

IN GOOD SHAPE SO FAR.

S. RICHARDS.—I have four colonies and one nucleus now wintering in chaff hives on their summer stands. Last Saturday I examined them. They are in excellent condition, and have consumed but little of their stores. Yesterday (Valentine's day) my bees all had a nice purifying flight, it being a fine spring-like day, the thermometer 47 in the shade. I commenced last spring with two colonies; one gave me a prime swarm and 50 lbs. of comb honey and enough in the brood frames for wintering. The other I divided, and they only made enough honey to be left in the hives for wintering. With the exception of two or three "cold snaps," we are having a mild winter. In packing my bees for winter I was guided by the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL,

South Paris, Feb. 15, 1886.

MICE IN BEE HOUSE AND CELLAR.

J. W. WHEALY.—If your bee-cellar is stocked with mice, you can furnish them with an agreeable change of diet by setting a dish of "Rough on Rats" and lard at the entrance of the hive they have their abode in. The lard keeps the poison always fresh and toothsome, and will not need renewing until all used up. Try it, and if you are as successful as I have been in cleaning out mice, you can recommend it.

Lakeside, Ont., Feb. 17, 1886.

Arsenic, granulated sugar and flour, mixed dry, and laid where they can get at it, has always been found good by us. Have no doubt your recipe is good.

PERFORATED HONEY BOARD.

W. COLEMAN.—Would you let me know through your BEE JOURNAL how to use the perforated honey board? Is it laid on top of the frames or is there a bee space or spaces between the honey board and brood department, and between honey board and surplus department.

Devizes, Ont., Feb. 8, 1886.

We make our honey boards so there is a bee space between the frames and honey board and also between honey board and sections, unless ordered to the contrary.

SPAGNUM OR BOG MOSS FOR CUSHIONS.

J. P. COCKBURN.—It has occurred to me that *Spagnum* is the material we have been looking for with which to fill absorbing cushions. *Spagnum* has great affinity for moisture and will absorb ten times its weight of water. It is light, clean, and not liable to mould, and can be had in most places for the gathering. I use it largely for packing flowering plants, roots, etc., in,

and have known dry *Spagnum* to gather enough moisture in a damp place in the green house to become completely saturated from the air above in a short time. I send you a sample.

Gravenhurst, Ont.

We have examined your sample and think it would be a capital packing to put around hives. The only question in our mind about it is whether it would dry out again after it did get wet. If it retains moisture like a sponge it would not do to pack in double walled hives, as it would very soon rot them out, but it would answer very well to put on top of hives that were damp inside as it would absorb the moisture. Give it a trial and see if it will retain the heat and absorb the moisture leaving the hive dry inside. It certainly will be a very cheap filling for cushions, if you prove it to be effectual as an absorbent in the top of hives.

RAISING THE TEMPERATURE IN CELLAR.

LEWIS MARSH.—I have 15 hives in cellar they seem to be doing all right. My cellar is cold—thermometer in very cold weather standing at 32 and rising to 35, 38, and 42, according to the weather. I have one thickness of flannel over top of frames and 2 or 3 inches of dry saw dust on top, entrance about half open. At 32 I hear only a low, gentle hum, at 38 more life is shown by their hum becoming louder, at 42 I hear an occasional bee in some of the hives giving a short note louder than usual, otherwise they generally seem easy. Very few dead bees on bottom board. If this management is not right please correct and much oblige.

Halloway, Jan. 15th, 1886.

Try and have the temperature of the repository raised to 45°, and keep it as near that temperature as possible. It is not advisable to put a stove in because it would make the temperature too uneven. You had better bank up the walls of the cellar and by setting a couple of large low lamps on the floor, placing a tin boiler, pail or some other metal over them to prevent the light from disturbing the bees. They usually generate sufficient heat to keep up the temperature.

BEES NOT GATHERING HONEY ALL DAY IN THE GOOD SEASON.

C. E. WALT.—I have seven colonies in cellar, as yet they are all right. The trouble with me is to get them through the last month that they are in winter quarters. I have 2 colonies of