

From the Canadian Live Stock Journal.

July in the Apiary and Other Matters.

JULY is the most profitable month in the year for the Canadian apiarist. It is the month for swarming, for extracting, and especially for comb honey. In eastern Ontario the clover bloom usually commences sometime between the 10th and 20th of June, and lasts three weeks or more. The sweet clover comes into bloom later, yields abundantly, and lasts till fall. But of all the clovers for honey production, the alsike is far ahead, and stands in the very front rank amongst all the honey producing plants. The alsike is also a profitable farm product apart altogether from the apiary. It makes better hay for the stock than the red, and gives a better yield of seed, which always commands a higher price. It ought, however, to be mixed with timothy or red clover in seed-ing, unless the land is in first-class condition, or but one crop is desired. The agricultural apiarist is therefore doubly rewarded in the alsike, and by pasturing a portion of it off till, say the first week in June, thus causing it to bloom late, he can thereby secure a continuous bloom for weeks, filling in the gap following the ordinary bloom.

BUCKWHEAT.

July is the month for sowing the last two lots of buckwheat for late fall honey. It pays to sow at least four lots of buckwheat during the season for honey alone, and the probability is that two or three of the sowings will yield a crop of seed. The first lot should be sown about the 1st of June, the second the 15th, the third the 1st of July and the fourth the 15th. During a favorable season I have had a crop of grain from all four sowings. While the buckwheat honey is not quite so marketable as the lighter grades, I never have any trouble of disposing of it at a moderate price, and from long experience I am satisfied it is all right for winter stores for the bees when properly cured and capped. That which remains in the frames uncapped after the season is over can be extracted.

COMB HONEY.

July (with probably the last ten days in June), is the month for comb honey. The tendency now amongst bee-keepers is to the increased production of comb honey, especially in section boxes, as these are undoubtedly the most popular and saleable of any form of the product of the apiary. Not that the comb honey is any more wholesome than extracted. Indeed, as an article of diet, it is much less wholesome, for the obvious reason that the comb is merely wax, and wax is not exactly in its place in the human stomach. However, physiology and the popular

tastes do not always run in the same lines, and we must continue to produce the comb honey to meet the demand, while at the same time reminding the consumer that the extracted honey is the more wholesome of the two, and is the very best and purest food in the line of sweets.

How, then, shall we produce comb honey? A few fundamental conditions are necessary: First, we want the working force of bees—a strong colony; secondly, we want a liberal flow of nectar; and thirdly, we want the indispensable manipulation; that is to say, proper management on the part of the apiarist. Although it is in order to put on the section cases as soon as or before the honey flow begins, usually there will not be much done in them till after the first swarm comes off, which is not long delayed after the clover bloom opens out.

HOW TO DO IT.

When the swarm comes off put it in a hive with brood chamber of diminished size, confining the queen thereto by means of a perforated zinc honey-board. The size of the brood-chamber for the successful taking of section honey, should not be more than six Langstroth frames. The balance of space can be filled up with "dummies," or division-boards. No matter what style of hive you use, contract the brood-chamber to that capacity, with zinc over it, and then put on your section cases from the old hive whence the swarm came. Put full sheets of foundation in your brood-chamber for the new swarm, or empty comb may be given, provided the sections are well under way. If the sections are well drawn out or you have empty comb in sections saved from the previous year, and your queen is young and prolific, starters will do in the brood-chamber—that is, foundation, say an inch or so deep, fastened at the top of each frame. With these conditions you will probably get what you want, viz.: all worker comb constructed below in the brood-nest, and an abundance of honey stored above in the sections. At any rate, if you fail to get comb honey after following the above suggestions, the fault will not be yours.

HOW NOT TO DO IT.

When your swarm comes off put it in a big box hive, and in about three weeks time put a "cap" on top, or hive them on ten or twelve empty frames of a movable comb hive, and put on section cases at your leisure, and you will find yourself wondering in both cases why you have not got comb honey.

INCREASE.

As a rule, one swarm from a colony is enough. After swarms are unprofitable. Of course, if increase of colonies is a leading object, and the