

thing to lose, but possibly much to be gained, by such an investigation. By all means let the light be turned on.

Different Localities Require Different Management.

Possibly, without exception, the bee-keeper most prominent before the public eye at the present time is Mr. E. W. Alexander of New York. While Mr. Alexander has certainly had phenomenal success in the matter of keeping a large number of colonies in one place with good results, one cannot but think that his advice to the general bee-keeping public is misleading in some respects. For example, let us consider some points of his management, as outlined in December "Gleanings." (Mr. Alexander starts on the supposition that on April 15th a bee-keeper has 100 fairly good colonies: by feeding every colony every day that no nectar is coming in; each colony will be ready to divide by May 25th. By proper management the 200 colonies now on hand can, by the last of June, be increased to 300, all in good shape for any flow coming after July 1st. While we do not question that Mr. Alexander may be able to do this in his locality, in how many other localities would it be possible to attain like results? My experience, of course, is nothing, compared with Mr. Alexander's, but I could never see that early feeding did any good; in fact, contrary results were more often attained. Again, how many localities are there that would allow even strong colonies to be trebled previous to the honey flow, and yet yield any considerable surplus? As a matter of fact, four years ago we averaged 100 pounds per colony, and every ounce was brought in before July 1st. Even doubling the colonies during the last of May would have proved disastrous that year, as the 100-pound surplus was all gathered during the following 25 days. It should be borne in

mind that his location is one in a thousand, and that the main surplus is from buckwheat, which permits of a great deal more time to get colonies ready for the flow than is the case where clover is the only source of surplus. Mr. Alexander, I believe, classes his location as "a fairly good one," but we are told by a visitor to his yard that there are usually 5,000 acres of buckwheat in range of his bees. As Mr. Alexander advises none to keep bees unless in "a fairly good location," methinks if all took his advice there would be few bee-keepers left, and that his territory would be encroached upon to such an extent that it would possibly become a poor location. Mr. Alexander's estimate as to what fair returns from an apiary of 100 colonies, spring count should be is \$2,125, clear of all expenses in an average year, with honey at 6 cents per pound wholesale. It sounds pretty alluring, and makes a fellow feel like becoming (temporarily, like John Chinaman) a citizen of Uncle Sam's domains and locating in the vicinity of Delanson, N. Y.

[With all due respect to Mr. Alexander, it is our opinion that his case has been unduly emphasized, and would be misleading and disastrous to the great majority of less fortunate bee-keepers should they attempt to follow his system under altogether different conditions. Glad that you have pointed this out.—Ed.]

Various Weather Conditions.

We notice the revival in "American Bee Journal" of the department entitled "Canadian Beedom." This time it is being conducted by our friend from Villa Nova, who is, by the way, I believe, the only M.P. in our ranks. In a recent issue we find some complaint as to weather conditions throughout all in Ontario; no chance for bees to have a cleansing flight before goldenrod, I