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OUR OWN APIARY.

SOMETHING ABOUT BUCKWHEAT AS A BEE PLANT.

PROBABLY you remember that we spoke of sowing considerable buckwheat this Summer. One large field was sown on very low land. A light frost injured some of the lowest spots, but the rest of the field is now growing and blooming magnificently, and the bees seem to get large quantities of honey from it till twelve or one o'clock in the day; sometimes they leave it before that time, but it is doing good service. The other field is higher ground and was sown ten or twelve days afterwards. It has just begun to bloom a little and will remain in bloom if no frost comes, probably for about a month. Should that be the case and the weather is favorable, we feel safe in saying that over 200 colonies will get more than they require for brooding, and perhaps enough for Winter, from fifteen or twenty acres. We noticed quite a commotion in the bee-yard, the bees rushing out and going in the direction of the buckwheat field. We followed them and the nearer we got to the field, the greater the number of bees and the more distinct was their joyful hum. You would just think a swarm was passing and re-passing you constantly. We were quite astonished to see such a great number of bees at work—there seemed to be one for almost every stalk. We think in future we shall try and have some late buckwheat within range of every bee-yard.

LATE QUEEN CELLS.

In one of our bee-yards the other day we noticed some of the students had tents over the hives when removing the surplus combs, and those not containing brood, setting them behind the division boards, and after moving the division

board up close to the combs they are left for the bees to winter on. This was in the afternoon when the bees could not get honey from the buckwheat and as fall flowers are scarce around this apiary, they seemed inclined to rob when an opportunity presented itself. These bee tents just seem to fill the bill—prevent the bees from robbing; in fact, after manipulating the combs, the hive is all closed up, and there is no chance for robbers to get in.

In passing between the different rows of hives we observed a young queen crawling on the ground. We thought that there must certainly be young queens hatching in some of the hives very near by, as this one appeared to be not more than two hours old. On opening one of the hives we found a number of queens just hatched and a large number of very fine cells just ready to hatch; the students soon had them out and all caged, some of them hatching while the operation was going on. We found a number of queen cells hatched out and all the queens crawling about among the bees. Three were missing. This we ascertained by laying the hatched queen-cells and the caged queens together when we found that there must be three more young queens in the hive somewhere, as we had three empty cells more than we had queens caged, so we took an empty hive and placed it beside the hive with the queens, lifted out the combs, (examining them carefully) and setting them in the empty hive. We secured two of the queens and after taking out every comb looked in the hive, and there found her under the bees in a corner. There is no difficulty in finding queens by pursuing this plan. The quickest way to find a black queen is to lift the combs out, shaking off the bees in the hive, and jar them to the back part of the hive; then watch them as they roll out of the cluster and rush towards the