

veniently give the bees the amount of food desired, in such a way, that they will take it readily, and robbing will not start, will serve all the requirements of the case.

Stimulative Feeding should be kept up for at least from four to six weeks. The feeding should be done each evening, in order to obtain the best results. One-half pint is given to the bees each evening, and is better than one pint every other evening, and far better than a quart every third or fourth evening. The amount to feed at a time depends upon the size of the colony, their need of supplies and their readiness to take up the food. A large colony will take more than a smaller one, but if they be properly protected from chilling winds, even a small colony should be able to take up as much as a pint during each night.

If the bees should not readily take the pure sugar syrup a little old honey can be added to induce them to take it more readily. Old dark or strong honey will do very well for this purpose, although soured or spoiled honey should be always avoided. In fact in answering the now oft-repeated question as to what should be done with the unusual amount of honey dew which the bees have gathered this summer, we would say that it can be used very successfully in stimulative feeding, both in fall and spring, although it cannot be used for winter stores or winter feeding, where the bees will not have an opportunity to fly. at least once every three or four weeks.

Honey Dew.

Honey dew is not honey, although an unusual amount of it has been gathered this year and has been capped or sealed with nice white comb. Upon opening such comb, however, the dark, muddy honey dew is to be seen, and on tasting this it is found to be very inferior in flavor to even poor nectar honey. It cannot legally be sold for honey, and if put on the market it must be marked "honey

dew honey." Even if good honey is contained with more than twenty per cent. of this honey dew honey, the producer or seller is liable to a penalty under the Pure Food Laws against adulteration.. However, for the purpose of stimulating feeding, which, of course, is then at a time when the bees have full opportunity for flight, honey dew can be mixed with sugar honey, perhaps to the extent of fifty per cent. or one-half. Whether it would serve entirely for stimulative feeding is a question to be answered only by experimentation, which is recommended. It is our opinion that if the bees have plenty of opportunity for flight, the honey dew honey will have no serious effect, but that it may prove quite injurious if they are obliged to feed upon this during the entire winter time, when they can not escape from the hives for cleansing flight.

4. Weak Colonies.

Bees often die during the winter time simply because they were weak or but few in number in a colony in the fall or when they went into winter quarters. It is not true that a bee becomes dormant and cold like most insects, which can be frozen and thawed again without injury. Honey bees cluster closely in the hive and generate heat by the consumption and utilization of the honey or food in the hive. The bees are the stoves for using the honey as fuel to make heat. If there be no stoves, or if there be an insufficient number of stoves in the house, it can not be heated, even with a vast amount of fuel present. In the same way, if there be an insufficient number of bees present in a hive, it makes no difference how large the supply of winter food they may have, they can not generate enough heat to warm the hive properly and keep up the necessary temperature for their life during the winter time.

Colonies may be weakened through disease, through pests, such as moth or

December

mice, or for some ing old having l nucleus—and not lated to A weak of young pass thro with an a things sho be united killing the fore makin be consid boards, in obliged to amount c which they

One of tl perishing d lack of suffi to carry th and into abundance amount of body varies ony, but ev not be less honey or th colonies it s pounds. Thi of the bees the amount c It may be weight of the hives. If the their bees, tl tively few standard of v sults in winte tered in cella of equable amount of fo teen pounds l trouble and c for cellars and