

wit and good humor, together with his ready command of language, have gained the admiration of all, while his keen logic has compelled the respect of his opponents and their general acceptance of the word "quiescence." A word used, as I understand it, to denote a quiet whose activities are somewhat less than exist in the state called sleep. My attention has been called to an article in *Gleanings*, p. 91, in which the Rev. Mr. Clarke objects to the part of an article penned for the *American Apiculturist*, in which I condemn the present generation of American entomologists for their unreliability, and he cites three entomologists—Huber, Reaumer, and Newport, neither belonging to the present generation—as furnishing reliable information on the winter temperature of bees. He then somewhat illogically sets up the last to prove that the first is unreliable. We will accept Mr. Clarke's conclusion that the first of his authorities is not correct, and with his consent we will add the other two. When Newport says the temperature sometimes—though rarely—falls below the freezing point—30 degrees he records—we know at once without being told by him that this must be outside the cluster. While with the average hive and ventilation the temperature may rarely fall below the freezing point in parts of the south, it is not so in Central New York or Canada. The same may be said of his average temperature, although 52 degrees may be accepted as very nearly the temperature that ought to be found outside of the cluster. After diligent search I have never been able to find recorded temperatures sufficiently reliable for guidance and many others I know have been misled with queen nurseries by the high temperature given for brood rearing. It would, I think, be useless to ask our entomologists for the temperature of different parts of the hive when there is no breeding, yet it is not difficult with a suitable thermometer to ascertain the temperature of different points in the cluster. This last winter I had a thermometer for nearly two weeks inside the cluster, and after the first day the recorded temperature varied less than one-half of one degree. After reading an article on page 87, *A. B. J.*, on hibernation, written by an American entomologist, in which not a single position taken can, I think, be successfully defended, I conclude that I have been fully justified in condemning the superficial study given that important servant of man, the honey bee.

P. H. ELWOOD.

Starkville, N.Y., April 7th, 1886.

#### CALIFORNIA'S CROP FOR 1886.

THE very hot weather and exceedingly drying winds that have prevailed in this locality for the last four weeks, has settled the question as to the yield of honey for the season of 1886. Very little more honey will be extracted even in the most favored localities this year, and whatever may be obtained will be off color. The season for comb honey is ended, and the quantity is very much short of what was looked for in the early part of the season. The quality of both the comb and extracted is A I, and ought to bring a good price in any market whether at home or abroad.

From the reports received so far the yield will not be much if any more than one-half the quantity of honey produced in 1884, in Southern California.—*Rural Californian*.

#### SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

##### DEFENDS THE ITALIANS.

HENRIETTA F. BULLER.—Mr. I. Weller, of Zephyr, seems to have been very unfortunate in the kind of Italian bees he bought. One would suppose, from the way he writes, that the most of the comb honey in the country was made by German bees, (does he mean by German bees, the common black bees?) which I very much doubt. What kind of bees do Messrs. Hall, Emigh, Corneil, Russel, and scores of others who produce comb honey largely, keep? I tried a couple of Mr. Heddon's leather colored Italians once, and I must say they were as cross as the crossiest hybrids I ever had. They were like hail stones pelting one when the hives were opened. I do not wonder, if all Mr. Heddon's bees are like them, that it poisons him to work with them in the fall. Perhaps what I got were an exception, like a queen I got from Mr. Jones last year, said to be a cross between Carniolan and Italian, and too irritable for anything, but they are good workers. I have not found Italian bees any more apt to abscond than black bees, and am not troubled with excessive swarming. One good point about the Italians, Mr. Weller might give them credit for, viz., their immunity from that pest of old, the moth. I wonder how often he has to fumigate his comb honey made by black bees to preserve it from the ravages of the moth. I have no axe to grind, as the saying is, but have had so much more satisfaction in working with yellow bees, than with black, that I feel tempted to take up the cudgels for them when I see them abused.

Campbellford, September 12th.