

to do, to tell of his large yields only, and then censure the editors of our bee publications for giving only the "bright side" of apiculture, as some have been known to do, when bee-keepers gave only the largest yields, withholding a report at all other times. Only as reverses are reported equally with the large yields, can we get a true idea of the value there is in apiculture as a pursuit; and he who purposely withholds the dark side of any matter must be considered one who would purposely deceive. I am glad to know, however, that the most of those who report for our bee-papers are generally willing to give the dark as well as the bright side of bee-keeping.

The season of 1889 has been a peculiar one. The month of March, which, as a rule, is the most rough and unpleasant month of the whole year, in this locality proved to be the most calm and pleasant of any we have had so far, considering the time of year. This gave the bees which were outdoors an early start; and as April continued nearly as fine, high hopes were entertained for the season of 1889 as a honey year. Very few cold storms occurred up to May 20th, at which time the bees had so advanced that some of the stronger colonies were thinking about swarming, they having queen-cells started while the weaker ones were fully as good as the strongest are usually at this season of the year. But, alas! the shortness of human vision is such that it cannot foretell what the season will turn out to be; hence, right in the midst of our high hopes came the most disastrous weather for the bees that I ever experienced; for on May 20th came a cold rainstorm which kept the bees in their hives for a whole week, at the end of which it froze so hard that the bees in the smaller colonies were obliged to contract to such an extent that much of the brood perished, while all of the colonies ceased breeding pretty much entirely. This weather continued to a greater or less extent together with much rain till June 12th at which time the prospect of a honey crop was nearly ruined; for all know that it is the bees which hatch from the eggs laid by the queen about 37 days before the honey harvest, which procure the crop, if we are to have any. As our basswood (which is our main honey crop) blooms about July 10th, it will be seen that this almost entire absence of brood from May 20th to June 12th took away the bees which should have been the gatherers of our honey, so that, no matter how good the weather might have been during basswood, it would be impossible to secure a full crop. June 12th there came better weather, and the bees (which by this time were broodless, and many of them nearly honeyless)

went to the fields to work with a will. The rainy weather had brought on the white clover so that there was a greater show of bloom than we usually have; and could it have come off dry at this time we might have obtained more than usual from this source; but as the weather still continued wet, little more than enough was obtained to feed the brood, which now multiplied very rapidly. The early spring brought out the basswood bloom earlier than usual, so that the flowers on the earliest trees opened on the 4th of July, but the bees did not seem to notice them much, if any till nearly a week later. They now began to gather honey quite rapidly; in fact, they came in as heavily loaded as I have ever seen them, dropping short of the hive, and tumbling about in every direction, as they always do when getting honey very fast; but when it came to their storing it in the hives and sections, very slow work indeed was made, owing to the fewness of the laborers, and also to the thinness of the nectar, this last being caused by its raining nearly every day at some period during each twenty-four hours. The basswood bloom lasted for about three weeks, at the end of which time teasel gave a little honey for a week or so, when the honey season from flowers was over for 1889, for of late years we get no honey from buckwheat or fall bloom.

I now took off all of the sections, and found that the bees did not have half enough honey in the brood apartment of the hive to winter them; for, owing to the slow way honey had come in, brooding had been kept up to a much greater extent than usual during July. I saw nothing ahead but feeding for winter, till about the 28th of August, when the bees appeared to be at work on something, enough to keep them from robbing, the yield increasing, till on September 1st they again dropped about the hives nearly as much as they did during basswood bloom. An investigation of the matter proved that this honey came from the leaves of the oak, elm, and hickory trees, growing in a large piece of woods about one and one-half miles distant, this being the first honey dew honey ever obtained by my bees during the period of twenty years which I have kept bees. From this source, which lasted for about twelve days, the bees filled up their hives so that they had enough to winter on; and although I have some fears regarding how they will come out next spring, I have concluded to let them chance it, rather than go through the work of extracting, and feeding high-priced sugar.

After my sales of bees and queens in early spring, I found I had twenty-six colonies left to begin the season with, and from these I ob-