

The Canadian Bee Journal.

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OUR OWN APIARY.

WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES TO WEAR.

SINCE our last issue we have had five or six days of unfavorable weather for the bees to gather honey. On the 28th, about noon, the thermometer stood about 90° in the shade, and a more sudden change we never remember to have seen as it ran down about 40° in three hours. The 29th, 30th, 1st, and 2nd, have all been very unfavorable days for the secretion or gathering of honey. For several days the wind was so high that the few bees which did leave the hive could scarcely get back and many perished in their efforts to do so. It has also rained considerably, besides being unusually cold most of the time. We thought some time ago that all the students had arrived, but there seems to be no lull in the number arriving as three more have presented themselves within the last two days, which shows clearly that the interest in apiculture is not dying out in this country. If the weather only turns favorable we shall find work for all in assisting in the yards, just the kind of work that is best suited to make first-class bee-keepers of them. But let us here suggest that in future, those who intend to come, should before starting provide themselves with clothing suitable to wear in the bee-yard, as many of them on arrival have just the very opposite. Any clothing with a long nap on it like serge is quite unsuitable. A bee alighting on a smooth surface will not attempt to sting, but alighting on a rough surface it becomes angry and stings if possible. Linen duck or some other suitable cloth, with a smooth surface, a straw hat, (or anything not woolen, in the shape of a hat,) but we have generally found straw to be the

most suitable and the cheapest. The first lesson for a student to learn after he arrives now seems to be to learn to get clothing suitable for the apiary, then to singe all the hair off the back of his hands and wrists, as many who have much short hair on their hands and wrists are unable to handle bees without being stung until it is removed. We have known instances where parties expected they would be compelled to give up apiculture on account of the severe stinging they received on their hands and wrists, until they learned the simple fact that all that was necessary was to singe off the hair, let it be ever so thin or short. When thus prepared the students can go about the work in the apiary without being molested by the bees. We are very busy now in all our bee yards hiving swarms, making nuclei, building up nuclei into full colonies, queen rearing, extracting honey, putting on sections and in fact all the work connected with bee-farming. There seems to be getting quite a friendly strife among the students and assistants at the yards as to who will be the most successful in the various operations; some will uncap the honey when extracting with the most rapidity and skill; others will extract or handle the frames with greater rapidity, while more take out the combs to extract or place them back in the hive in better shape than the others. It seems difficult to find one who can excel in all the various kinds of work, yet constant practice improves them very much. Unfavorable weather for handling bees has allowed our work to get ahead of us and the first fine day that arrives we expect to relieve our hives of several thousand pounds of honey.

HOW ADVERTISING PAYS.

Please take my advertisement out of the C. B. JOURNAL, as all my bees are sold that I have to spare. I have sold 104 colonies and enquiries coming in every day yet.

Angus, Ont., June, 16th. Mrs. A. McKechnie.