

season of the year. Some of my colonies are weak.

Please answer through the C.B.J., and oblige,

AARON GUMMERSON.

Cooksville, Aug. 11, 1892.

Opinions are about equally divided between running the frames crosswise and lengthwise of the hive. We always prefer them crosswise, after experimenting some time. But as far as the quantity of honey is concerned, we do not think it matters which way they run. But if you are extracting from the body of the hive, the frames at the back are usually filled with honey, while the ones in the centre and front are filled with brood. This enables you to extract from the filled frames without interfering with the brood. Where you have only one apiary, it is more difficult to double up successfully. When we had several apiaries we just took the colonies that we wished to double, carried them to another apiary, and after smoking both colonies thoroughly, we would then shake the bees all up together, usually selecting the best combs from each colony and placing them in the hive. After removing all combs from both colonies, which is done very easily, take them into a building or tent and select the ones you require, placing them in the hive you intend the bees to occupy. Then, when both colonies are shook down in front and allowed to run in together, no fighting will occur. At this season of the year robbing is liable to be started by allowing combs to remain where bees can get a taste of the honey; but where you wish to double up in the same apiary it is necessary to select the colonies that you wish to unite; then commence moving them towards each other, say one or two feet the first day, and doubling the distance each day until they are drawn together. It has been stated that, by changing the surroundings of the hive, placing some bar or object in front of the entrance, the bees can be made to settle in a strange location. Such has not been our experience, however, and frequently many bees return to the old hive. Therefore we gradually get the hives that we wish to unite side by side, and proceed as above. We have sometimes removed the combs and kept them away from the colony over night, or

during the day, when there was no brood in the combs to perish. But when there is brood in the combs care must be taken not to allow it to chill, and they should not be kept without bees more than from half an hour to an hour, according to the temperature. In cool weather young larvæ chill very easily.

Wintering Bees.

MR. EDITOR.—I observe by the last BEE JOURNAL, that you have offered a prize for the best system of wintering bees. Having had about fifty years of experience with them, I have concluded to give it to the public.

Fifty years ago the old straw hive was considered the best for wintering in consequence of its porous character, and the facility thus offered for escape of moisture, and from the fact that the bees so constructed their combs that it gave them easy access to the honey in the very coldest weather. Although the bees clustered well in the centre of the hive, they always had to be covered to keep the wet out. Some put sheds over them; others cut the head off a wheat sheaf, or tied a band around close to the top, and open in the middle, to keep them dry. I don't think there is a safer or a better way to-day for wintering them than that was. Its only defect was that it offered no means for controlling or managing bees; and so it had to be given up.

My next plan was to build a house six by twelve, divided into four spaces for as many swarms. They were hived in the winter in the centre box, so that we could take off the end boxes with very nice honey. Those bees wintered well, were always strong; but because I could not manage them just as I wished, I had to give up the plan.

Next came the rack hive, invented by Mr. Langstroth. This was a wonderful improvement; it gave me complete control of my bees, and will never be dispensed with. But I soon found they would not stand the wintering, so I fixed a place in my driving-shed, made it perfectly dark, and put in ten hives for wintering. Two that were weak and required to be fed, I put up stairs in an unoccupied bed-room, made perfectly dark, and fed them every night through the winter with some sugar-syrup mixed with honey.

Those in the drive-house were all dead in the spring from moisture that had collected through the winter; those which I kept up stairs in the bed-room surpassed my previous expe-