

## FIRST STEPS IN BEE-KEEPING.

### "Keeping Everlastingly at it Brings Success."

Questions Sent in Bearing Upon First Steps in Bee-Keeping Will be Dealt With in This Department By the Editor.

### WHERE SHALL BEES SPEND THE WINTER.



UT where shall the bees spend the winter? is a question which troubles many a "todder" in bee-keeping. It is an important one, and a question which can scarcely be answered in a general way. Conditions vary so much, and many indeed by failing to consider these varying conditions, have

failed to winter their bees. Bees require certain things. As already stated, they must have

#### A QUEEN.

No colony is worth wintering unless there is a queen in the hive. The number of inmates in the hive is of less importance and I would winter a colony below average strength quite as readily as one exceedingly strong. Good average colonies are the best.

#### STORES.

Should have been given before this, if such has been neglected do so at once. Be sure they have twenty-five or thirty-five pounds of stores and feed in the manner described in the previous number of the Canadian Bee Journal.

After getting the interior of the hive right bees must be

#### COMFORTABLE

during the winter. The conditions after all are simple enough. The bees must not be disturbed in any way, a jarring of the hive we know disturbs its inmates during the summer and they resent such treatment. At this time of the year little harm is done as the bees can have a cleansing and quieting flight. In summer disturb bees and follow up by keeping them confined for twenty four hours during which time they

are restless and seeking to leave the hive, and a fine case of dysentery may be worked up. I have had mine so effected in twenty four to forty eight hours. What must be the result from confinement in the hive with occasional jarring for four or five months. Do not place your bees where they will be jarred be that inside or out. Next bees like to be

#### DRY

They are something like ourselves, we can stand a bright dry winter day but give us a temperature a little above freezing with moisture we shiver. In connection with this it must be remembered that the cluster forms practically a compartment in the hive and keeps out moisture and cold but much moisture will overcome the effect of the high temperature caused by the bees, the food may sour and ferment (honey is so liable to draw moisture) and aggravate the case. The cluster becomes diseased, breaks and the bees are on the way to destruction. moisture must then be guarded against, cold is less dangerous, the effect of cold is to cause the bees to cluster more closely and is only to be feared first in case it lasts too long and next in case it prevents the bees from reaching stores in more distant parts of the hive. next

#### VARIETIES OF TEMPERATURE

disturbs the bees, the cluster as the temperature changes expands or contracts causing if not excitement at least a full awakening of the bees and a loss of vitality, again under certain conditions the temperature changing more quickly than that of combs of stores not covered by bees moisture is liable to condense on these combs injuring the colony. If the temperature about the bees is very low, the bees will require to consume more honey to resist the cold, meaning an increased strain on the bees and an increased consumption of honey.

#### CELLAR WINTERING

is undoubtedly best if conditions are right. Nothing is ahead of a good cellar, by a good cellar is meant one in which the temperature does not readily vary. The atmosphere is pure, the bees will not be much disturbed and one in which vegetable becomes dry rather than mouldy. If vegetables are kept in the cellar it would be well to board off a corner for the bees, but about this more will be said later, it is hardly necessary to say the cellar must be kept perfectly dark. The less the number of colonies the greater the difficulty if the cellar gets cold.

#### A ROOM

In the house, a shed or some such place is sometimes used. I would far sooner