

bold assertion that the hive in which moisture is deposited has too little water, while that in a hive completely dry there is a sufficiency. We will see later on that the opinion of Berkepeh expressed in such a strange manner—although based upon a correct observation—has some appearances of truth, as well as the fact that the illustrious German apiculturist had not even guessed the true reason of this phenomenon, although the first to remark the so-called disease “the bee-thirst” and to notice the dangerous consequences of a lack of water.

During winter besides honey, bees really have need of water; in the usual condition of wintering water is furnished by the honey itself, from the fact that it absorbs the water in suspension in the surrounding air. Honey possesses the quality of an absorbent to a great degree as also do other bodies, sugar syrup, salt, sulphuric acid, etc. To prove this we have only to place a comb of liquid honey not capped, in a damp place, in a cellar for example. The next day, or better several days later on examining it, we will notice an increase of honey in the comb, and in such quantity that it will commence to run out of the cells. But this honey which is flowing is more liquid than before, which goes to show that water has been added to it which it has pumped, so to speak from the surrounding air. Honey is not secured from this invasion of water except when the cells are hermetically sealed with wax, but as soon as the covering is removed the honey absorbs the water and that the more easily since the air of the hive, thanks to the respiration of the bees is always charged with watery vapor. He who has attentively observed bees during the winter will have noticed that above and in the centre of the group of bees there are always a greater or less number of honey cells uncapped and that the bees

in going up, uncapped little by little new cells although they do not eat the honey immediately after uncapping it. These cells which have been thus uncapped partly in the vicinity of the group, partly above it are now prepared for the absorption of the vapor of the surrounding atmosphere and thus to procure for the bees the water, which is as necessary as honey for the preservation of their life.

(1) This opinion is held in Germany but we do not believe it is shared by apiculturists of other countries, whose aim on the contrary is to avoid the condensation of vapor in the hive.

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An American Beauty.

ROMANTIC ORIGIN OF A HANDSOME AND POPULAR ROSE.

There is an interesting story about the origin of the American Beauty. It was first grown in Washington, and here it attained its renown. The late Hon. George Bancroft, besides being a historian and scholar, was one of the first amateur rose-growers in America. Every year he imported cuttings from the leading flower-growers of Europe. The King of Prussia—when old Kaiser Wilhelm was king—allowed the American historian to have a slip of whatever he might fancy in the royal conservatories. Mr. Bancroft's gardener used to cultivate some of his roses in an old house away out on F, or perhaps it was G street, above Twenty-second street, in the west end of the city. Mrs. Grant had a florist named Field in charge of the White House conservatory. He was a rose grower of rare merit and skill in his artistic work. One day he happened into the old building where Mr. Bancroft's gardener potted his plants and budded his roses. Over in a corner he observed a rose of a variety utterly unknown to him, and of wonderful size and perfection in form and