

pay the shepherd—half a crown or so—to keep an eye on the skeps, and I have counted from six hundred to one thousand under one man's charge. The field of heather, extending over many thousand acres, is visited by the convoy, and old hands will tell at once by the very hue of it if there is honey; if the night has been dewy, however, and the morn balmy, one's boots are whitened with pollen while walking through it. On such a day the stream of bees from the fold to the heath is so large and continuous as almost to darken the air, and so intent on their work are they that, like men in a hurry, that they will hustle against any obstacle, with this difference, however, that he who happens to be the obstacle is sure to be stung.

Yet it requires all their industry, for the harvest is a very brief one. When the Autumnal winds are driving before them the first shower of withered leaves, when the harvest wages have been paid and the kirk dance held, when the children are beginning to look for blackberry and hazel nut, the bee-keepers will come back for their hives. Gloomily they will travel home in mist and rain if the season has been cold and the skeps are empty, but far otherwise will they fare if the season has been good and twenty pound tops are common, while there are top swarms that will turn the scale at forty—Soots Observer.

Honey In Autumn.

HONEY should always be kept in a dry, warm room; this is doubly important with extracted honey if it be not ripe, that is thick and heavy says Prof. A. J. Cook, in New York Tribune. When first stored honey is almost as thin as water. The bees do not cap the cells of the comb until evaporation has reduced the consistency to the proper stage. If we extract before the evaporation is complete we must put the honey where it will fully ripen. This is best done in open vessels in a dry, hot room. I have never had any trouble to ripen early honey right in our beehouse. This room is very hot in August. The building is single-walled, painted dark, and when the rooms are kept closed they are just the thing for ripening honey. Comb honey, unless kept in a dry room, absorbs moisture and becomes thin, and often even ferments. This comb honey should never be kept in cellar; such rooms are too damp. Unless extracted honey be sealed air-tight in barrels or cans, the same may be said of it. In winter, unless comb-honey is kept in warm rooms, it is likely to crack, especially if handled. Thus winter is a bad time to market comb honey. If one must sell such honey in winter select a warm time.

Combs unprotected, especially if they contain

pollen, are likely to be attacked by moths. Modern beekeepers, especially if they mind their business, are little concerned about the enemy, yet even the best beekeeper who leaves his combs in hives, without bees, or otherwise unprotected, is likely to rear hosts of moths and to lose his combs. I always have the combs in hives with bees, or else put them in tight boxes as soon as removed from the hives. In such boxes I have never known any loss. In rare cases even comb-honey is attacked and injured by moths. For this reason, unless we take pains to examine honey closely it will often pay to fumigate comb-honey with fumes of burning sulphur three weeks after removed from the hive. I have known serious loss to occur from neglect of this precaution in cases of a large harvest of comb-honey. Usually it pays best to market honey mostly in the fall; any remainder may be kept until spring, or sold when the weather is warm in winter. Let us always supply our home market first, then ship to the larger cities. In preparing our honey we should use small vessels or packages and be very neat.

Natural History Lectures.

THE HONEY BEE.

THE honey bee differs from the majority of beasts and insects inasmuch as it has considerable sense and business ability.

While others are flying about and having a good time the honey bee is getting in its work—

"How doth the busy little bee
Improve each shining hour?"

How it doth is very simple:

It gets a movement on itself
And works the early flower.

The honey bee shows considerable ingenuity in the management of its affairs. They are bossed by a queen, and if by any chance there should happen to be two queens in one hive, a part of them will immediately vacate; they know better than to put up at any establishment run by two females.

The honey bees are rather hard on the men folks of their kind. While everything is lively and honey is plenty, the gentlemen honey bees sit out on the front portico and tell stories and have a good time. When summer begins to wane there are hints thrown out that the gentlemen had better go hire a flat for the winter; they take this all good naturedly and think it is all humbug. When cold weather comes, however, they are escorted to the front door and pushed off the perch without so much as a honey comb with which to dress their whiskers.

A lesson in thrift is taught by the honey bee, and they also teach the foolishness of working and laying by more than is needed for someone else to come along and make merry over, as the man who so kindly provides them with a nice little hive takes the lion's share of the honey. Alas! in this world it is often the case, that the man who lives in the nice house is working for the benefit of the mortgagee.—E. R. COLLINS in Texas Siftings.