

Notes and Pickings.

—D. W. HEISE.

In American Bee-Keeper C. B. Howard outlined the necessary requirements for wintering bees on the summer stands. "Never disturb your bees after the first of October, and not before the first of April following, first of May still better. Secure a location well protected from the prevailing winds. Replace all old queens with young healthy ones. Pure stores of sufficient quantity to last the colony until they can replenish their larder again from natural sources. Bees well packed in double walled hives that will not admit wet." C. P. Dadant in American Bee Journal 709, divides the essential requirements under five heads: "First, a sufficient number of bees. Second, a sufficient quantity of food. Third, food of the proper quality. Fourth, an occasional flight during cold weather. Fifth, a certain amount of shelter." Just exactly how much shelter Mr. Dadant means, when he says "a certain amount," or what Mr. Howard means, when he says "well protected from prevailing winds," I don't know. But if they have reference to high board fences, or hedge of evergreens, or anything of this nature, then I want very little of it in this locality. But rather, I want the protection surrounding the clustre of bees, both top and sides, and if this is properly done, I care not if the hive sits in the open plain, in fact I would rather have it in the open, than inside some such inclosure as mentioned above. Because, when the hive sits in the open, the bees will never venture out until the temperature is sufficiently high to ensure their safety in doing so. Not so when too much protection is given them by buildings, fences, etc. In regard to sufficient "food," my principle is, not to depend on what I may think is "sufficient," but what I KNOW is food in "abundance." Although I do not always carry this out to the letter, under some circumstances, yet it is my aim and object in preparing colonies for winter.

"Paraffine four cents a pound; beeswax thirty cents per pound, Next. Ed. 453." Yes, who ever heard tell of paraffine at four cents per pound? Next. Picker. [The Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal has known of it being sold at four cents

per pound in large quantities. Next. Editor.]

There is no doubt, that owing to the great injury done to fruit the past year by the codling moth, a fungus disease, there will be a large amount of spraying done the coming spring by farmers, and fruit growers. Therefore every bee-keeper should be alive to his own interests, and start in early to educate those who may yet be ignorant of the law, which prohibits spraying while trees are in bloom, as well as trying to impress upon their minds the great fact, that spraying at such times, greatly reduces the prospects for a successful crop. Now is the time to start the battle cry, let every bee-keeper now shout the warning note, and keep on shouting it, until all danger is past.

I believe it is a mistake, and bad practice for honey producers to go to the trouble of liquefying extracted honey before dealing it out to their customers. That is, when it has been put in suitable sized receptacles for retail trade, and has once become candied. While I have never handled a very large amount of extracted honey, I have nevertheless, disposed of several tons, and never yet have I found it necessary to liquefy it after once it had granulated, simply to satisfy the whims and fancies of consumers. My honey has always been sold from liquid, to semi-granulated, to solid granulated, just what ever condition it happened to be in, when a purchaser wanted to buy. The only precaution that I have found necessary, is to give definite instructions as to how it can be brought back to the liquid state, (without in any way impairing the flavor or aroma,) to any who desired it so. I fully believe it would be in the interest of producers generally, if they would try and discourage the laborous practice as much as possible, and as granulation is an established identification of purity, I believe the public would be as well, if not better served in the matter.

The fight between Doolittle, and Dr. Miller, as to the egg laying capacity of a queen still continues. On page 11 Gleanings, the heavy-weight, gives the doctor some knock-out blows, the force of which is gathered from an experiment made away back in the seventies. Said experiment goes to show that, a queen's full capacity in egg production will depend largely upon whether the colony is managed for extracted, or comb honey. Four hives