

QUERY No. 178.—If the entrance to a hive is half an inch deep by eight inches long, should it be left open full width for winter, if so, why?

DR. C. C. MILLER.—Yes, it gives a better chance for ventilation, and is not apt to be clogged.

M. EMIGH.—A good deal depends on size of colony, where it is wintered, etc. I am in favor of a large low entrance.

PROF. COOK.—Yes, if in the cellar, because that is none too large. If out-doors, no. It is too large an opening.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.—Yes, so the bees could have plenty of air; yet I would not have an entrance over three-eighths of an inch in depth, on account of mice getting in.

H. D. CUTTING.—Yes, it is best to give plenty of room at the entrance, for better ventilation and less liability of becoming obstructed with dead bees.

S. CORNEIL.—Yes, if the hive is sealed at the top. If there is a porous covering on top, less opening will suffice below. The reason is because it is better that the air in the hive should be changed frequently.

O. G. RUSSELL.—This depends on the strength of colony, and whether wintered on summer stand in open air or in cellar. If in cellar, I would leave it open full width to give proper ventilation. If a strong colony out-doors, I would also leave open full width, but if weak, I would contract according to strength of colony.

ALLEN PRINGLE.—That must, of course, depend upon circumstances. If they are wintered on the summer stands with but little protection, that would be altogether too much winter entrance—if in a cellar or other proper repository of right temperature, it would not be too much, for the simple reasons that in the former case they would get too much cold air, and in the latter not too much.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

BEES IN GOOD ORDER.

JAMES BRETT.—I began the spring of 1887 with 17 colonies, doubled to 34 and took about 60 lbs. of comb and 950 lbs. of extracted honey. I put 23 into cellar and left one on summer stand in a D.W. hive. I was looking them over last night and find them all alive, and I think in good order.

King, Ont April 5, 88.

A GOOD REPORT FOR 1887.

THOS. J. WEBSTER.—I commenced the season of 1887 with 123 colonies of Italians and increased to 215; extracted 9,000 lbs. of honey and took 200 lbs. of comb. I put into winter quarters 130 colonies in my cellar, and they are doing very

well so far. The balance of my colonies are packed in chaff out doors. Those in the cellar seem to be wintering the best.

Oakwood, April 2, 1888.

A SPRING REPORT.

E. CAVERLEY.—Began season of 1887 with 23 colonies; increased to 43 and sold three for \$25. I extracted 2,000 lbs. of honey; took from one colony through July 25 lbs. comb honey. Bees did well the first part of the season, but after July gathered no honey. Set bees in cellar Nov. 25. On examination to-night I find they are wintering well with the exception of one colony. This I find is rather weak but may pull through; said colony did not swarm and was very strong when set in cellar but consisted chiefly of old bees.

BEES DESERTED THEIR HIVES.

A. BOOMER.—My bees are wintering fairly well, although I have been unable to keep the temperature as high as recommended. The bees have left two of my best hives in which were plenty of stores. In one case they must either have deserted a hive immediately before being put into the cellar or they have made their way into other hives adjacent thereto. In the other case, I know the colony was strong in the fall, and to-day there are not more than 100 dead bees in the hive and a few dead ones in front. The combs are pretty clean and full of well-capped honey. One of my neighbors says his bees, in a similar cellar, are brooding largely, and in some hives the capping of the young brood was cut. I have not examined mine so closely fearing to break the cluster. I duly received the sample combination hive sent me and will order those exclusively. I expect to set out 27 of the 29 colonies put in.

Sinwood, March 31st, 1888.

ALSIKE AND OTHER CLOVERS KILLED OUT.

THOS. RAMAGE.—I began last season with 27 colonies; put 39 into winter quarters last fall, having sold five during the summer. I got about 500 lbs. comb and 400 lbs. extracted honey. The honey flow was cut short on account of the dry weather, and I expect the coming season will not be a good one, as last spring's seeding of alsike clover was all killed out as well as a great deal of the old clover. I do not know how bees may come out, but it is my opinion that on the whole this has been a bad winter for them. I will report when I get to know how matters stand with me.

Richview, Ont., Mar. 27, 1888.

We are sorry to know that the clover is killed out so badly in your district. If you have to depend on that for your crop it's possible that there will be a dearth of honey another season, but we hope the results will not be so bad as you anticipate.

Note the usefulness of the *Exchange and Mart* column. It combines cheapness with utility, and is of much use to the bee-keeper who has anything to dispose of, and who does not care to go to much expense in advertising it.