

BALLING AND ROBBING.

Mr. Harrison asked the President how it was that he lost so many bees last year. The President said he lost his bees about May 25 last, through robbing and "balling" the queen. It does not often happen, but when it does it plays havoc with them. It came a very cold spell after the 24th of May, and, rather than starve or see their young starve, they will steal. He lost sixteen out of 24 colonies.

Mr. G. B. Jones, of Brantford, said that two years ago he moved 38 colonies of bees from Berlin to Brantford, kept them well covered and packed and snug, but the ventilation was insufficient. In spring, when mild weather came on, tried the bees, but found them all dead. There was a lack of air space under the combs. Bees that died fell down, filled up the little space there was, and prevented the air from getting to the other bees. He never lost any by balling. The best cure for balling is to put the bees into warm water.

Mr. H. Phippen, of Parkhill, had been very successful, and lost very few. In the spring of 1882 he had eight colonies and in the fall he had twenty. He made long, double box hives, filled in with sawdust, and left an opening in the outside box. He lost two hives only; then bought seventeen more in the spring, and in the fall had 138, and now had 235 altogether.

Mr. J. Aches, of Amiens, said: I have not lost many bees. I have the black bees, and find them a hardy race. I can keep them all right during the winter, but experience some trouble in spring dwindling. I wintered three hundred swarms last year all right. This is a bad winter for bees; only those in the cellar are safe. Winters when the bees can be kept outside are better. Italian bees have more courage than Holy Land bees; they will stick to the hive if there is only one pint of them. I can tell whether honey is going in or coming out of the hive, and govern myself accordingly. I put in 200 colonies in cellar; 100 under bank barn; seem to be in good condition now.

PREPARING FOR MARKET.

Mr. D. A. Jones, of Beeton, was glad to be present, and glad to meet ladies

at this convention, and to know that a lady present had been more successful than many gentlemen. Ladies were better adapted to the business than men, and he would recommend more to go into it. They are more careful in handling, easier and more graceful. Two colored charts were shown by Mr. Jones to the audience, describing the physiology and anatomy of the honey bee, and its relation to flowering plants. He took much pleasure in presenting them to the association. Marketing honey, he said, was a very important matter. A great many people imagine that if they get two hundred pounds of honey it will spoil, and they rush it off to market in an unsaleable way, and in the season of fruits. Guard against such competitions. Never extract honey until it is ripened by the bees unless you have good appliances for ripening it. Put it up in the nicest possible shape. If the weather is wet, clover honey will be thin; keep it until ripe and put it on the market in the most attractive way. Grocers will want it to sell if it is in presentable shape. Thousands of barrels of corn syrup and vile glucose are sold for honey, because it is nicely put up. I know a store in my neighborhood said Mr. Jones, that sold six barrels of glucose for syrup in two months. Glucose is poisonous and we must combat it. We must gain the confidence of the consumers. Label with your own name every package of honey, and that should be a certificate of its purity. Another trouble is the adulteration of honey. Farmers do not consume one twentieth part of our honey. If we raise ten times as much as we do we could sell ten times as much. It is a great mistake to think the honey business is likely to be overdone. There is not enough raised to make it a staple article. Mr. McKnight, of Owen Sound, says he took a green man at the business and started him round the town. He sold 6,000 pounds and could have sold 5,000 more if he had had it. Make your customers at home, they won't leave you. There is no danger of overstocking the market. He related facts showing what great success he had had in the English market. After referring to the superiority of Canada as a honey country, Mr. Jones gave an account of his visit to Palestine, where he found the honey