

might say, "A strange bee strayed accidentally found the hive." Taking into consideration that all my other hives have their entrance on the level with the bottom-board and full width of the hives, it would seem reasonable to suppose any stray bees would drop down on the alighting-board and try to find admittance there; but although I watched quite a few more bees coming in loaded with pollen more or less, every one seemed to know just where the entrance was.

At sundown that day an examination was made. It showed that considerable work had been done to match the combs. Some honey had been changed to different places. The most surprising feature was the presence of unsealed larvae. The small

mental colony sent out its workers as regular as any other colony in the yard, they bringing both honey and pollen. No bee was at this time quite six days old. On examining the colony on the evening of this day much new honey could be seen, which dropped from the combs when held in a horizontal position.

From this time on no marked difference could be noticed between this or any other colony, except, of course, in strength. A queen was now introduced, and I should have liked to make further observations, the bees all being black and the queen an Italian; but, as it happened, she proved a drone-layer, was removed later, and one of Root's tested queens substituted. On July 25 she commenced to lay, and she



HERD OF CATTLE.

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amount of open brood contained in one of the combs at the time of forming the colony on June 25 had not suffered, but had seemingly been cared for all right. A subsequent experiment along this line did not turn out so well. A colony having cast a prime warm on June 26 was stripped from all its bees July 1. The brood-combs were treated in precisely the same manner as in the other case, and on the third day I found all open brood perished. Why this difference I am not fully prepared to say.

Our basswood honey season opened on the morning of July 1. My little experi-

soon filled the combs nicely. Now some of the bees are about fifteen days old, and many of them may be seen bringing pollen, the honey season being at an end.

It was not only curiosity that prompted me to make my experiment, but I think the question has a bearing upon the practical side of our pursuit. If a bee cannot be induced to go out in search of food before eighteen days of age, then we shall be all the more careful when forming new colonies and nuclei so that enough field bees may be present to conduct the business.—F. GREINER, in Gleanings.