

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Are Bees Susceptible to Music?

WISH through your columns to ask a simple question. Are bees susceptible to music?

Are they influenced by it? From my experience I am led to believe that they are. For instance, on this, the 26th, day of July, I went into a yard of about 130 colonies, in an extra good humor and began opening out the colonies about 9 a.m., without smoke or veil and was whistling merrily all the while. I was struck with the quiet attitude of the little bee. All at once the thought came to my mind, has music any effect on the bees? To prove it I went to the crosslest colony in the apiary, nearly all Holy Lands (you know what that means.) I removed the cover of the hive and on raising the quilt, I placed my face close to the frames (without veil or hat) and whistled a nice little waltz, and believe me, those bees just got right up and had a waltz, queen and all, and not one left the frames.

I am satisfied that bees are susceptible to music, and would like others to try it. Of course it would be inconvenient for lady beekeepers, still, better cultivate a little bee whistle than so much bustle.

TYRO.

This question, or a similar one, has been asked in the columns of the BEE JOURNAL before, and while there are many who believe that bees *can hear*, there are as many, if not more, who are of the opposite opinion. It is generally acknowledged, however, that bees have a language of their own whereby they can communicate with each other. It is possible that there may be a certain amount of magnetism about certain beekeepers which might draw the attention of the bees to sounds made by them. It may be so in your case. We shall be glad to have you test the matter still further and give us more of your experience.

Sir John Lubbock, in his work on ants, bees and wasps, says:—"I have over and over again tested with the loudest and shrillest noises I could make using a penny pipe, violin and a dog whistle, and making all sorts of noises I could produce with my own voice, but all without effect." A question relating to the hearing of bees was asked in our "query and reply" department, page 169, volume I. of the C. B. J., to which perhaps you had better refer.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

JOHN BLACK.—Queen and foundation to hand to-day all right. Thanks for your promptness in filling my order.

Sonya, July 21st, 1887.

WINTERING IN OLD COMBS.

SUBSCRIBER.—Please answer through the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL: Are combs four or five years' old as good for wintering as are new ones?

We would prefer old combs to new ones for bees to winter in all other conditions being equal.

What do queen cells amount to when built on drone comb and what cause is there for the bees building them there when they have worker brood in the hive.

We have known good queens to hatch from queen cells built on drone comb. Sometimes we have found a drone in them, and we have sometimes found a drone in queen cells on worker comb.

ITALIANS AND BLACKS.

FRED. L. BROWN.—Will you please tell me through the columns of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL if bees, when in the same yard, are injured of their working qualities by mixing Blacks and Italians. I have some black bees, and want some Italian stock in the spring. Would you advise me to keep them; are somewhat run out.

Fitch Bay, Que

We would advise you to keep your Blacks and Italians in the same yard. The first cross between Blacks and Italians will prove to be excellent honey gatherers, and although they are sometimes a little crosser than the pure races, yet they exhibit the same determination and activity in their working qualities and are frequently found to be superior honey gatherers.

B. ANSELM.—I have often read your JOURNAL and I find it very interesting and useful. What you said a short time ago about replanting wild linden trees is literally true in this locality, not one blossom could be seen on the wild linden, while those transplanted were full of bloom. Again the European varieties were about three weeks earlier than the American. I shall gather seeds from both plants for another year. This has been a poor season with us. From twenty-seven colonies I took five hundred pounds of extracted honey. Have made no new swarms. There are some of the hives with the upper stories filled with honey but I will leave it over as I may require it for the winter. I lost one swarm during a cold spell in March, it had been fed on sugar candy only. I commenced beekeeping in 1884 with two colonies, made my own hives; used the portico hive only and shaded