

tracted 600 lbs. I increased to 31; quite a few of my first swarms did not fill their hives even though I gave them 8 cards of old comb. My bees are doing nicely this winter: I placed a stove in my cellar; I keep the temperature at from 35° to 50°. I have a hive I am experimenting on this winter: I gave them a fly on Feb. 11th. the cellar was at 40°: when I put them outside, the thermometer registered 70° in the sun. At 12 o'clock I made an examination of the hive; I found plenty of sealed brood and eggs, the hive was quite dry and sweet. I join with many of the readers of the C.B.J. in recommending it to all who are interested in bee-culture. I am much pleased to see the spirit in which the JOURNAL is carried on and I trust that in the future, the C. B. J. will rank among the very best (if it does not become the best), of all the journals on bee-culture in this age.

Embros, February 22nd.

EXCESSIVE DAMPNESS IN CELLAR.

G. G. MACKENZIE.—Can you tell me what to do with my bee-cellar? It is a new one, built last summer, 26 x 14 feet. The cellar is dug out of the side of a hill (clay): it is 7 feet high, built of stone under ground with the exception of about one foot which is above ground, with an upper story of frame work for workshop. I put 23 colonies of bees into it last fall, and in looking at them the other day I found but 14 living; the combs are badly moulded, nearly all more or less; the cellar is very damp with water coming up from the bottom in different parts; there is no floor in the cellar; I had an air pipe of 8 inches square, going in under ground with stove-pipe from cellar bottom up through the floor connected with stove-pipe above from stove in workshop; two or three of the colonies died of starvation; the rest had honey.

Now, what I wish to know is, how I can prevent this dampness for another year, if ditching or flooring the cellar would do. Please give directions for doing so, or give any other way that you think best. Also, what can I do with the mouldy combs? They are pretty badly moulded, especially the lower ends of them.

North N. Mills, Que., April 12th 1886.

A ditch around the inside of the cellar, close to the wall, to carry off the surplus water, but if your cellar is warm enough, and you have sub-earth ventilation, we do not think there will be any difficulty from mouldy combs. If your cellar is deep enough, by draining it around next to the wall, then taking gravel and pounding it into the dirt to make it firm, then coarse gravel mixed with fine gravel and sand sufficient to fill the cracks. Take two measures of this

mixture and one measure of Portland or other cement, and mix the same as ordinary mortar, then spread it over the bottom of cellar about an inch or an inch and a half thick, smoothing it nicely on the top. It will harden in a couple of days and will last a life time. Such a floor is equal to stone pavement. Of course frost must be kept from heaving it, but no good cellar should be allowed to freeze. You should also have a ventilating pipe or chimney, which would assist in keeping the air pure.

A MICHIGAN REPORT.

WM. MARTIN:—I am just getting waked up on the subject of bee culture although I have kept bees on a small scale with varying success for ten years. Bees do well in this vicinity whenever they come through our winters alive; that seems to be the sticking point with many or most bee-keepers that I am acquainted with; bees generally die off with dysentery early in the spring with spring dwindling. I commenced again, with two colonies last spring, increased to seven, good strong colonies; 5 are in simplicity hives, and the 2 original swarms are in L. C. Bristol's hives—a double cased affair, with a half inch space between the two cases. I put 3 of the young swarms in dry-goods boxes in the beginning of winter with burlaps removed and Hill's devices, covered with chaff cushions on top of hives. I then packed in 4 in. of wheat chaff all around the hives, and about 6 in. on top, the whole covered up with short pieces of boards in such a way as to exclude mice. During our last thaw the bees in these boxes were out strong for two days and had a good fly, but very few perishing outside. I shall not disturb them till spring. The other 4 swarms are banked up with boards, straw and dirt, with board roof. I did not let these fly when the rest did, and shall not till the next warm spell. There are no Italian bees in this vicinity and I intend to Italianize mine in the spring. I must tell you that I got 40 lbs. of surplus honey from the original 2 swarms. In the spring of the year there are abundance of wild raspberry blossoms in this vicinity and some blackberry blossoms, and oceans of white clover, and but very little basswood and soft maple; the big forest fires killed most of the basswood and soft maple years ago, as they grew on the low land, which by the way has proved to be equal in fertility to any section in Michigan as I can assert by experience.

Cass City, Tuscola Co., Mich. Feb. 18th. 1886.

MICE IN BEE HIVES.

JOSEPH HUGHES.—I thought I would write you what I was doing with my bees. I commenced last spring with eight colonies. I put twenty-three in cellar last fall. I got about