

## Notes & Pickings

By D. W. Helse, Bethesda.

The notices sent out by the executive of the O. B. K. A. in regard to spraying fruit trees while in full bloom, will no doubt produce a good effect. Since they have been posted up in this locality the attention of the public is being drawn to them and while the bee-keepers will no doubt be benefitted by bringing to the knowledge of fruit growers, in a very simple way, that there is a law which prohibits spraying at such times, and while I congratulate the executive in the action which they have taken, yet I think the posters could have been materially improved if the proper time for spraying had been inserted, that is—the time when it would be of most benefit to the fruit growers, whether before or after bloom, or both. I have had a number of enquiries along that line since the notices were posted up. If this had been given, I think perhaps those orchardists who may be somewhat inclined to be unreasonable would be less likely to contravene the act.

The bees have passed through the second winter in my bee-keeping experience in which they have been confined for about four-and-a-half months on their summer stands without a cleansing flight, and in both occasions they came out booming in the spring with the loss of but one colony in each instance (from starvation). In the one thus lost last season, said colony had not less than 46 pounds of honey in the hive on Oct. 15 last, yet when I examined them on April 15 they had consumed the last drop and were starved. And

I wish to say right here that in my past experience 30 pounds of stores, which has often been said to be sufficient for a colony on the summer stand, is in this locality, generally speaking, deficient for the best prosperity of a medium stock. Plenty is my motto, and that is none too much, 40 pounds suits me better than 30.

There is every indication of being a rather wide gap between fruit bloom and a clover in this locality. The fruit trees being now in bloom, and the clovers as yet very small, if a long gap should occur then is the time when the apiarist can make money by uncapping the sealed honey that may be in the brood chambers, in the absence of such a small amount should be fed to the colonies daily in order that the larvae may be well nourished and brood rearing go on apace.

The mortality among bees seems again to have been quite large during the past winter, or rather during the past spring, as most of the losses have occurred since the snow left us, and by what I suppose might be properly termed "spring dwindling." Although I learn that quite a large percentage succumbed as a result of having been insufficiently supplied with winter stores. To suffer a loss from the latter cause is a lasting disgrace upon any bee-keeper who will permit it, this "picker" is included among the disgraced ones. Spring dwindling is generally looked upon as being sequel to bad wintering, and I believe poor wintering does contribute largely to a bad case of spring dwindle. But there are at least two other factors that also contribute very largely to it. I refer to the age of the bees in a hive when winter approaches, and condition of the weather for perhaps days and weeks of the following spring. In the former, how can any-