

WINTERING.

YOUR paper came to hand in due time with the answer to my letter. I here return thanks for your kindness and will pay you a cash valuation for the use of your invention in wintering, and look forward with pleasure to knowing a sure way of wintering bees after all the mishaps I have had. I also think of the thousands of beekeepers to whom it will be the much sought for knowledge and will remove the rock on which so many hopes have been wrecked. It would seem by Mr. Doolittle's tests on the temperature of bees in chaff hives, (published in "Gleanings" Mar. 18,) that the bees on the outside of the clusters are not so warm by nearly 20° as the inside ones. This would make it seem that spreading the combs and letting more bees cluster together is the right thing, and why not have all the bees in one cluster so that fewer would drop down from the cold. This has always seemed to me to be the right principle if the bees are to stand their long confinement. But this is all theory. You have got down to the hard pan of actual tests, and by long and actual practice have by your success proved your case before the world of beekeepers and those interested in the little braves.

ONSVILLE E. PRAY.

Greenland, N. H.

You are right about the bees clustering in one bunch where it would be more natural. We have never lost a colony of bees yet, even though they were only very small ones when they could cluster in one bunch. I have wintered small nuclei on combs only a few inches in length well filled with stores. When the bees would hang in a little cluster like a ball on the lower side of the combs, they apparently consumed much less honey and there would be very few dead on the bottom board. There is no charge for the invention which is illustrated in this JOURNAL but while some people may be very successful with one method, others may not. Should this system of wintering prove of great service in future to you and others, we shall all be the gainers. We are glad to know that you take *Gleanings in Bee Culture* as it is well worth the dollar you pay for it. Every bee-keeper who wishes to be suc-

cessful should take several bee papers; there are many printed and all are worth much more than the prices asked for them.

FALL PREPARATIONS.

THE first number of JOURNAL to hand and like it very much, but I think it would be improved if it had a heavier cover. In looking over the first number there is a deal about spring dwindling, but winter dwindling is the trouble in this section, and a large percentage of the bees that were left out doors are dead; those wintered in cellars will come out better. The great cause of the loss is that we had a very dry fall and therefore had no fall honey and the bees stopped breeding too early, and went into winter quarters with nearly all old bees, and with such a cold winter as we have had they could not stand it; if they had gone into winter quarters with young bees they would have come out all right. If fall feeding had been attended to in time, the evil would have been remedied and hundreds of fine colonies saved. I put my bees into the cellar Nov. 17, 1884—106 colonies, and they are there yet. I will give them a cleansing flight as soon as there is a day warm enough to put them out. I think Dr. Miller's "hobby or baby" is a very good one, and I think if the Editor of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL would set the example by placing the number of colonies put away last fall after his name it would give the "baby" a boom; also the number when placed on their summer stands.

D. P. CAMPBELL.

Parkhill, Ont., April 6th.

We are very sorry, Friend Campbell, to hear that so many bees have died in your locality. It seems to be the general complaint. From all quarters we hear of great mortality, where they have not been properly cared for, and in some instances where the owners did their best, great losses have occurred. Several times during the last thirty years severe winters have decimated whole apiaries; thousands of apiaries have been swept away, not leaving a single colony, yet during this very severe season we hear tell of many wintering with perfect success in the same locality as are the unfortunate ones. Those who study the cause of the losses this year may profit by it. It is not usual to put a cover on weekly journals, it adds much to the expense, and we believe we are already producing the cheapest week-