

mous writer, ashamed of my own name, if so, he labors under a great mistake; my name is well known on this side and I am not ashamed of it, also my name and my *nom de plume*, are well known to be one and the same party; but rather than be mistaken as one of a crew of plagiarists, who pirate everything and shout about it as their own for advertising purposes; I shall always sign my articles

A HALLAMSHIRE BEE-KEEPER.

C. H. Dibbern in Western Farmer.

NOTES FOR JUNE.

THE winter losses of bees have proved much more serious than was expected a month ago. All over the North, where the drought was serious last season, bees have died principally from starvation. Some, however, have died with plenty of honey in the hives, and the cause is not so easily determined. It is probable, however, that the honey was of a poor quality, and long confinement in severe weather wrought the mischief. Wherever the honey crop was fair last year, they seem to have wintered much better, and some are now reporting the bees as "booming." My own experience at the Rock River Apiary is not so encouraging. We have 130 good colonies left out of 180. This is the greatest loss we have ever had in an experience of over twenty years. Many farmers have lost all they had, and I think I am safe in estimating a loss in the Northwestern States of one-third. Surely this business is not all sunshine.

It is poor policy, however, to look on only the dark side. Let us figure up and see what we have left. Hives in which the bees died are all right. Combs are all in good condition. Let us take good care of them. The prospect for a good honey crop is good, and with plenty of bees left to fill up the hives again, with no foundation or hives to buy, why bee-keepers are in good shape. Then, too, prices of honey have improved so much, and with so many out of the race there is surely a better day dawning for those that have the true grit, and are willing to "fight it out if it takes all summer."

The past month has been pretty hard on the bees. The weather has been very unfavorable, cold, windy weather and sudden storms. When bees were gathering honey and pollen, and becoming chilled or lost in the river, has kept the colonies pretty weak. As we write (May) fruit trees are in full bloom but it is so cloudy and cold that the bees can take but little advantage of it. The dry time, however, seems to be over and the splendid rains we have had, will bring

out a fair crop of white clover so that prospects now seem to be all right.

It will require good management and careful attention to get the bees in the best condition for the white clover crop. Of course everything should be done now that will save work when the busy time comes. See that all the material for boxes, hives and crates is on hand that is likely to be needed. It is better to have a little too much than not enough. Experience has taught us that it will not do to depend on the supply dealers to furnish these things on the spur of the moment.

Swarming will likely be upon us towards the last of the month. See that you have hives ready, and now is the time to use up the comb from the hives where the bees died out during the winter. It will pay to sort these combs over and use only such as are straight worker comb. Cut out all the drone comb you find, and all crooked or very old soiled comb. If you have not comb enough to fill the hive, fill out with foundation full sheets. On no account use empty frames, as the bees would be almost certain to fill them with drone comb.

We have been asked what can be combined with bee-keeping to make the pursuit reasonably safe and certain to support a man with a family. Well, in the first place, if the person has had no experience or a great natural liking for it, we should say, don't go into it at all. So few have succeeded in making it a success, as an exclusive business that some other undertaking would be more certain to yield an adequate income. But to answer the question, a good garden should be one of the first things to be thought of. Much can be produced in this way by working at odd times, that will be a great help and greatly reduce the family expenses. All kinds of small fruits, and especially strawberries, raspberries and grapes, should be grown. If you have more than can be used by the family, there is usually good sale for the balance. A cow or two, where pasturage can be had, may be kept, also a flock of chickens, and, in fact, everything or anything that will contribute to the comfort or welfare of the family. But should all resources fail, why then—well start another Bee Journal.

Now let us get ready for the honey harvest that will likely be a little late, but will probably put in an appearance early this month and should last well into July. Should we be fortunate enough to get a reasonable crop, don't be in too great a hurry to sell it unless it is wanted