

## Notes and Comments

(By J. L. Byer)

On page 287, August C.B.J., in discussing the subject of bees being a nuisance, I am made to say, in referring to my own bees, that they are "probably no crosser than any others." This should read "many" others, as I am free to admit that I have been in many apiaries where the bees were not as cross as mine. On the other hand, have run across some that could put mine to shame as far as stinging was concerned. Have an idea that the "copy" read as corrected, and that our worthy Editor pitied the writer for confessing to the fact of keeping "hornets"; hence the change.

Your remarks re buckwheat for winter stores are, Mr. Editor, quite timely, and in the main, I believe, are quite correct. Judging from the tenor of letters being received these days, am of the opinion, though, that many bee-keepers are unduly alarmed over the idea of having buckwheat honey for stores. Personally, my limited experience with buckwheat satisfies me that bees winter well on it. True, the writer had quite a heavy loss in the spring of 1907, when the stores were mainly buckwheat, yet that same winter the yard having the most buckwheat wintered without the loss of a single colony. As conditions were much the same in all three yards, this proves that some other factor was responsible for loss in the two yards. In my opinion, the loss was caused by there being an abnormal amount of pollen in the hives, that article having been gathered almost exclusively while the alsike was in bloom. At the yard where the bees wintered so well, quite a lot of nice honey was harvested in July, and to that cause I attribute the difference in wintering. During the past season, while our crop of clover honey was short, yet the quality was excellent, and at close of the flow the brood nests seemed to be in a normal condition as far as pollen was concerned.

As far as I know, no honey dew has come in at any time in the season, and I am again going to take chances on wintering the bees on buckwheat honey. As may be surmised by the foregoing, we have had a flow from buckwheat. Not one of those big yields we hear of in regular buckwheat localities, yet by all odds the best we have ever had in our section. As a result our hives are very heavy, and if any extracting has to be done from the brood-nests, the work will only be done in the spring, when we think there may be some of it left that is liable to be hoisted into the supers. By the way, if weather had only been a little warmer, and some rain have fallen, we would have had a buckwheat crop worth talking about. However, we are improving every year. You say, Mr. Editor, that in September "half-filled buckwheat combs are sure to be the receptacles of honey dew." Possibly so around Brantford, but never, I believe, in "our locality." Is it common for honey dew to come in at that date I wonder. The only time I have ever noticed the stuff has been during dry spells in June, July and first week of August. It is an easy matter to tell when bees are getting honey dew, as the stuff is always gathered in the early mornings.

Much has been said in the past regarding foul brood in Ontario, and as a rule the majority of bee-keepers know the disease, and know how to act should the disease break out in their apiaries. These remarks apply, of course, to those bee-keepers who read bee journals and attend conventions; but, unfortunately, there are a lot of bee-keepers in Ontario, as well as elsewhere, who do not take the trouble to either read bee journals or go to conventions. While there may be a difference of opinion as to just how widespread this disease is, it is not the writer's intention to make any comments on this phase of the question, but rather to sound a note of warning for bee-keep-