

known bee-keepers from the United States is also assured.

"How Are the Bees?"

—G. W. Demaree.

How often I have answered the above question this season I could not venture to say. I met a farmer who knows that honey is stored by bees some time between spring and fall, and he asks me "how are the bees?" I answer him yankee fashion, by asking him "how is the white clover this summer?" What can be the cause! Have you forgot the drouth of last summer and fall? O! no we had to haul water for months. That's it. But bees make honey of buckwheat, my father used to sow buckwheat for his bees! Certainly he did, but he did not know anything about bees or the sources from which bees gather honey. A little patch of buckwheat hardly gives a small round to my large apiary. "What? my daddy didn't know anything about bees? He got honey all the same, he did, lots of it. I've helped him 'rob the bees,' and I've hived a swarm myself." O, yes your daddy used to get some honey from his 'bee gums,' and so did my daddy get some honey from his bees, but he would not succeed now with the crude knowledge he had of bees then. I can remember those days well, this country was new then, and the woodland was full of poplar, lindes, wild plums, hawthorn, honey locust, mayberry, buck-eye, dogwood, red bud, sumach and an innumerable number of shrubs and bushes that bloomed nectar-bearing flowers. Where are they now? O, they have all disappeared, and wheat, corn and tobacco grow where this wealth of forest growth once stood. I had forgot that. "I really don't know anything about bees, they always would sting me." It is hard to talk bees when one is utterly disappointed and discouraged. Last year there was hardly enough rainfall to make a low average of crops under the best cultivation, while the protracted heat and absence of moisture literally burned the pasture lands dry. It is reasonable here this summer up to this writing, (July 12) what bloom we have, yields nectar freely, but it is too scant to be profitable. Last season dry and hot, followed by the hardest winter in the memory of the oldest Kentuckians, has necessitated a new start in bees and bee forage. Last winter with its deadly bug, and vegetable "dew" stores for the bees to subside upon,

made my apiary resemble a grave yard more than the living throbbing animation it used to be in the early spring.

Protecting empty combs from the moth worms is a matter that has been neglected. we want a better way to keep moth worms from ruining our unemployed empty combs. The present season I have been deeply interested in the search after a cheaper and better way to preserve empty combs through the heated part of the season, than the old sulphur fume plan, I find that if treated before the combs become infested with worms, fine dry salt sifted into the cells will generally protect the combs. After the worms have got into the combs, gasoline (the same as used for cooking stoves) if sprayed in upon the combs will kill the worms like a flame of fire, and after it evaporates it leaves no smell on the combs.

I propose to keep right straight on with my experiments till I find a plan that will enable me to keep empty combs in the hives right in the apiary without the filthy fumes of brimstone. Who will feel enough interest in the matter to help me in this good work. We must not conclude that it cannot be done.

I hope our Canadian brethren will reap a better harvest of honey, for their labor this season, than we can possibly attain to under present conditions here. But Canada will have the great Annual Convention with them any way.

Christiansburg, Ky., U. S. A.

Correspondence.

PICRON, Ont., July 23rd, 1895.

I have your card of 12th inst.. but before saying anything of particular moment in re the general instruction of the faculty of apiarists, I hope you will allow me to use a "nom de plume." I know from your own well-known writings in the C. B. J. that you prefer to see a man's own name at the end of his own paper, and in general so do I; but my dear editor it is expedient some times that one ought to attract as little attention as possible to himself as a man, and in all modesty as much attention as possible to what is said in regard to a subject of common interest, a "nom de plume" assists this object.

Another reason, it may be that I have friends and relations in every part of the known world, who might find good reason for very unfavorable criticisms of my essays and a "nom de plume" must form a shelter from the measure of ridicule induced by my blunders.

On this occasion you may either use my true name or the n. de p. and insert in the