

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Four inches with the alighting board extending well down.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—I prefer bottom of hives to be from four to six inches above the ground.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—In summer four or five inches. In winter above the snowline because the ventilation is better.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—About six inches with sawdust all around. Bank the sawdust up in front until it comes almost to the top of bottom board.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—In practice four inches is the distance our hives are from the ground. If I had only a few hives I would have them one foot above ground with broad alighting board.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—I use Langstroth hives and have tried different ways of placing them, but like my present method the best, the front end of the hive placed on a piece two inches square resting on the ground and the back end on a piece four inches high, with enough sawdust in front of the hive to be nearly level with the alighting board.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—I prefer a stand about three or four inches high, with an alighting board attached and sloping from the entrance of hive to the ground, thus allowing easy access to heavily laden bees or any others that may fall to the ground, and besides the hives are easily manipulated at this height. A bee-stand which Mr. Jones manufactures is the best I have seen.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I prefer to have my hives only high enough from the ground to allow a circulation of air under the bottom board to prevent dampness and preserve the hive from decay. (By the way the under side of every bottom board ought to be painted.) This altitude of hive will readily admit of an inclined passage way (a piece of board) leading up from the ground to the alighting board—an adjunct with which every hive in a well regulated apiary ought to be provided.

By THE EDITOR.—Our bee-stands are four inches high with slanting boards to entrance, and an opening behind to permit free circulation of air under the hives.

THE CAUSE OF MORTALITY.

QUERY No. 12.—MONTREAL, QUE.—When bees are properly prepared for winter both in and out of doors, what is the chief cause of mortality?

C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I don't know.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Diarrhœa and starvation.

MARTIN EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Bad management.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—With the above conditions there should be little or no mortality.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—First, improperly ripened honey; second, variations of temperature.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Cold, for could bees fly every week or less bee diarrhœa would be unknown. Cold causes the confinement which brings all our wintering trouble.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, OHIO.—Beekeepers are not agreed as to what constitutes "proper preparation" for winter, but when "properly prepared" I believe the chief cause of mortality is *too low temperature*.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—When we know how to properly prepare our bees for winter and do it, there will be no mortality as this question indicates. The causes of mortality among bees are not one but many; chief among them being extreme cold, long confinement, and poor quality of food. I do not think any one cause alone does material harm.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—There are *two* chief causes in my opinion. Temperature is not as uniform as it should be and food is not good. I want equable temperature, 45 °; and good honey or syrup with little or no pollen. Mr. J. H. Robertson who has water flowing in the cellar all the time, has lost no bees this winter. Ours is the same. This water keeps the temperature just about 80 °. About Mr. Robertson's place, out of 373 colonies only 35 are alive. Hurrah for a good cellar!

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I feel like answering this question as the Yankee answered the question where he was born. He said, "At Barnstable Bay, Cape Cod and all along the shore." There is one thing about this matter, however, which is just as certain as it is consoling to the bee-keeper. It is this: If he puts his bees away for the winter "properly prepared both in and out of doors," and they go the way