

INTERESTING GERMAN ITEMS

Translated by JACOB HABERER, Zurich, Ont.

Red Honey.

About the middle of August last year I examined my 14 colonies of bees, and found quite a lot of red honey in the hives, the colour was that of fresh blood. Only one colony had not found that source of honey. As they had a surplus over winter food, I extracted about 50 lbs. of it. The mass was rather a little thin on top after a few days' standing, so I took off about one-third, the rest of it granulated nicely in a few weeks. I could not make out where that honey came from, as the flavor was not distinct enough. Later on I spoke with another bee-keeper, and he had the very same case, only he soon had found the cause of it. At a mineral water factory bees had emptied a barrel of fruit, and so the matter was solved. Such occasions may cause trouble for the bee-keeper. If the red color had not made the honey suspicious, or if the bees had gathered from other fruit instead of raspberries, the matter might not have been discovered, and the honey sold as pure. Any expert would have to declare that such a produce could not be called honey, though gathered by bees. May this case caution experts in case of law suits to be very careful to give their opinion; therefore sure proof should be evident that the same was done personally.—K. Lazarettober, Inspector (London), in Muncher Bienenzeitung.

Secretion of Nectar.

After rain the amount of nectar in plants increases. In dry

weather it will reduce. The fuchsia, for instance, produces in rainy weather from 40 to 70 mm. nectar, but after 3 sunny days it will come down to 15 mm. The further north from the Equator, the more the amount of nectar secretion will increase; it also will in higher locations. A head of red clover contains 7.93 my. nectar, 125 heads consequently 1 y., or 125,000 1 ky.—a little over 2 lbs. Each head has an average about 60 blossoms or cells, so it will take 7,000,000 of them to make 1 ky., or about 3½ million single cells for one lb. The blossoms will not secrete nectar the full time they look fresh, only during the time of fertilization, after that the nectar secretion will stop; the same will also cease about noon, and will rise again about three o'clock in the afternoon.—Lux. Bienenzeitung.

Honey at 92c. per lb.

In South and South-West Africa very little bee-keeping is practised. They mostly depend on the honey from wild bees. Combs measuring 7 feet have been found. They say there is an abundance of bee pasture. The honey is also of a good quality. The natives are great lovers of honey. At Pretoria and Johannesburg honey sells at 4 marks—92 cents per lb.—Muncher Bienenzeitung.

Winter Feed.

A bee-keeper in a certain part of Germany reports loss of bees in his district in the spring of 1907 at 80 per cent. Only colonies that had been fed with sugar syrup in the fall escaped dysentery. The reason (they think

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