

our apiaries. In other years the bees have stored it in considerable quantities yet not sufficient to warrant us in extracting any. Authorities on agriculture, we just see on reference, state that buckwheat requires hot dry weather to come to perfection and if so we wish the pancake cereal had bloomed earlier in the season when the weather was just what it wanted. Will some friend in a buckwheat district give us his experience with this plant.

SNAPDRAGON AS A HONEY PLANT.

Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*) is a honey plant scarcely appreciated even in localities where it most abounds. This year it has been no small factor in our fall yield. It grows in protusion and thrives best in moist, shady places from which fire has burnt the leaves and top soil. Here it grows for several years until compelled to give way to the aster and golden rod. Some colonies have stored over five pounds a day from this source. Some may ask, "Are you sure of this and how can you tell?" Every loaded bee returning to the hive had the well-known snapdragon mark. One peculiarity of the flower is in having the pollen on the upper lip of its mouth and the bee, in seeking the nectar at the bottom of the deep corolla rubs against the pollen, the light colored grains of which are readily seen on its thorax. We watched them working on these flowers to determine, if possible, how many a worker had to visit to secure its load. Each bloom contains a large drop of shining nectar, and from three to five flowers which had not been recently visited supplied a bee with all it could carry.

On the night of the 5th inst. a heavy frost cut down much of this plant. Whilst it has the advantage of being shaded by the trees and shrubs and thus protected in a great measure from early frost, it is a tender plant and full of sap, which falls at the first touch of the frost King's hand. Our yield from this source is thus cut off, only a few plants in exceptionally favored spots remaining.

Snapdragon honey is unusually thin when gathered, for fall honey it is fairly light in color and has a soft but not specially distinct flavor. It resembles most closely that from aster.

THE ASTER

Seemed to step in just at the moment it was needed to take the place of the frost-killed snap dragon. The aster is a hardy fall flowering plant, of many varieties. It likes a rich, wet soil, and we have never known it to thrive on high, dry ground.

Our foreman found another location where fire had run through a large swamp and where a hundred acres of asters were in sight. We arranged with a farmer living only a few rods from the edge of this forage and here we placed some of the starving colonies from the buckwheat. The first day they brought in several pounds, besides each bee having, we presume, a square meal, something they had evidently not received from the buckwheat. They are nicely filling up and had we located them there in the first place they would have given us a surplus. From one of the apiaries where the main dependence was snapdragon we are removing the colonies to the asters, feeling satisfied from present appearances that they will repay us for the trouble.

FEED! FEED! FEED!

Some readers become disgusted at seeing so much in the JOURNAL each fall anent the importance of feeding. "A constant dripping will wear a stone" is an old adage, but the spring reports of colonies starved make us wonder when this particular stone will commence to wear. Constant losses and persistent preaching from this text will yet, we trust, have a wholesome effect. An unfed colony is dead and valueless in spring; one on which you may have had to spend \$2 for feed in the fall will sell for \$6 or \$8 in May. If you are too lazy to prepare the food, unable or too miserly to expend the necessary funds, see if your neighbor will not accept them as a present and go to the small amount of trouble to save them.

NON-CONTAGIOUS FOUL BROOD.

IN the issue of August 22nd, present volume, we reported progress in our treatment of that "bee disease."

Our conclusion is that it is a mild type of non-contagious foul brood. To give in detail all the experiments we have tried since the affected colonies