

Queries and Replies

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

QUERY No. 309.—Shall I leave the buckwheat honey in the brood chamber for wintering, or extract it? I winter partly in cellar and partly outside. Bees are pretty sure to have one fly each winter wintered outside. W. B.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Buckwheat honey is as good for wintering as any.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Leave it in. It is as good to winter on as any honey.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—I have had no experience with buckwheat honey.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Leave it by all means. It suits the bees but not the market.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I believe buckwheat honey is all right for wintering.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Leave it in the brood chamber. The bees will winter on it as well as on any other.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY.—Leave it in the brood chamber. I have wintered more bees on buckwheat honey than on any other kind, and wintered them successfully.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.—All things considered would allow a certain proportion of the apiary, to winter on the buckwheat but do not mix the buckwheat with light honey to winter on.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG.—Well I don't know enough about your surroundings climate etc., to answer your question in a reliable way. In my own locality buckwheat honey would be all right as a winter food, for bees.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—Buckwheat honey is good for winter stores, but I would not leave more in the hive than would be safe to last until next clover bloom, as it is not as nice in the spring as in the fall. It is liable to get thin if there is any dampness in the hive, perhaps not any more so than other honey.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—Leave the buckwheat honey in the brood chamber. This is something I feel positive about. We often have from 25 to 50 acres of buckwheat within 1½ miles. A good deal of honey that is sold for buckwheat has very little buckwheat about it.

A very little buckwheat honey mixed with a large quantity of other honey will give it quite a distinct buckwheat flavor. I feel sure that a good many who have fed what they have called Buckwheat honey for wintering, have fed honey-dew, with just enough buckwheat to give it the characteristic flavor. I have fed twenty lbs of clear buckwheat honey for wintering when bees had but few flights and they wintered perfectly.

Good buckwheat well ripened, is splendid winter stores, and your bees will winter well on it, but be sure your hives are kept sufficiently warm while they are storing it, so that it will be thoroughly ripened. Right here let us say, fall cases are very valuable for packing hives, in order that late honey may be better ripened. This is a very important point, not fully appreciated by many,

Query No. 310.—From what source is honey drawn—the earth or the air. What atmospheric conditions are most conducive to its flow—and why?—E. F.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Ask Prof. Cook or Pringle.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—I will let some other person answer these questions.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Who can tell? Allow a Yankee to ask a question. From what source comes the wool on the sheep's back; or the hair on the horse, both feeding in the same pasture?

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—From the earth. I begin to think that no one can tell just what atmospheric conditions are needed to make nectar flow, in any given year or climate.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I presume mostly from the air. Vegetable, like Animal metabolism is too complex to permit a certain answer. I should say a warm moist one, probably I better say I do not know.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—From both. The right temperature, the right degree of humidity, and the right electrical conditions. What these are and why they are, we will no doubt be a considerable time in finding out.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—From the earth, but certain atmospheric or electrical conditions are necessary to its secretion. Medium temperature and an average precipitation are preferable in my judgment to extremes.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—From both, no doubt—at least indirectly. A warm moist atmosphere I have found good, and which is no doubt improved when electrical forces, or rather the forces that produce electrically are at work.