

lately by a man, who asked me if I thought the bees would have enough to live on during the winter. I replied that if there was a late flow, they might store sufficient to supply them, but if there was not, they must be fed. He answered gruffly: "If my bees can not get honey enough for themselves, they may starve; I'll not buy sugar for them." He is a man of wealth, yet refuses a few pounds of sugar to preserve the lives of his bees during an unfavorable season. But Nature kindly sent them an abundant supply, placing them beyond starvation.

The autumnal bloom has been very abundant throughout the West, though a little later than usual. The overflowed lands along the Illinois river are now a mass of bloom. If this great rain is followed by warm weather bees will continue to gather honey, there having been no frost in this locality. Bees do not build comb late in autumn, but store it in the brood-nests. Bee-keepers of many years' experience say that it is a very rare occurrence when bees are not able to store honey enough to support them during the year sufficient for their maintenance being gathered early or late, or in the interim. But this does not apply to bees managed in a haphazard sort of a way and allowed to swarm *ad libitum*.

MRS. H. HARRISON.

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From the London Standard.

GREAT FINDS OF HONEY.

TWO extraordinary takes of honey have just been made in West Surrey. For the last sixteen or eighteen years a colony of bees have taken possession of a niche between the walls of the Hautboy and Fiddle public house at Ockham, near Ripley. The outer walls of the building are about three feet in thickness, and the bees made choice of their storehouse at the very top of the building, which is three stories high.

The landlord and landlady, with their daughters, resolved this year upon finding out the exact whereabouts of the colony. A diligent search was made one morning under the roof of the house, and a piece of comb was found immediately below the slates, but in such a position that it could not be reached. Mr. Smith, the landlord, then descended to the bedroom, and with chisel and hammer removed a number of bricks from the wall where the whole stock of bees was found.

More than two feet square of the walls had to be removed, when a wonderful sight presented itself. A large mass of comb, about two feet in thickness, filled with honey, was exposed. The

bees were fumigated, after which large pieces of honey were cut out, until dish after dish was filled, with a total quantity of 130 pounds. The bricks have not been put into the wall again, but a glass door has been inserted, so that any one interested in bee culture may have an opportunity of seeing them.

Another and still more extraordinary take honey has been secured at Winter's Hall, Broomley, the seat of Mr. George Burrett. Some men were sent to take some bees which had got between the ceiling of the coach house and the granary. They succeeded in taking 300 pounds of honey. The bees had been engaged in their novel hiding place several years. It was a very interesting sight to see the way in which they had worked.

From Rural Canadian.

THE HONEY CROP.

MY honey crop averages about thirty pounds of comb honey and seventy pounds extracted honey to the hive. From neighboring bee-keepers I learn that their yield is about the same, in some cases not quite so good, in others a little better, owing to some localities being better than others. The yield is not so good as it was last year, and not more than one-third of what it was two years ago. On account of the scarcity of bees last spring and the lightness of the crop, the quantity of honey to be marketed is much less than it was a year ago and it should bring better prices.

STARTERS IN THE BROOD NEST INSTEAD OF FULL SHEETS FOR NEW SWARMS.

In the *Rural Canadian* for July I stated that we were furnishing new swarms with starters instead of combs or full sheets of foundation. As all were treated alike I am unable to say how it affected our yield of comb honey; but I find that even where the swarms were hived on only four frames they built a good deal of drone comb. As a result we have about two hundred combs which cost very little for foundation; but they have an average of fifteen to twenty per cent. of drone comb, which is too much for the brood nest. Next season we shall raise them to the upper stories for extracted honey and replace them with combs built on foundation.