

OUR OWN APIARY.

Moving Bees For Fall Pasturage.

THE bee pasture at our home apiary is about done. There is not enough within range for more than fifteen to twenty colonies, depending on how wet the fall is. If the fall should be dry there would not be enough for more than ten or fifteen colonies, but should we have plenty of warm showers we will be able to keep twenty-five. We are now preparing the others for moving away to a locality that abounds in fall pasture. The asters are not out yet, the hone-set is not yielding very well but the mint this year seems to yield a good deal. There is a little near our home apiary, and the minty odor can be plainly detected upon opening the hives. Mint is an excellent honey plant to stimulate brooding, but the honey is too dark and strong for table use, at least for our market. The mints, where they abound, are one of the best fall honey plants; they stay in bloom right up till the frost comes. We have known patches of mint to yield over two months; there are a number of varieties here on our own harvest ground.

We have weighed all our hives that we have moved for fall pasture and we intend weighing them again to see how much they gain. We hope to get them pretty well filled with stores besides all they require for brooding purposes. It makes bees very cross to move them in warm weather until they get settled down in their new localities, and they are much more inclined to sting, we suppose because of being closed up and being shaken in transit. When we moved the first loads to their new location the sun was shining very warmly; we drove the team a safe distance away and then commenced taking the screen off the top and the wire from the entrances. We always find that it is necessary to have screens on top of the hives giving from four to six inches of space above the frames to admit the bees to cluster in, so that they may get plenty of air; it precaution is not taken with strong colonies they are very apt to smother. With our smoker we blow a little smoke in the entrance and also

through the wire screen at the top to quiet them before removing the screens, but even this precaution did not suffice in one or two instances and as we had forgotten to take veils with us we got badly stung. Personally, we have always been in the habit of handling bees without a veil, but we must admit that on this particular occasion if we had had one we would have worn it. When the screen was taken off and the wire entrance removed, the bees boiled out in hundreds and thousands, in a rage. If the day is not cool or if they are not set down at night or very early in the morning, we generally allow them to get quieted down before the entrance is opened; on this occasion, however, we wanted to take the screens back with us for another load, and we commenced to work at once. As soon as they smelled the poison they pitched onto the foreman so that he was forced to leave the hives and seek shelter under some bushes close by. Your humble servant thought that he would do the work, but after doing several of them there was such a swarm about us that we too, thought "discretion the better part of valor," but we said to ourselves there is only one or two in the row and, we will finish this before we leave, so we continued to work notwithstanding the fact that a great many of them were planting their stings about our face and head, the odor of which was very marked, and this strong odor of stings kept bringing new recruits to their assistance. The next screen lifted off had about two quarts of bees in the top of it and as soon as they were liberated they started to settle accounts with us for keeping them closed up so long on the journey, as they lighted on the back of our head and neck we kept brushing them off but it was the largest contract we had ever undertaken in that line, the pump was not far off so we made a bee-line for it and wet our heads thoroughly from the tub of water and washed off the poison but they continued to attack us notwithstanding the fact that we were some two-hundred feet from the apiary.

A WET HANDKERCHIEF USED AS A VEIL.

They were so enraged that as soon as we attempted to go back there were dozens attacking us again and would