

Honey harvested too soon, before it is capped, contains too much water and candies with difficulty.

When honey is not sufficiently ripened it should be put into tight vessels and set up high in a dry, healthy room; that is a room without bad odors. It should be kept at a temperature of 30° to 35° Centigrade (86° to 95° Fahrenheit.)

Preservation of Straw Mats.—To increase the durability of straw mats, it is sufficient to soak them for 48 hours in a solution of sulphate of copper, made in the proportion of one pound of the sulphate to two gallons of water. Then dip them, half drained into a whitewash mixture of lime and water. for a couple of minutes.

THE GATHERING OF WATER BY BEES.

(From "Les Abeilles et les Fruits.")

How Much Time do Bees Spend in Drinking Water?—It is all the more interesting to reckon it because we know that between the temperatures of 50° Fahr. and 104° Fahr. the workers pass successively from an almost dormant state to the most active condition, and that as soon as they find warm water in the watering places they call those who have not seen this boon.

Mr. George Gendot, who has studied the watering of bees, writes in "Abeille Bourguignonne" as follows:

"The way in which bees conduct themselves at watering places according as the water is warm or cold, has suggested to me the idea of recording the time occupied by a bee in filling its crop with water at different temperatures.

"The following figures have been obtained by observing ten bees in each case from the instant they alighted on the watering place till they took their flight to return to the hive:

Temperature in degrees Fahr.	Time in Seconds
50.....	178
59.....	147
68.....	87
77.....	62
86.....	42
95.....	38
104.....	29
113.....	24

This table will enable bee-keepers to estimate the loss of time they might save to their bees by having in their apiaries watering places where the water would at least be warmed by the sun.

According to the results obtained to experiments by Mr. Astor (Revue Internationale, 1889, page 254) a bee gathering nectar containing 75% of water at a temperature of 50° to 55° Fahr. takes 3 minutes and 40 seconds to go back to its hive, unload and return to the flower. Let us suppose that a bee gathering warm water takes the same time. We see from the above table that a bee gathering water 50° Fahr. will take 3 min., 40 sec. + 2 min. 50 sec. = 6 min. 38 sec. for a trip, or say nine trips to the hour. Whereas, if she gathered water at 113° Fahr. she would take 3 min., 40 sec. + 24 sec. = 4 min. 4 sec., or about 14 trips to the hour.

"The experiments conducted by M. de Layen showed him that the greatest quantity of water consumed by colonies in one day was 6 16-18 quarts, about 30-100 pint each.

"Mr. Astor gives as the greatest consumption in one day 7 92-100 quarts for 50 colonies, about 32-100 pint each.

"My twelve colonies drank on May 11, 1905, 9 45-100 pints or 79-100 pints each.

"In Mr. Astor's yard in April and May, 1899, 50 colonies drank 40 22-100 gallons, or 3 22-100 quarts each.

Mr. Astor's bees have certainly