

jeot a more marked discrimination of price between superior and inferior grades. The effect of this is not to increase the price of any grade, but to reduce the prices of the lower grades. Heretofore the slight difference between any given grade and the one a single degree below it almost invariably threw the choice of the buyer on the better one. Where there was but one cent of price difference to correspond with one grade of quality difference there was usually less of the inferior quality sold than of the superior. So it happened not uncommonly that the stock left over in the late part of the year showed a greater proportion of medium and poor honey than of prime. The beemen have concluded to widen the gap between grades, and throw the popularity on the side of the lower grades, running these far enough down the price scale to make the low grades easily available. Consequently a grade that was last year only one cent lower than another given grade will this year in some cases be three cents lower than that given grade. The difficulty always had with the low grades will therefore now be ended, and what is left towards the close of the year's trade is unlikely to be hereafter the poorest of the gathering. A system of rice grading is now made possible by the methods of the honey producers. They now extract four or five times during the season of production, the interval between drafts being a time of transition from one bloom to another. Under the old mode all the honey was left in the hive until the bees ceased to work, and then the product taken off was a melange of all the flowers that bloom. This made the grading of prices difficult, and made it impossible to specialize flavors. Now, the bee-keeper extracts at the close of the season of the basswood bloom and gets an unmixed grade of inferior honey. Again, at the close of the thistle bloom he extracts and gets a pure grade of better honey. Also, at the close of the clover season, he separates the flow from what comes after, and thus has the best and the worst at their respective ends of their series, with the intermediate grades also separated. This makes the adjustment of prices a matter that can be secured with exactness.

FLOUR AS A PACIFIER.

A correspondent to the *British Bee Journal*, in commenting on the above subject, says:

For several years I used scented syrup when uniting bees, but for the last two years I have substituted camphor, placing a small quantity under quilt and on floor-board a few hours before uniting. I found the latter plan the best. Seeing in the *Journal* flour had been successful-

ly used, I tried peaflour, with no fighting. I believe the latter to be better than wheat flour, as the bees would use it for pollen.

MICE AND BEES IN WINTER.

At the Keokuk Convention, it was asked if mice and rats were injurious in a winter repository for bees. The answer was emphatic and proper—Yes! In last week's *New York World* we notice a similar question from a correspondent in Ohio, which is answered thus. "Mice are a decided nuisance in the apiary, and consequently must be guarded against. They will often enter the hive standing out of doors when not excluded, and make extensive depredations. Sometimes cutting a space in the combs, they will make their nests. The animal heat created by the bees makes a tempting place for their winter quarters. The entrance to the hives ought to be sufficiently contracted to keep mice from entering. Rats are fond of honey, and when this is accessible, will eat quantities of it. The entrance to hives standing out of doors are too small to admit a rat. When the bees are wintered indoors too great care cannot be exercised to keep the apartment clear of both rats and mice, as their running over the hives, even if prevented from entering them disturbs and irritates the bees.—*American Bee Journal*."

We have experienced considerable annoyance from this cause on many occasions. Mice are a very great nuisance, and our remedy for the trouble is a mixture of equal parts of flour, sugar and arsenic, which we scatter around, and which generally rids us of the little pests.

A GOOD SEASON.

Bro. Brown writes us from Chard in reference to his season's honey crop, which he appears well satisfied with. He says:

Commenced the season with forty hives and increased to eighty; got 2,250 lbs. extracted, and 50 lbs comb honey. For the little experience I have had in bee-keeping, I think this season an extra good one, and but for a light frost that cut off the supply of late buckwheat, and fire-weed and some other tender fall flowers, extracting would have been kept up much longer. I put bees in winter quarters yesterday and to-day, and find they have consumed a great quantity of food since the honey flow stopped, consequently quite a few go into the cellar light in weight.

WILLIAM J. BROWN.

Chard, Nov. 7, 1890.

* Clubs of five, at one time, to any address for \$3.25; ten at one time \$6.00; 20 at one time \$11.00; 50 at one time \$25.00. This is an excellent opportunity for associations.

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