

Mr. J. F. Dunn in 'C. B. J. speaking of the advantages of an outside shell for wintering bees, says "a chaff hive has but one advantage that I know of over such an arrangement." Yes, and that is a great advantage. I have 50 A. I. Root two story chaff hives and I think they are the best hives I ever saw. No fussing with loose chaff, the upper story being double walled the bees fill out the sections better, and a chaff cushion prepares them for winter. But the A. I. Root Co., make and use a chaff hive having the lower story only double.

If I use a shell, I want it made large enough to contain an upper story or a chaff cushion for wintering, and then there will be no unpacking and I want it made nice enough for painting. I am afraid that Mr. Dunn's plan would let the mice in. I want a tight bottom in my shell. Clover chaff is good, oat chaff is better.

Mr. Dunn has made a winter case of lath. I made fourteen a few years ago. The lath in mine are perpendicular and I think they turn the rain better. Chaff in them is always nice and dry. A shingle roof covers mine, but they are not very nice. A lot of my bees are wintered in shoe boxes, the chaff is rounded up with a tared felt cover over it, they winter nicely. But packing and unpacking is a lot of work and trouble, and I have done a lot of it during the last 25 years. My bees are booming.

Now I want to say a word to those who have to be urged to pay up for the C. B. J. Shame on you.

I think the C. B. J. gets better all the time, and we certainly need a Bee Journal in Canada and every subscriber should be prompt to pay.

ILA MICHENER.

Low Banks, Ont.

A Word to Beginners.

—ALEX. GOODFLOW.

EDITOR C. B. J.:

DEAR SIR,—You asked me to write an article for the C. B. J. I don't pretend to be any use to write to others, as I know so very little myself about bees; but if I can be of any use, to throw any light on the study of bees, I am willing to do it.

I would like to say a word to the beginner, and the subject I would write on is wintering. I think so many beginners do dread the winter; I know I do, for one, dread the results of winter. Now, I don't

intend to tell you a perfect way to winter or the best way to winter your bees, but by telling you the ways I have wintered them, and my experience with the different ways I have tried, may be a help to show you the way to keep out of the errors I have fallen into. The first year I started—in 1888—I bought two hives. I increased to seven that year, and I wintered outside in boxes, with chaff. The box was about from four to six inches larger all around the hive. I lost two in wintering them that way. The trouble was, the queens died; they were young queens. I also tried packing them in sawdust, but with the same results. I lost queens every year, sometimes young and sometimes old queens. They died in the spring, after starting to lay, at least most of them. The young queens I mean are those under one year, and the old ones were over one year. I don't think I ever had a queen live more than three years. Now, Mr. Editor, you may think it was the wet getting in around the packing, that was the trouble, but it was not as I built a shed and put them into it, setting the boxes in with the bees packed in them, and when the shed was full, I left some packed outside. I tried that way of wintering, and was not satisfied, so I tried another way. After wintering three years outside, then I tried one year in different rooms in the house. One I put in a room upstairs. The same year I tried two downstairs. They all died. The same year I tried another one upstairs in a different part of the house. The first ones mentioned were in rooms where there was no fire near them; the last one mentioned was in a room where the stovepipe went through from the wood cook stove. The heat there was very irregular, sometimes up to 80° and down to 40°. Now, I never lost a queen I wintered up there. I wintered them up there for five years, starting with one and increasing to eight, at the same time wintering part of my bees outside, in the way previously mentioned. I never missed a year that I did not lose a queen outside. You see that the warm, dry room had kept the queens all right, except that the queen didn't lay an egg while kept in the room, but would lay in three days after being set outside in the spring; then she would lay and breed very fast. But the trouble was that the bees were reduced in numbers, so that there were only a few field workers, because with the confusion they wore themselves out. The room was light and they would come out onto the windows; but I put a screen on the front of the hive. I made a frame the size of