

Weather Favorable to the Secretion of Nectar.

We frequently see the assertion that hot weather with plenty of rain is the most favorable weather for the secretion of nectar, while occasionally some one claims that a dry hot atmosphere is favorable. Would it not be well to know just what kind of weather is the most favorable? Then the bee-keepers, if provided with the necessary instruments to register the condition of the atmosphere, might be prepared for the harvest. That is, if the instrument showed the proper temperature, moisture, etc., he might put on sections or empty combs as the case might be. How much work, how much section cases, etc., might be saved if we knew just when to and when not to put them on the hives. Is there not ample room for discussion and consideration on this subject? Would it not even be a good work for experiment stations? So far as I know we only get an occasional hint on this subject through the various bee journals, while it seems to me a wide and unexplored, as well as neglected field for discussion. My own observations, I must confess, have not been sufficiently acute to enable me to handle the subject intelligently, but will venture to offer a theory at least.

All have noticed, no doubt, what a luxuriant growth vegetation will attain when we have frequent showers, alternately with scorching, almost suffocating sunshine. When you can see the humidity in the atmosphere. Why, at such times, one can almost see a corn stalk grow. Is it not then reasonable to suppose that at such times flowers secrete the most nectar? Again, certain flowers seem to furnish abundantly of their treasured sweets when the weather is fair and dry, so long as it does not attain to a real drought. Among these I might mention boneset and aster, while smart weed which blooms at the same time, seems to be partial to plenty of rain.

The above is written, not so much with the intention of imparting knowledge as it is with the hope of bringing out the observations of those who are prepared to handle the subject more intelligently and with the consent of the editor, I hope to see the subject receive the attention it so well deserves. Who can give us more light.

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[The flowers of plants which readily give off much moisture, we think, are those which suffer most from drought. The question is one of interest, and yet is it practical. Can we, for instance, prepare our supers when certain atmospheric conditions exist? Must we not prepare to reap the harvest, and hope for the best?

Mr. Miller predicted a good honey flow for Ontario, but we had only half a crop. What do you say now, Friend S. E. Miller?—Ed.]

The Kingston and Ottawa Exhibition.

(Concluded.)

After the close of the Kingston Exhibition I left for Ottawa. The exhibition at Ottawa is good when we take the exhibition as a whole, but the prize list offers but very slight inducements to bee-keepers. This is a matter of regret and I trust it may be remedied in the near future. Honey and bee-keepers' supplies were shown in the dairy building with nothing outside to indicate that honey was shown inside. The Dominion Experimental Farm had a nice exhibit of fruit, vegetables, grains and some very well-filled sections of comb honey, the product of the Experimental Apiary. A dairy was also in full operation. Wm. Alford, Ottawa, and the firm of Goold Shapley & Muir Co. (Ltd.) were the only exhibitors of aparian products. Mr. Alford as usual had some very fine honey vinegar, and as usual, he did much to make exhibiting pleasant for the stranger, as did also the Dominion Experimental Farm officials. The admiration expressed by visitors and the enquiries made by those keeping bees and those interested, if they could come to the knowledge of the officials of the association, would open their eyes to the importance of a good display of this kind, and would doubtless lead them to offer greater inducements in this department. I spent my evenings at the Dominion Experimental Farm and there saw the best of some of the work undertaken in the apiary for the season of which more may be said at a later date. The honey crop through the Ottawa district has been quite equal to the average of the province, the quality has been very good. Such well known bee-keepers as F. W. Jones, Bedford, Que.; C. O. Jones, Bedford, Que.; and D. Brown, Chard, were visitors at the Exhibition. Bee-keepers within a reasonable distance of Ottawa should make an effort to attend the Exhibition next year.