

Notes and Pickings.

BY D. W. HEISE.

1. "There is the usual factor present this season—thin honey. And in the majority of cases there is but one cause for it, viz.: too great haste in extracting. It has a raw pungent taste, and purchasers will not come back for that brand a second time. This honey is also liable to become sour, and ferment, resulting in a dead loss to producers. Thin honey can be ripened by standing in a large tank for some time, but in this case it never gets the fine flavor that can be secured, by thorough ripening in the hive, where the bees know how to do it."—Mr. J. H. Martin in A. B. J. With all the preaching that has been done along this line, we still find bee-keepers disregarding the wholesome advice. Just quite recently I dropped into a grocery store in a local town, and noticing some honey cans on the shelf, I made bold to examine their contents. I found they contained white clover honey, with the color good and flavor fairly so, but so miserably thin that a deep ladle would be required to dip it out. The grocer, of course, thought it was adulterated, which I do not think was the case, but was evidently extracted from the comb as soon as it had been stored, and by a bee-keeper (as I learned) who had been in the business for probably forty or fifty years. While I have never been much in favor of fixing a government standard as to specific gravity of honey, it does seem as if some such regulation were really necessary if bee-keepers will persist in placing such thin stuff on the market, to the ultimate injury of the industry.

2. I like the "question department" in a bee-journal, and especially that one presided over by Dr. C. C. Miller, in A. B. J. It has been a fountain of knowledge to me. I have made it a practice to read the questions, and then try to evolve a plausible answer to the same, before reading the doctor's answer. It is needless to say that my answers are, in the majority of cases, at variance with those of the doctor's extensive experience and knowledge, but by following along this line, said questions and answers make a deeper and more lasting impression, and therefore more useful for future reference.

3. Mrs. Lambrigger, in A. B. J., defends sweet clover from several standpoints, and I take the liberty of copying a few of her paragraphs. She says: Shall such a plant be destroyed on the ground of its being pernicious, baneful, unwholesome and of no use to man? Its value for honey goes unquestioned; its value for hay and fodder has been fully established; and its recognized value as a medicine is but a question of time. As to its being a weed when out of place, what then? So is alfalfa, so is mullein, the tobacco plant and the deadly night-shade, yet all have their uses in the economy of man; even the much despised thistle furnishes a dainty tid-bit for the humble donkey. All this hue and cry about sweet clover will exhaust the promoters in time, and dwindle down to nothing. It will be only another instance of "Lo! the mountain has labored and a mouse is born."

4. I want to ask the pardon of the American Bee Journal readers for ever having written a word about bees and bee-keeping. The man who gets a few colonies of bees, and reads all, or a good many of the bee-books and papers, and works along through several years of light honey flow, or no flow at all, may imagine he knows something about these things. Then let him find himself some June morning with half a hundred to a hundred colonies on his hands, and the bees filling up his hives and supers with bewildering rapidity, and the conceit will soon be taken out of him. He begins to realize that he does not know much of anything, and that what he does know is hard to make available at just the right time, and at just the right place."—Edwin Bevins in A. B. J. Although my experience is no doubt limited when compared with that of the writer of the foregoing, and although I have never managed the number of colonies he refers to, I have nevertheless realized that it does make just a great, big difference in managing colonies during a moderate and slow flow, and one coming lavishly and with a rush during the swarming season. The management (or at least a good deal of it) that will be necessary with the former condition will not apply to the latter at all.

5. Bee-keepers who have attended the conventions of the O. B. K. A. for the last four or five years, and also having attended the last one at Hamilton, would naturally ask themselves the question, "Where am I at?" Practically, everything passed off so pleasantly and har-