

has enormously increased in the past ten years and can still be enormously increased. As soon as the people understand that honey is not only nutritious and wholesome food, but a cheap food, the consumption will be greatly increased. Having the advantage, in addition to the above qualities of being highly palatable, it must in time inevitably take its place on the tables of the land as a staple article of diet. As soon as the people understand that there is as much nutriment in a pound of honey at 12½ cts. as in a pound of butter at 25 cts., and as much in the pound of honey as in 3 or 4 lbs. of fat pork at 10 cts. per lb., as soon as they understand that more honey on their tables and less butter and meat, not only means economy but health, the change will be made. It remains for us to so educate them.

Selby, Ont.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

From the Bee-Keepers' Record.

UNSEALED STORES.

A CORRESPONDENT very timeously suggests that we should issue a warning regarding the danger of unsealed stores in winter and how it may best be averted or minimised.

There can be no question the danger is a real one—all past experience points in that direction. The immediate source of danger is not in the fact that the stores, whether of honey or syrup, are unsealed, but arises from the subsequent condition of these stores when contaminated by the vapors of the hive and impregnated with fermentative or putrefactive germs. There is no question but they are then frequently the source of so-called dysentery, or at least of bowel distension ending in the depopulation of the hive. A lesser degree of trouble may arise from the excess of water they contain; and which in the combs most distant from the cluster is an increasing quantity owing to the attraction these stores have for moisture in any form. To get rid of the excess of moisture in their food the bees must endeavor to keep up a higher temperature than usual, and in doing so consume an excess of food, which increases the amount of faeces and aggravates the symptoms referred to.

The season has been one peculiarly liable to issue in the evil brought under notice. Natural stores have not been coming in for months, and syrup as usually fed has an excess of water. Then the latter has in most cases had to be fed during weather so cold that the bees could do but little either in evaporating it or in secreting wax for capping. The later the feeding the greater the evil. It is now too late to adopt preventive measures, unless in cases where no great

quantity of food has yet been given. In such cases, and indeed in all cases, where a little extra food might be desirable, we should advise feeding entirely with well made candy—no more syrup. The effect of candy, especially when put on the frames still warm, and cosily tucked up, is to temporarily raise the temperature, making it comfortable for the bees to travel over their outer combs and in doing so to sip the excess of moisture in the unsealed stores. They are under the necessity of drinking frequently in order to liquidate the candy, and the resultant will be a general thickening of the stores, and with favorable weather even a partial sealing of them. As enough candy may be given to keep the bees working on it for a week or more this thickening process will go on all the time. When it is believed that there are sufficient stores, and indeed in every case where unsealed stores are found in combs outside the cluster, the final arrangement of the stock for winter will give the opportunity of adopting such remedial measures as may still be desirable. In the first place the combs may be re-arranged so as to bring the unsealed ones inside the cluster, the sealed ones outside. No harm results we believe from fresh unsealed food so long as the bees cover it. They are continually causing its evaporation. In the next place and with the same end in view the hive should be contracted by division boards so as to get all or nearly all the store combs covered with bees. We have not practised much contracting for some years but then we always had plenty of natural sealed stores. In the present exceptional season, especially with stocks much below their normal strength, we advise it all round. And lastly, free ventilation should be provided below the combs either by leaving door-ways open the whole width or by introducing an eke or a spare storey as a nadir. At the same time secure the hive against upward sensible ventilation by warm yet porous coverings, flannel, chaff, etc. We do not use American leather cloth nor can we advise its use in cases of unsealed stores as it prevents the upward escape of the excess moisture we so much want to get rid of and is apt to cause a heavy condensation of contaminated vapors, increasing the evil. It need scarcely be added that a leaking or badly ventilated roof will also increase the evil.

W. RAITT.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

CLIPPING QUEEN'S WINGS.

Mr. J. C. Black says on page 626 that clipping queens' wings is worse than useless when stocks are strong, weather warm and honey abundant in the fields. I may say from an experience of a good many years that I have found the practice eminently useful and satisfactory under exactly the circumstances he mentions.

C. C. MILLER.

CONVENTION NOTICE.

MICHIGAN STATE BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.
The 23rd annual meeting of the association will be held in the city of Jackson, Mich., on Dec. 12 and 13, 1888. Meetings will be held in