

Alsike clover." Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson, of Rogersville, Mich., says that it will pay to raise Alsike clover for honey alone upon land worth \$50 per acre.

Mr. C. M. Goodspeed, of Thorn Hill, N.Y., says: "I have grown Alsike on my farm and watched its habits closely. It is very hardy, of extra quality as hay and a heavy seeder, reaching in rare cases ten bushels per acre. In this locality the second growth seldom yields much honey, but the first growth just swarms with bees for about three weeks, or from the time the rich blossoms open until the seed is ripe. In my locality it begins to yield honey shortly after white clover, and continues well into the basswood season. It yields twice as much honey as white or red clover." Mr. D. A. Jones, of Beeton, Ontario, says: "I think too much can scarcely be said of Alsike as a hay and honey crop, and many of our farmers are waking up to the fact that it is to their interest to cultivate it largely in preference to almost any other crop. Red clover will soon be a thing of the past, as Alsike seed is now in great demand, not only for seeding purposes but also for use in dyeing. I am informed that large quantities are being shipped to Europe for that use." Mr. A. I. Root, of Medina, Ohio, and Mr. L. C. Root, of Mohawk, N.Y., both speak of Alsike as the most valuable variety of clover for hay and pasturage and recommend its cultivation as being of the first importance to bee-keepers. Statements testifying to the unequalled value of Alsike clover, both for hay and grazing purposes, and as a most valuable honey-bearing plant, might be indefinitely multiplied. I cannot too strongly urge the bee-keepers of the United States to provide abundance of this forage for their bees, both by sowing the seed on their own premises and also by inducing their neighbors to cultivate this variety of clover as the best for all purposes.

Sweet Clover (*Mellilotus alba*) abounds in this locality. This is a hardy plant, of wondrous persistence, continuing in bloom from about July 1st until killed by frost. It is adapted to almost any kind of soil. In this part of Illinois it grows in rich soil by the wayside, or in deserted stone quarries with equal luxuriance. As the plant will grow without any cultivation in by-ways and waste places, wherever the seed can obtain a foothold, and is a perennial, it is rightly reckoned among the number of excellent and cheap bee-forage plants. Sweet clover will endure drought well. During the long drought of last season bees in this neighborhood would have been entirely without resources for many weeks together had it not been for Sweet Clover. The quality of the honey is excellent, and under

ordinary conditions the yield is altogether satisfactory. Much apprehension has been felt among farmers lest it become a noxious weed. Observing how readily the seed is carried in the mud on wagon wheels and horses' feet in the spring, when the roads are bad and the entire space in the highways is used for travel, belief has obtained that the fields would soon be invaded. Careful and continuous observation of the facts for five years past has convinced me that fears of trouble from this source are groundless. In but one instance have I seen Sweet Clover invade a plowed field, and that was for a distance of three rods on both sides of an old road leading into the field and the seed had been carried in on wagon wheels. This plant being a biennial is easily exterminated when desirable. I would recommend bee-keepers to provide abundance of this forage by scattering the seed in waste places and by the roadside. Sweet Clover is much more sightly and useful, and less objectionable, in every way, than the weeds which ordinarily cover the roadsides.

Pleurisy-Root (*Asclepias tuberosa*) is a honey-bearing plant indigenous to nearly all parts of the United States, but its growth has not been encouraged for the reason that its value to the honey-producer has not been generally known. The plant is a perennial; the top dies and rots, a new growth springing up each year. It is commonly regarded as a harmless prairie weed. The deep red blossoms hang in clusters. The plant is very hardy and of rugged growth, growing luxuriantly in all kinds of soil. The honey is of the finest quality both as to color and flavor. Mr. James Heddon, of Dowagiac, Mich., speaking of Pleurisy, says: "If there is any plant, to the growing of which good land may be exclusively devoted for the sole purpose of honey production, I think it is this; I would rather have one acre of it than three of Sweet Clover. It blooms through July and the first half of August, and bees never desert Pleurisy for basswood or anything else. The blossoms always look bright and fresh, and yield honey continuously in wet and dry weather. Bees work on it in the rain, and during the excessive drought of the past season it did not cease to secrete nectar in abundance." I have had some observation and experience with the plant, and, having secured seed, I expect to test it in different kinds of soil next season.

For two years past I have cultivated a plot of Motherwort (*Leonurus cardiaca*), and I prize it highly as a honey plant. Bees work on it continually all day, and every day, unless it is raining quite hard. The summer of 1885 it continued in bloom six weeks. Last summer it