

## Honey Dew for Wintering.

BY JAMES HEDDON.



R. QUIGLEY:—I learn that there is much honey-dew being gathered at present in your state, and what has heretofore been written concerning it as a winter food for bees. There is no doubt but that many of your readers are solicitous concerning the welfare of their bee stock for the coming winter.

My experience, observation and reading, relative to honey-dew and wintering bees, compels me to repudiate an idea, at one time quite prevalent, that honey-dew, cider, and such stores are potent causes of winter losses. Many of your readers are aware that I imagine I know the cause of bee diarrhoea, the one great cause of our winter losses, and that it results from the consumption of pollen, eaten as bee-bread, or in the form of floating pollen in the honey. I wish I was as sure of many other problem connected with our pursuit as I am of the foregoing.

One fall my home apiary, numbering about 150 colonies, gathered a large quantity of cider; in fact from examination, it seemed as if most of their stores were of apple juice, yet the bees all wintered exceptionally well. A few years ago there was a great gathering of honey-dew through this part of the state. My friend, Dr. Southard, of Kalamazoo, who had at the time something over a hundred colonies found that his bees must depend mainly upon honey-dew for their winter supplies unless he emptied the hives and fed them other stores. The Dr. is a very able physician and consequently somewhat of a chemist, and not being able to understand just why his bees could not winter successfully upon dark colored, pungent honey-dew, as was supposed by many bee-keepers who had been eager to express their opinions, not based upon any real proof. He went to work with the extractor and fed up five colonies so they had nothing but clear honey-dew to subsist on the following winter. The result was, they wintered perfectly, showing no more signs of the old destructive malady than other colonies whose combs contained no honey-dew whatever. I think we may safely conclude that we have no reason whatever to fear any disastrous results from wintering our bees on stores from honey-dew. I know of no one who has reported to the contrary, who has given the matter even one fair and comprehensive test. All on that side of the question, so far as I know, have written wholly from supposition based upon imagination.

MISSOURI BEE KEEPER

Dowagiac, Mich., June 30, 1891.

Sugar being very cheap now since there is no duty on it, we would advise all to watch, and when honey dew is gathered, extract it and feed on sugar syrup. The honey-dew may be kept till spring, and then fed to the bees after they have had a spring flight. Bees if fed liberely, after they commence gathering pollen in spring, will raise brood much more rapidly, so that there will be no loss in keeping on the safe side. Honey-dew may differ in quality in various localities, but our Canadian honey-dew is the very best kind of food for killing bees.

## The Bees.

First bees in rocks their habitations sought,  
Or in hollow trees their wondrous structures wrought,

Till man a more commodious mansion gave,  
And called them from the woods and dreary cave.

Invited thus to neat and ready bowers,  
They cull the choicest of the vernal flowers,  
Survey the enamelled plain on rapid wing,  
Range o'er the lawns, and rifle all the spring:  
Succeeding blooms their arduous toils renew,  
To steal the sweets and sip the nectar'd dew.  
Ruled by a queen with all the pride of state,  
A numerous guard around their monarch wait  
Some from the busy hive explore the way  
In search of sweets amid the blooms of May;  
Others the wax in various hues collect.  
Part build the comb, and some the work inspect.  
What skillful artist better knows to trace  
Such cells complete within a given space?  
The young no sooner hatched, impatient try  
Their unused wings in air, and boldly fly  
O'er groves and meads, for fragrant treasures roam,

And instinct guides the little wanderers home.  
Ah! leave them happy in their copious store;  
A part they'll give, and why desire ye more?  
In just return, the happy race reward,  
From chilling winds the peaceful mansion guard;  
Regale them, too, upon some smiling day,  
Thy tender cares they amply will repay.

BRYAN I'ANSON BROMWICH, M.A., 1754.

An enthusiastic Apiarist, living at Kirton, mounted on a safety bicycle, followed a swarm of bees for two miles on Wednesday afternoon, and after safely hiving the wanderers, returned home with the skep containing the numerous living freight securely fastened to the frame of his machine.—Gleanings.