

Notes and Comments

By J. L. BYER.

For some reason I never have had much trouble from robbing. Although I have more than once fed large quantities of sugar syrup for winter stores to bees at my out yard, at all hours of the day, yet I have never had any robbing. To be sure, ordinary precautions, such as contracting entrances, avoiding the spilling of syrup, etc., are observed. In all my experience with bees, I believe I can truthfully say that I have never had a colony robbed out. Please don't misunderstand me; by the word "colony" I mean a stock of bees in normal condition, i.e. headed by a queen. I have had queenless stocks at an outyard to be robbed out in the early spring. Having said so much by way of preface, the little incident I am about to relate may be of interest. With us, feeding the bees has been our sole occupation during the past two weeks, and, to make as much time as possible, the forenoons have been spent at the home yards, adjusting feeders, wetting up sugar and getting things in shape for feeding late in the evening after returning home from either of the two outyards. Monday evening about 8 o'clock, a number of colonies were fed from 10 to 25 lbs of syrup each, according to their needs. By the way, for full feeding I want feeders large enough to hold all the syrup that the colony may need, then one operation is all that is necessary for each hive. Tuesday morning was fine and warm, and on going into the yard about 8 a. m. every-

thing was quiet and orderly. Of course, those colonies that had feeders on were flying more or less, as is always the case, the bees when taking feed often fly out with a load and into the hive again instead of depositing the syrup at once in the combs.

No. 29, although it had no feeder on, was flying fast, and, from the way the loaded bees were falling in the grass, I suspected it was robbing from a neighbor's apiary. After a time I felt pretty sure its source of supply was nearer home, and getting some flour, threw it in the entrance, and inside of two minutes I found they were helping themselves at hive No. 10 at the opposite side of the yard. Back of these colonies are strong nuclei headed by Carniolan queens, but the bees of No. 29 all have a yellow band, showing a cross of Italian. The strange thing about the robbing was that although the bees of No. 29 had free excess to hive No. 10, yet the bees of No. 10 would pounce upon any other intruder that would come along.

The way an occasional bright Italian would get treated when it came nosing around proved this conclusively. I threw a lot of wet grass in front of No. 10, and as a "counter-irritant," a feeder was placed on No. 29, the object being to give them something to do at home. About an hour afterwards the grass was taken away and I went to dinner, but when I came back the same game was quietly going on. You could hardly call it "robbing," the bees of No. 10, judging from their actions, looked upon the inmates

of No. 29 as privileged to these

As I had, after noon, change the 10 was placed No. 29 and seemed so change the was all righting I was sion till about discovered located all once more hive No. 10 of the yard now? As Cashel yard I threw No. I took it with down in a yies, right i day, and it that came acted as the is a mystery

When shall stores, early already been a lot of feed Sept, C. B. J. in this issue along the line the October J. Brown is "Is it a general the whole A with sugar sy honey, their n I find colonies take out the replace them This advice right if you ha bless you, fri would you do