

### CAUSE OF WINTER LOSSES.

DR. DESROSIERS.—Please tell the causes of my recent losses and what I must do with my old combs. Here are the facts:—During the winter of 1884-5, I had 55 bee-hives in a bee-house whose walls in saw-dust were 18 inches thick. I had put into the house a ventilator four inches square. That winter I lost 15 hives. In the spring of 1885, I had the walls of the bee-house made 8 inches thicker. I shut the ventilator that allowed the air to come in, but on the other side I enlarged the tube used for the air going out. This as regards the house. As I had lost 15 hives, I used those combs, after being cleaned, to receive new swarms. I had in all 30 new swarms. In the fall I weighed my new swarms, and saw with surprise that they contained only from 5 to 20 lbs. of honey. Being sure that they would not pass the winter with so little, I bought 2 dozen of your Canadian bee-feeders, but when they arrived it was already too late, and the bees could take in but very little syrup. I was then obliged to buy your winter bee-feeders which arrived very late. The snow was fallen when I put my hives in and notwithstanding every precaution, some ice remained on the cover, in such a way that 15 days later when I went into the bee-house, I remarked that the ice in melting had caused a dampness in the house. Your winter-feeders were filled with sugar such as was recommended, and put on the hives. On the poorest I left also the Canadian bee-feeders. In the middle of February I visited the bee-house, and noticed that the heat of the house caused the frost in the air-tube to melt, producing a little water; I then put a basin under it. The sugar of the winter bee-feeders was dissolved by the heat of the bees on the board. The bees then looked well and

strong. In the spring I was greatly surprised to find 37 swarms dead out of 65. I then took out the 28 remaining, 18 of which looked very strong. Since then I lost 25 so that at present only three are living. Do you not think that the heat of the bees which caused the sugar to dissolve and spread on the board, together with syrup contained in the Canadian bee-feeders which spread dampness in the house, has been a sufficient cause to give dysentery to my bees, or do you think the cause of the loss to be the ice that was on the cover when I put them away, or again, was I wrong in using my old combs to receive the new swarms? If there is no harm, I am going again this year to use the old combs in the same manner. I noticed that my bees had diarrhoea for three weeks after they were out. I think that those which died recently, died on account of being pillaged or robbed. P. S.—Some dead hives give a very bad smell; can I use the combs just the same?

Clarence Creek, May 19, 1886.

Doubtless the lateness of the operation caused much of the loss. A little dampness in the hive could not have caused so much loss if there had been sufficient heat. If the bees had been properly clustered, the stores good and ripe, there would have been no difficulty with the dampness caused by the evaporation of syrup or honey. If there was much ice on the cover when you took them in, you made a mistake in allowing it, as the melting of the ice would have a tendency to make the bees damp, mould the combs, and sour the stores. You were not wrong in using your old combs. We have used them for years and have thousands that we intend to use this year.

### FOUNDATION SAGGING.

W. R. STIRLING.—I like the JOURNAL very much and take great pleasure in reading its columns; could not do without it. Please answer the following questions: 1st. How much do you allow between bottom bar of frame and foundation for it to sag when the bees are drawing it out?

It is not very important. If the frames are not wired, leave half an inch; if wired, it is not necessary to leave any, or more than one-eighth.

### CEDAR FRAMES FOR HIVES.

2nd. Do you think cedar-frames would be offensive to the bees? I think if it would not injure the bees, it would help to keep out the moth, as we find by putting it in among clothing, that it will keep out the moth.

Cedar is not offensive. We make hundreds of hives of it; in fact, all the double-walled hives sent out the last two years,