

warm sun shining in the entrance after a cold spell seems to revive the inmates of the hives very much.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

THE HERCULES CLUB TREE.

A. GILCHRIST.—The tree mentioned by your correspondent, Dr. J. C. Thom, I think is the Kentucky coffee tree, (*Gymnocladus Canadensis*). The flowers are whitish in racemes flowering in September and October, continuing for over a month. The flowers are over a foot across with large twice pinnate leaves. A rather peculiar tree. In fine weather bees are continually upon it. I believe it yields considerable honey. I have noticed this tree for some years past always attracting bees in great numbers. Friends in the south could give fuller information regarding this tree. Guelph is about its northern limit; in hard winters it gets injured and altho' last winter was the most severe for many years, still it came through unharmed, but the wood was well matured. The timber will be of no value to us as the size will not exceed six or eight inches. Further south it is a tall tree and the timber is valuable. For ornamental planting, its chief value consists in its flowering late when all other trees are done. It is the last flowering tree to which we say farewell, and we linger and look and think of six months of frost and snow before nature will unfold her beauties again. I will send a few trees with the late flowering basswood, also scores for grafting in spring.

Guelph, Oct. 15th, 1885.

Thanks, Friend G., for your promise of the seedlings in the spring. We will plant and note carefully the progress and the difference in time of blooming. Thanks also for your kind explanations as to the tree of which our worthy friend, Dr. Thom, wrote.

A BEE HOUSE OR CAVE.

J. A. MANNING.—Do you think it would be advisable to feed colonies say 3lbs lighter than you wish them to be, with your winter feeder as described on page 33, vol. 1. C. B. J., on sugar syrup in the old style? What do you think of a bee-house made in the bank of a hill by digging out a hole say eight feet by ten, and about six feet deep covered over with something strong and the dirt piled up for a roof, having the entrance on the side-hill with a double door filled between with straw, an air tube going through the roof and a drain running out on the side-hill?

Parkhill, Oct. 19, 1885.

Certainly we would feed, and would use the top feeder if convenient; if not feed otherwise. If fed in bottom of hive it should be warm when placed in hive, and only fed as fast as they will take it up. We think the repository you speak of if well made, would winter them splendidly. Made in a side hill it could be kept at an even temperature more easily than if built above ground. The entrance had better be made four to six feet longer, if convenient; then three doors could be hung leaving two dead air spaces, It would be more convenient to pass in and out to examine the bees, than to have the entrance filled with straw. If the side hill is steep enough to put the entire cave level with the surface all the better. Make it high enough so that the bees may be kept from one to two feet above the cellar bottom, and yet have room to tier them up as high as you can place the hives.

NO HONEY DEW—THE HONEY MARKET, ETC.

E. R. BULLER.—As you ask for reports I send you mine. I put into winter quarters last fall, Nov. 19th, forty-colonies and took out April 19th and 21st twenty-three alive, lost five by spring dwindling, cause of mortality honey dew of which there was abundant proof. I bought five-making twenty-three in all to begin the season. From 1st July to the middle of August extracted 1800 lbs. and have taken 300 lbs. of comb honey in one pound sections, increasing by natural swarming to fifty-five. Bees worked well on basswood for a week or ten days, the largest part of all honey taken being basswood. Buckwheat was almost a failure owing to cold weather. I am happy to say there has been no honey dew gathered, that being also a failure. I wish it might always be so. Most of my hives have plenty of good honey for winter stores. Three or four put more in the upper story than they could afford and had to be fed, but I think they are now all right. I notice the Listowel Association has shipped honey to the old country, which seems to me a step in the right direction. I should like very much to learn how the venture turns out. One or two favorable seasons would make honey so plentiful that it would be quite unobtainable unless we can find a foreign market. If anything ever causes me to quit the bee-business, it will be the difficulty in selling