

which only lasts from ten to twenty days. In the latter part of August or the first of September we have what is called our fall flow of honey.

On or about the 10th June, I watch our bees, and as soon as they begin to store any honey I then give them a super with sections prepared for the occasion. As soon as they are at work in them and begin to cap, I take it off, replace it with another, and set the empty one on top of the hive, putting the other containing the bees and honey on that. At the end of the honey flow care must be taken that one has not got too many unfinished sections on hand to carry through another year.

The recent winter has been one of the steadiest and coldest we have experienced in this part of Iowa for some time, and bees left on summer stands will probably turn out at least at a deficit of fifty per cent. over those wintered in repositories.

This spring our bees have started out under more favorable conditions than in 1892. The heavy snow has protected the clover, and if we have a few warm rain falls about the close of May, it is safe to predict a large honey flow this season. We have a honey prophet in Tennessee, who advises us, six months in advance, just what quantities of honey we may expect from clover and linden. His prediction is that this section as well as the larger part of the United States will have but a light honey flow. Should he hit as closely as he did last year in our section, I may count upon one hundred pounds per colony. Still I don't count that either a failure or a fair crop.

THOMAS JOHNSON.

'Coon Rapids, April, 1893.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BEE STINGS FOR RHEUMATISM.

MR. EDITOR.—Say, Mr. Editor, won't you please let up a little on saying, and upon letting folks say, so much about bee stings curing rheumatism; if not, please tell us what kind of bees they are that do the stinging, and where they can be got.

I've been keeping bees for more than a quarter of a century, and I never had rheumatism, until after the bees began stinging me, and I can assure you I have had my share of what you call *similia similibus curantur* and the *curantur* has been of "no 'count."

After all, I guess may be I've put my foot in it, as usual, for it occurs to me that if I had not been stung I might now be all crippled up with rheumatism, and perhaps those who tell of being cured by bee stings might have got well quicker if they had not been stung at all.

You know our friend A. I. Root didn't use to believe in taking anything from a bottle; but the grip took that foolishness out of him, and it is possible that if I didn't get stung a good deal I might have rheumatism much worse than I do, but I don't believe it; at any rate I have it as much or even more in the summer than in the winter, and I'd be willing to take the chances in the matter if the bees would just please stop stinging me.

My bees were put in the cellar the middle of November, and were put on their summer stands on the last day of March, all in good shape.

A. B. MASON.

Amurndale, Ont., April 5th, 1893.

Friend Mason has just hit the nail square on the head this time. All exceptions prove the rule, and under any circumstances his experience quite confirms the theory which not we—as he appears to, think—have set forth, but other speculators in the region of profound mysteries. Of course if he has not been sufficiently stung already to meet the necessities of his case, he will find as the season progresses, or in what is generally termed now-a-days "the near future," plenty of opportunities necessary for a perfect cure.—ED. C.B.J.

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