

WORK FOR THE NEXT WEEK.

As the brood in the different hives mature he goes over the colonies and changes the combs containing larvæ to the centre of the brood-nest, putting the frames of sealed brood on the outside of the nest. This will be continued right along for the next week or two, on all warm days, when it is found necessary.

ROBBING.

There has been considerable inclination to rob, but the robber-guard, as constructed by our Mr. Bray, prevents this most completely, when the robbing is noticed. We will have an engraving of this robber-guard made, the more clearly to explain it.

A LITTLE HONEY COMING IN.

Pollen has been gathered freely from soft-maple, elm and tag-alder, as also a little honey from the first-named.

How to know When Bees are Getting Honey.

THIS is the substance of a question asked in the *Apiculturist*, and the reply is given by G. W. Demaree. His ideas seem to be so well to the point that we publish the paragraph in which his reply is given:

"Last fall after the long heavy drought we had some light showers, and the nights became more pleasant. This started the fall bloom, and the trees began to gather some honey. One day a friend in the bee business visited me while I was looking through my apiary, and after some compliments said: "Are the bees gathering any honey to-day?" I answered yes. "Well," said he, "I hardly see how it can be, there are very few flowers yet." "Few flowers or not," I went on to say, "don't you see how those bees strike the alighting board short of the entrance and drag their bodies as they glide into the hive? They fairly glisten with their well-filled sacs. Some of them fall short of the mark and drop on the ground. This proves that they are heavily loaded. Now stand at the ends of the rows of the hives and look steadily down between the rows and you will see the bees as they leave the hives shoot out through the circling throng of returning bees, like bees shot from an old musket." "Yes." "Well, bees never leave their hives in that way unless they are gathering honey rapidly or carrying on a system of robbery somewhere." "Well," said my friend, "that is very feasible, but let us open some hives and see what

they are doing." So we opened hive after hive and found the freshly gathered nectar in abundance.

From the Canadian Bee Journal

NORTHERN MICHIGAN PROSPECTS.

PROFESSOR Cook, in his apicultural gem, states that Northern Michigan offers inducements to the apiarist rarely equalled except in Texas or the Pacific States. The worthy professor, however, does not state the serious drawbacks to our chosen pursuit in this section. There are verdant oasis of hardwood and wild flowers that tally exactly with his descriptions, but a great portion of three counties (Alpena, Presque Isle and Cheboygan) are jack-pine barrens and swamps valuable to the pine baron and the cedar dealer. Then the magnificent basswood trees that grow here furnish bloom on an average only three days per annum. Friend Smith and myself came to this conclusion some time ago, and resolved to ask the contributors to C. B. J. (who live in latitudes parallel to the Straits of Mackinac) if the basswood flow was equally as short. In the latitude of Port Huron the flow of nectar is longer and more abundant. I have noticed this deficit with the basswood trees located near the streams of which there are many in this country and which we are told is ahead of high ground for basswood nectar. The maple sugar sap flow is not so copious, or does it last so long as two hundred miles farther south during maple sugar season, and the reason of this is that our four feet of snow prevents the ground from freezing. I have no great cause to complain, however, of the nectar flow from the maples, and only regret that the working forces of the hive were not greater. Raspberry and clover must ever constitute the main supply with us. I have not seen much of your Canada thistles, and would not cry much if I did, as I am no farmer, but of course the thistle will keep away the moment he discovers his usefulness, and then of course "it is gone," as was your Letellier St. John with Premier Sir John. The greatest drawback of all is that we are exposed to the cold sweeping winds from Lakes Michigan and Huron, and also to the miniature icebergs from Lake Superior—Longfellow's "Gitche Gummo," which come within hailing distance of our eastern shores during April and early May on their passage to Detroit. Had I known the country just as well as now I should have selected the line of the Michigan Central, but that (owing to the narrowness of the Northern point of the southern peninsula) does not ward off the evil.