

of Belmont, occupied the chair, while ranged about the room could be seen most of the old veterans in apicultural science, besides many new aspirants for knowledge of this interesting pursuit. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A number of new members joined the Association, but some of the more enthusiastic members of last year were conspicuous by their absence, having, no doubt, been frightened out by the heavy losses of last winter.

Mr. Chute, Port Burwell, put up twenty-four strong colonies last fall in a lath and plastered room, which he found all right in February, but March proved so much too much for them that he had but one single swarm alive in the Spring. Mr. Pettitt suggested that this loss arose from want of ventilation, and that he would advise a ventilating shaft to be placed in the room to be continued ten or twelve rods underground to warm the air before coming into the room.

Wm. Hill, Yermouth, lost eighty-nine colonies out of ninety-five, with which he started the winter. His hives were all heavy in the fall, but on examination he had found that they were not heavy with honey, but chiefly with this, so called, honey-dew. His loss was likely due in some measure to this bad food, and to extracting too much good honey, from the brood chambers early in the season. Mr. Hill is, however, not disheartened, and has re-stocked his apiary with twenty colonies, purchased in old box hives, which he has transferred to his own hives.

One member suggested, that where bees are removed to cellars or other enclosures in the fall, that this removal should be effected early in the fall, before stores become frozen. Another member from Port Burwell, although a young hand at bee-keeping, has succeeded in keeping five out of eight hives, in double-walled Jones hives. He forced his bees on to as few frames as possible, then filled the rest of the hives with a chaff cushion, and placed another on the top. His loss was entirely attributable to accidentally allowing a draft of air through three of his hives. Another has saved fourteen out of sixteen colonies, Jones hives, single, by packing them with about five inches

of straw, and clamping this on. He has also crowded his bees together, filling the rest of the hives with chaff or sawdust, with cushion on top. He did not detect any difference of packing quality between chaff and sawdust. He had not extracted any honey, and had taken away but very little honey, and that in section boxes. His bees had filled up their cells with honey dew late in the fall.

The President said that this member's experience was just what he had always observed under similar circumstances. If bees are left alone and not worked for honey, there was generally little trouble in increasing the stocks or in safely wintering them. But to work them for honey a person must manage the affairs of his apiary in another and different way—and what was for the best in that way was not easy to say.

Mr. Yoder had thirty-one swarms left out of ninety, with which he had started the winter.

On the subject of introducing queens, one member said that his plan was to remove the queen to be destroyed twenty-four hours before introducing the new queen. He then fastened the queen on a piece of comb and placed her between the frames. The bees soon got acquainted with her and liberated her.

Mr. Pettitt said he would divide up strong colonies and give a new queen to one of the parts. This prevents swarming. If one is introducing new queens, not to increase, but rather to improve his stock, he should remove his poorest queen and supersede her with a new and better one. He introduces a queen by placing her on a card of brood taken from another hive, and places her in a different hive, which he places in the place of the hive to be supplied with a queen. He then smokes the bees, and drums them out. Old combs, although very mouldy, may be introduced gradually to strong colonies; but one should cleanse the cards as thoroughly as possible before giving them to the bees and especially should all pollen be removed. When a queen breeds drones to any very great extent, it is a sign that the queen is too old, and she should be removed. It was generally admitted that black bees made a nicer style of comb honey than any other bees. There is but little distinction between Holy