

The 18 inch space I filled and tramped with hay and put on double-doors and a ventilating pipe above, and covered the top with hay as well, up to the upper floor, which is a hay-loft full of hay. Before our last cold snap the bees looked all right, but yesterday all were dead, excepting the two above referred to. The place was quite dry, but I noticed frost on the cushions of two hives. Should I open the hives containing living bees and look to see if queen is dead, or will I leave them for finer weather? Carried bees into kitchen and warmed them up. Had a net screen over top. Cleaned out hive with a wire and found a lot of dead bees in the weak one. Fed some honey and sugar. What ought I to do now?

Bethany, March 11th, 1886.

In the first place you should not have placed the bees in such a repository; they would have been better on their summer stands. The fact of frost being on the cushions shows that the temperature must have been below freezing point, a condition which is almost sure to end disastrously. A repository with a temperature below 40° should never be used, or, if it is, means be adopted to raise the temperature when needed. Keep the living bees as warm as possible. If the hive is damp warm bricks behind the division board and on top would assist in drying it.

#### PUTTING WINTER FEEDERS TOGETHER.

JAMES PARKER.—Feeders arrived, but now that I have them I cannot put them together; I tried to put one together, and put the wide boards at the sides, the short grooves at the ends and the long grooves at the bottom; by putting one shelf only I would not use half of the long grooves. If I put more than one shelf of long grooves, I do not see how to feed them, nor do I know where to put them. Kindly publish or send me instructions how to put them together.

Napperton, Ont, Feby. 19th, 1886.

If you examined the engraving in the JOURNAL you will see the feeder complete, with one end taken out to expose the shelves as they stand one above the other. The ends of the feeder, you will observe, are grooved and these little strips that you speak of which are quarter by half inch wide and long enough to reach across the end, go into those little grooves; and the sides of the feeder nail on the ends. After nailing the sides and ends together, the right distance apart, so that the grooved shelves will just go inside the box lengthwise you have a box without top or bottom. Next take two of the little strips  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times 6$  inches and place one in the bottom groove at each end, then put on two of the narrow grooved shelves one at each side, put two more of the

narrow shelf supports in the grooves, and then put a wide grooved shelf in the centre. Continue in this way, putting the narrow shelves at the sides and the broad ones in the centre. When you want to fill the feeder, you take out all the shelves but the three at the bottom, and replace as fast as you fill up the space below them until the feeder is full. By looking at a feeder when reading the description you will be able to see clearly what is meant.

#### BEES UNDER LIVING APARTMENTS.

MRS. J. C. AXTEL.—Permit me to advise caution as to living over a cellar in which there are bees. I admit it is better for the bees, and more holes in the floor the better, but it cannot be beneficial or tend to improve the health of the occupants of the apartments above the cellar. If in the spring we find but a quart or two of dead bees, we think they have wintered well but at other times we may have taken out from one to two bushels of dead bees in the spring. Suppose that in a cellar beneath our kitchen, sitting, or sleeping room, there were but a quart or two of dead rats, would we not fear for the health of our family, but if a bushel, what then? I cannot believe one evil much worse than the other in a damp cellar.

Roseville, Ill.

We think probably you are right in your idea about dead bees being injurious to health, and we must say we have frequently noticed very bad odors arising from the decomposition of bees, yet we have never heard of any bad effects resulting from it. It would not be much trouble to sweep them up occasionally and carry them out so there will be very few at a time. If it was done every week or two, no disagreeable odor would be noticed and we think it would be better for the living bees.

#### REPORT OF A. BECHTEL.

A. BECHTEL.—The following is a report of my bee-keeping and which as you will see is not a very good one. When I started bee-keeping I had very good luck. I began with one colony and by the third year it had increased to 42, I doubled them up to 40, put 18 in the cellar and the remaining 22 in a clamp. I lost all in the cellar and 4 of those in the clamp, which left me but 18 and some of them very weak. This was in 1884. They increased to 24, all of which I put in the cellar, but the winter of 1885 was too cold and they became diseased; in the spring of 1885 I set out ten but they soon dwindled away to merely nothing, I doubled them up to four and then I saw that three of the four I now had "were going up." I went to Southampton and purchased a good strong colony with which to