

grass growing and to enable us to see the queens if they should happen to be killed or dragged out. Any one having this material sufficiently convenient to enable them to use it will be pleased if they cover their bee yard with it. It will save an immense amount of work keeping down weeds and will wholly repay a reasonable expenditure to procure the material.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

JOTTINGS OFF THE TRACK, NO. 2.

WHEN I wrote "Jottings Off the Track" number one, a month ago or so, I certainly had no idea that I would be writing another jottings off the working track so soon again, but so it is. I had succumbed to the excessive heat and over-work in July, and the physical factory had been shut up for repairs as there stated. When I wrote, the wheels were resuming their motion (slowly, to be sure) and I looked for an early and vigorous rattle of the machinery of life again, but there came another standstill much more pronounced and obstinate than the first. Through a little impatience in hurrying up motion (impelled by an ever-present ambition) I found myself suddenly prostrated by a very serious relapse, and most unfortunately this came upon me the very day I was to go to the station to meet Mr. and Mrs. Cowan on their way to make me a promised visit. In my last I spoke of having written Mr. Cowan to make me a visit if possible on his way up through Canada, and he had very kindly accepted the invitation, himself and Mrs. Cowan having to put themselves out a good deal to do so, as they had steamer tickets from the St. Lawrence to Toronto, and were therefore obliged to leave their boat at Kingston and proceed up to Napanee by rail and return thence to their boat. To kindly do this and then only meet with disappointment was really too bad, the idea of which almost made me prostrate again in a few days when I got able to realize it. And my own disappointment in missing that visit from Mr. Cowan, which would have been so interesting, pleasant, and profitable to me, is too deep to be put into words. Gradually recovering my health and strength I hoped still to be able to secure the visit from Mr. and Mrs. Cowan on their way east again if perchance they should on their return home pass this way. But in a letter received to-day from them from the Agricultural College, Michigan, I find it will be quite impossible for them to do so, and the kind invitation it contains to try and meet them at the Toronto

Exhibition is, I suppose, my only remaining alternative. Should I be sufficiently recovered in health and strength I shall certainly go up to the exhibition a day or two the second week and will then be pleased to make the acquaintance of Mr. Cowan and other friends whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting.

THE WEATHER.

The weather is a stereotyped topic and a hackneyed topic, but its exceptional character this season and its effects upon our apianian industry give it a peculiar importance in the bee journals, the newspapers, and in common conversation everywhere. Down here the drought still continues. Since my last letter we have only had one shower of about ten or fifteen minute's duration—scarcely enough to go to the roots of anything. But the temperature has been so much lower during August than July that the parching up process has not gone on as it did in the latter month. The shower we did have, however, started some buckwheat and other flora into bloom from which the bees have been getting enough to keep them moderately active in brooding, etc. This is certainly a very material aid to us in getting our bees in good shape for winter. And no prudent bee-keeper will neglect this important part of the season's work, especially this fall when extra and special preparations are requisite. The first and foremost work in importance is to give them plenty of stores and do it at once. A colony with plenty and to spare will remain comparatively quiet through the fall, as they should do, instead of being under the necessity of scouring the country round about for forage and prying into every nook and corner wherever there is any prospect of getting a little sweet to add to their scanty stores. When bees are allowed to wear themselves out in this fashion in the fall they can hardly be expected to live till next May, especially bees that have been hatched in July. There is no wisdom in late feeding. Whatever feeding you have to do, and have neglected till now, do it at once.

THE COLOR OF THE HONEY.

A prolonged drought through the whole honey season seems to affect the color as well as the quantity and quality of the nectar. I have noticed this in particular this season. The extracted honey is nearly all amber color or dark. The comb honey is, however, a better color being somewhat lighter. Of course in a drought when no one source of honey is abundant the bees work on a greater variety of flowers—anywhere