

ed." However, I managed by working the bees for all they were worth to keep the twenty colonies along in a fair condition, and yet draw on them every few days for bees and brood to make nuclei. Of course this lessened my prospects for honey to quite a large extent, but I considered it much better than to destroy the whole prospect by breaking them up entirely.

Owing to the cold nights and this continual drawing of bees and brood from them I saw that I could get no large yield of honey if the season proved ever so good, for I had not the brood necessary in the hives at the right time to give me an abundance of bees during the bloom of basswood which is our great honey producer. In order to get a good honey yield, the hive must be full of brood at least thirty-seven days before the honey harvest, and at that time my hives were not half full. Considering this fact I was greatly surprised that the bees did as well as they did.

When apple trees blossomed, the weather was unfavorable, so that no surplus was obtained, and had it not been that there was considerable old honey in the hives I should have had to feed. White and Alsike clover yielded so as to give the bees a living and plenty for brood-rearing. Basswood opened on July 5th and bloomed for nearly two weeks, during which time the bees stored honey well considering the number of field bees present in the hives. Teasel gave very little honey, after basswood, which was quite a help by way of getting many nearly filled sections sealed over.

A good acreage of buckwheat had been sown for this locality, and I had strong hopes that a yield from this source might be obtained, but for the tenth time in succession I was disappointed, for not enough was gathered to show any surplus even in the brood combs after it had gone out of blossom. The last year in which buckwheat gave any surplus with me was in 1877. What the trouble is that this plant does not secrete honey of any amount in this place I do not know, unless it is because I live in a cold, frosty valley.

Of the twenty colonies only 14 swarmed, so that the increase was very light except as I made a few colonies by division, after the season was over. My present number is forty fair colonies in readiness for winter, and twenty very small ones made from doubled up nuclei; all of which had stores enough for winter except the nuclei, which had to be fed a part or all of their winter stores.

The result of the season is an average of about fifty-two pounds of honey from each of the twenty colonies, the whole amount being 1,039

lbs., 722 lbs. of which was comb honey. The amount received for queens, nuclei, etc., up to Oct 10th was about \$700.

Taking it as a whole I have no reason to complain regarding the result of the year 1887, unless perhaps it is that I have been so crowded with work that I have not found time for the improvement of my mind, which I would like; nor to make the many experiments that I had proposed to try.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y., Oct. 17th, 1887.

From Gleanings.

### Bee-Keeping With Other Pursuits.

**S**HOULD bee-keeping be made an exclusive business, or should it be pursued in conjunction with some other business? This question can be best answered after considering some of the pursuits that may be combined with bee-keeping. I am competent to speak of only a few, and if it seems really desirable that there shall be a combination, perhaps others may be called out. Perhaps I may arouse Mr. G. M. Doolittle by saying that I think he has made one of the worst combinations possible in combining bee-keeping with small-fruit raising. I think there is a somewhat general impression that bee-keeping and raising small fruits go nicely together. There is this much to say in favor of it—that the man with the right taste for bee-keeping is apt to have the right taste for a fruit-raiser, and if successful at either he would be successful at the other if he should turn his attention to it.

But a business to be combined with bee-keeping should be one that would require the attention of the bee-keeper mainly at a time when his bees require no care. So far as my experience goes, the small-fruit business requires the closely attention at the very time the very time the bees demand it. As soon as spring has fairly opened, there is work to be done at the bees, and so there is at strawberries, raspberries, etc. As the season advances, the bees become more imperative in their demands, and so do the berries. In the height of the picking season when the eyes of the fruit-raiser must be everywhere to see that pickers are making good work, to settle disputes, to make sure that berries are promptly sent to their proper destination, and not allowed to stay over and spoil—at this time when the fruit-raiser unless possessed of a very cool head, is about half crazy, the bees alone are enough to make him go distracted when a dozen swarms may come out at the same time. In a word, the busy time for each comes at the