

That the nectar gathered during the very dry, hot weather is unusually dense when first gathered and deposited in the comb, I have long been aware; but I have never noticed before that such honey candied before fall in the hives. It is quite possible that under such circumstances the bees are less thorough in the capping process, deeming it unnecessary; and if so, this is another proof that they are not quite infallible in all their instincts. Be the causes what they may, the fact is of much importance to bee-keepers. It is quite possible that honey candied in the comb not infrequently plays a considerable part as an unknown cause of winter mortality. I just now remember examining three or four colonies of bees a few years ago in the spring that had died in February in a neighbor's cellar, and all the honey (or very nearly all) was candied in the comb.

Now, as it is probable that the honey has candied more or less in other apiaries besides my own, especially where the drouth extended, I write this note of warning to bee-keepers to examine their hives in time so that the candied honey wherever present may be replaced by proper winter stores, and thus save mortality from this cause.

THE WEATHER AND FALL PROSPECTS.

Fortunately after the unprecedented drouth and dearth of honey this season the fall is proving fairly favorable. Within the past three or four weeks we have had splendid rains extending pretty generally throughout the parched districts, the consequence of which is that the face of nature is completely transformed from a parched red to a pleasant and splendid green, the fields of buckwheat crowned with white and diffusing a nectar aroma intoxicating to the bee-keeper as well as the bees. They have been working very well on the buckwheat for a week or more, the only drawback being an occasional cool windy day and frosty night. The two frosts we have had so far, however, have done but very slight damage, the last one last night, the 27th, having been tempered and neutralized by a friendly breeze. Unless the temperature is considerably below the freezing point, we need not fear for leaf or flower if the wind keeps stirring briskly through the night. Last night its friendly services saved many a broad acre of buckwheat and corn.

The prospect now is that the bees will be able to get winter stores in plenty and possibly give us a surplus. But the hives were so literally empty after the drouth that, with brooding, they fill up slowly. Besides, the buckwheat flow which only lasts ordinarily three or four hours a day is quite different from the clover flow or

the basswood flow, which lasts ordinarily from morning till night—long days at that. The brooding is going on all right, the colonies are healthy and strong, the honey that candied prematurely has been removed, and we hope to go into winter quarters in good shape.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., August 28th, 1888.

We are inclined to think that another cause of granulation of honey in the combs is the long time it has remained uncapped. In such a summer as we have just passed through where the bees can gather but slowly they do not seem inclined to seal the cells over. We have noticed that honey standing in the cells in this way for some time would commence to granulate. Had this season's honey been more quickly sealed the probability is that it would not have shown signs of candying so early. Frequently we have observed that honey is unusually dense in dry seasons. Clover seems to show a greater difference in this respect than basswood. This due to the position of the flowers. The linden is upside down as it were, the clover and thistle stand erect catching the dew and rain rendering their nectar thinner. Honey that has granulated hard in the combs is not advisable for winter stores. But where the granules are merely seen floating through the liquid portion we think no harm would result from its use provided a little good sugar syrup were fed with it. In the spring granulated honey can be fed. The bees will remove all the moisture dropping the sugary particles on the bottom board whence they may be gathered and melted; or by sprinkling them with diluted syrup or slightly sweetened water the bees will consume nearly the whole.

One reason for disliking granulated honey wholly as winter stores is our belief that the heat of the bees could not possibly liquify it be the colony as strong as may be. Further, we do not think they could do it in midsummer. Friend Emigh once sent us some sections part filled with honey gathered from the fields, the balance extracted honey fed back to complete the sections. After keeping two years the "field" honey remained beautifully liquid. That fed back and sealed in the same sections was granulated as solid as tallow. To