

From the Bee-Keepers' Record.

### THE SEASON IN SCOTLAND.

**W**E are now at the close of the third week in July, and have not yet taken a single pound of honey. Our bees gathered fairly well from raspberry blossom and thus bred up to stocks, but the terrible weather of the first fortnight of July made it inadvisable to extract any. We have practically no clover this season for miles around, a result due partly to the scorching summer of last year on this dry soil, and partly to the absence of snow in winter. We have had very few swarms, but have now got splendid stocks ready for anything but starvation. We removed four to the glens on the 14th and were glad to find plenty of newly-bloomed clover there, and to see our stocks increase in weight a good few pounds before evening. The only stock supered with sections was the one that first came to full strength, and this was one of our two *buried* stocks. They had no brood at all when taken from their winter repository, but they have built up in a remarkable manner. Bad as things have been they had two crates of sections partly sealed when we removed them to the glen. One of these we gave to another strong stock, replacing it with an empty set to allow more ventilation while travelling.

We have heard of very few localities where any finished honey has yet been taken, but as clover is pretty rich in many districts and very late besides, and as the weather is now all that could be wished, we anticipate that we shall have some more cheering reports before another month.

Everything promises fair for a good heather season which will be more fully taken advantage of than ever before, owing to the failure of the early harvest—the heather does not seem to be late, as it got an early start in spring, and the late rains insure, with fine weather following, that there will be a full bloom. The heather bloom is on the new growth only, and this is quite flourishing.

Those who purpose removing the heather should see that all bars are firmly secured either by being fitted with W. B. C. Ends and weighted down by crates of sections securely fastened above, or by being wedged together with half-inch square blocks hung between the frames by nail heads to the rabbets—wide shouldered frames if tightly jammed and weighted as above travel all right. The top should be open except for a piece of thin scrim, and the doorway full length fastened with wire cloth. One of the stocks we carried over fifteen miles on hilly

roads last week had an upper storey on with only one crate of sections in it. The scrim was fastened over the upper storey, leaving half its capacity empty below. Strange to say, though we had a strong stock below we never saw a bee come above the super into this space all the way, and we verily believe that it is possible to convey bees in their regular hives for long journeys even without a covering or wire-cloth door at all. The gentle jolting of the van seems to lull them to rest provided the ventilation be free. We have often carried stocks many miles with a few of their belated inmates sitting quietly on the floorboard outside the door.

Persistent bad weather should, however, arouse inquiry as to the amount of stores, and combs of syrup may have to be given to prevent starvation. And yet we have only fed one stock, a swarm hived on foundation.

W. R.

### HOLY LAND.

**D**URING our detention at Jaffa, occasioned by a violent storm which prevented our embarkation on the day appointed for the commencement of our voyage by the Syrian coast to this city, we were enabled to make exploration into various matters connected with this key to the Holy Land; and I hope the incredulity of your readers will not be called out when I tell you that there are in the famous groves of Jaffa 500 gardens and the enormous aggregate of 800,000 orange and lemon trees from which there were last year exported to Europe 20,000 boxes of oranges of the peculiar, oblong, lemon shape now so well known in England, besides an enormous number of smaller, round oranges not adapted for distant exportation, but extensively consumed nearer home. Out of this enormous exportation and extensive consumption, showing the vast extent of these groves, there has arisen another special industry in the collection of orange-blossom honey from 500 bee-hives, under the control and management of five brothers, very sensible men who came from Germany. On our arrival at Jaffa the air was perfectly laden with the perfume of orange-blossoms, on which was being displayed the activity of, I suppose, some millions of little active workers, who were

"Gathering honey all the day  
From every opening flower."

The bee-farm is located on the margin of the groves and Plain of Sharon, but in addition to this extensive farm of orange-blossom cultivators, these spirited five brothers have established other farms on the hills of Judea, where wild thyme gives another opportunity of gathering honey of a somewhat different character from that of Jaffa; the wild-thyme honey is brown, while the orange-blossom honey is white. Of all honeys I ever tasted, whether that of the heather