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CELLAR WINTERING.

A Valuable Report on Temperature Averaging 38 Degrees.

H. Harley Selwyn.

Dear Sir,—It has been my intention for some time past to report to you on the wintering of thirty-five colonies of bees during the season of 1909-10 at a temperature averaging 38 degrees Fahrenheit, as it might possibly be of interest to other bee-keepers who have only a small number of hives and who do not care to use artificial heat of any kind in their cellars. For this reason I enclose a record of the temperature in our cellar from November 20th, 1909, to March 27th, 1910.

Following is a brief description of the construction of the cellar to which I refer. Twelve inch cement walls 12 x 16 feet, 6 ft. 6 in. high set well into a dry sandy hillside and back being on a level with the ground and front end sufficiently high to permit of sloping steps and doorway. The latter is built out in the form of a porch with stone work and a second door placed over it during the winter months. The accompanying photograph of cellar, house and grounds will no doubt make it clearer. The house is merely a frame one for summer use only.

The ventilation system consists of two boxed vents running in from each side through small underground windows and one five inch pipe in the centre of the ceiling extending about four feet into the room above. This pipe carried off the warm, moist air, the new supply coming through the outside vents. The ceiling of the cellar was two ply of rough and dressed lumber with paper between, actually the floor of the room above, the underside of the floor joists being sheeted with paper to make a dead air space and thus preventing the striking of the frost in the room above through into the cellar.