

time I pleased, and never had a bit of trouble, either when I moved them together or took them apart; but I do not like the plan. It is not so handy, nor so quickly arranged as when the boxes are all made, and a box for each colony.

Well I have found one thing, that is, one idea, not in your leader. Please give me a credit mark. In this part of Michigan, severe cold is always attended with copious snows, and I have found it advantageous to cover the boxes with snow, the deeper the better, until the severe spell is past. Care must be used, and the hives not rubbed, even with a broom, when packing up the snow.

Do not pack late. Pack as early as possible; as soon as your surplus receptacles are off. Let the late business come in at the other end of the deal, the unpacking, I presume you will agree with me in late unpacking, but I disagree with you in regard to early packing. I say the earlier the better. I don't know why, but then I believe somethings for which I cannot account.

Well to conclude, I will say that all this, like the most perfect cellars, will not always keep bees from consuming pollen during confinement; and when they do that they cannot pass out the residue either by sensible or insensible perspiration, consequently, in spite of the best arrangements, bees may be lost from the one cause worthy of notice—bee diarrhoea.—JAMES HEDDON *Bee-Keeper's Review*.

Bee Culture in California.

THE department of Agriculture has interesting information touching this industry. The latest official record of production by states is the return of the census for the year 1879. It made the honey production 25,743,308 pounds, and the wax production 1,105,689 pounds. The department estimated the farm value of the honey at twenty-two cents per pound, and the wax at thirty-three cents, making the aggregate value of apianian products, at the place of production, \$6,028,383. The product of the principal States in that year was as follows:

	Honey, Pounds.	Wax, Pounds.
Tennessee.....	2,130,689	86,421
New York.....	2,088,845	79,856
Ohio.....	1,628,847	56,333
North Carolina	1,591,590	126,268
Kentucky.....	1,500,565	46,972
Pennsylvania	1,445,093	46,616
Illinois.....	1,310,806	45,840
Iowa.....	1,110,138	39,565
Virginia.....	1,090,451	53,200
All others....	11,678,184	524,984
Total.....	25,743,208	1,105,989

Under the head of "all others" there is grouped the production of thirty-six states and territories, ranging from 1,056,084 pounds of honey in Georgia to fifty pounds in Idaho.

The value of the honey and wax does not begin to be realised. It almost equals the value of the rice or the hop crops, falls but little short of the buckwheat product, exceeds the value of our cane molasses, and both of maple syrup and sugar. It largely exceeds the aggregate value of all our vegetable fibers excepting cotton, and in 1879 was half as large as the wine product of the year.

The best data obtainable make the honey product in 1869, 14,702,815 pounds. That is probably too low an estimate. In 1859 the figures show that the product was but slightly exceeded by the crop of 1879. The product of wax was actually greater thirty years ago than it was ten. It may be said roughly that there is a stand-still in the aggregate production, and that is really consider our increasing in population a retrograde movement.

In 1860 the per capita supply of honey for this country was eight tenths of a pound. In 1880 the supply per capita was five tenths of a pound. The supply as indicated above has practically remained the same, and it can be calculated that if the supply per individual unit had been the same in 1880 as it was in 1860, it would have required a production of 40,000,000 pounds. What, then, it may be asked, has taken the place of honey in domestic consumption? Did the people of the United States in 1879 consume 15,000,000 pounds of substitutes in the belief that they had the genuine product of the hive? The Department of Agriculture thinks that such would be a reasonable explanation of the comparative decline in bee culture.—*Rural Californian*.

Timor.

TAKING THE HONEY-COMBS OF THE APIS DORSATA.

THE bees-wax is a still more important and valuable product, formed by the wild bees (*Apis dorsata*), which build huge honey-combs, suspended in the open air from the underside of are the lofty branches of the highest trees. These of a semi-circular form, and often three to four feet in diameter. I once saw the natives take a bees' nest and a very interesting sight it was. In the valley where I used to collect insects, I one day saw three or four Timorese men under a high tree, and looking up, saw on a very lofty horizontal branch three large bees' combs.

The tree was straight and smooth—barked