

These are the clouds though fortunately they seldom bunch up together over the luckless head of one luckless bee-keeper.

In conclusion I may be permitted, in as brief a manner as possible, to give some advice (only however, to those who need it, and most of you probably do not) as to how to avert the biggest of the clouds and invite the sunshine.

First, as to stings. In handling bees the prime requisite is to be brave and quiet, to keep cool and handle carefully. Almost equally important is it to keep yourself scrupulously clean in person and apparel, for the bee is fastidious and ever ready to resent malodorous offences. Then when so unfortunate as to get stung, rub the stinger out at once by a single smooth motion of the finger over the part stung, and turn the part aside from the bees for a moment till the effluvia, which accompanies a sting and which invites further attack is dissipated.

To attempt to avoid the losses of winter mortality and spring dwindling is a big undertaking involving an extensive knowledge of apicultural science and art as well an extended experience. We all have considerable yet to learn on this subject. The best knowledge I have at present on the subject may be stated in the main points briefly as follows:—Give every colony plenty of stores for winter, (honey is best) early in the fall (Sept.) so that they may settle down contentedly instead of wearing themselves out looking for winter food. Keep them dry and warm. Put them in winter quarters early before cold weather. Leave lids off. Replace summer quilts by clean cotton ones and cover over with woolen quilts or cotton filled in with wool. Keep the repository at about 45 or 50 degrees. Be in no hurry in getting them out in the spring unless they are diseased or restless. When out, clean them up, give them plenty of food, crowd them up, pack them up warm and dry and leave them alone through the spring only when necessary to attend to them. The winter and spring management of which this is an outline I have found successful.

To avoid the origination of foul brood or less formidable diseases in your own yard attend to sanitation. Keep yard and hive clean and never uncup or behead drones in a weak colony where they are liable to rot instead of being carried out.

The king bird eats queens and drones; use powder and shot on him. Against the miller moth there are two remedies, viz: Italian bees and strong colonies of any kind.

To avoid the worry of swarming time and the break neck clashing of absconding swarms

keep your queens clipped; and keep back all after swarms as they are unprofitable as well as troublesome.

How to get a good honey crop when it is going and avoid the cloud of a bad one, this would take hours to set forth. I can, therefore, only say here, read the bee journals and the standard works on the subject; learn and profit by your own experience; and then rely upon yourself by using your own best skill and judgment.

To get a good price for your product after you have got it, certain conditions, besides the market are essential. First see that you get it out of or off the hives ripe and in good order, and then preserve it in good order—the comb honey in a warm dry place and the extracted when ripe in a dry cool place. Keep it clean and neat and put up with care and taste to suit your customers. Label and guarantee your product over your own name, giving brief and clear directions how to preserve properly and how to liquify. Then wait till the market opens and a demand arises, instead of rushing your crop out prematurely and taking catch prices. Of course in the case of regular customers, grocers or others—they must be supplied whenever they want it, provided the honey is ripe and fit for market.

Hoping your apicultural sky may be always fairly free from clouds, and that the season of 1890 may be especially successful with you all I am yours ever,

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont.

DISCUSSION.

F A Gemmill.—Asked if foul brood could be generated from leaving the decapitated drones to rot in the hive.

A Pringle.—Was of the opinion that a mild type might be generated in this way if the working force was not strong enough to remove the drones. He would not advise the amateur to undertake this method of getting rid of drones. He placed drone comb, where it ought to be, in the upper story for storing purposes if drones got too plentiful.

J K Darling.—He uncapped a good deal of drone comb and cut off the heads of the drones, but he had done away with as many of the drones, so decapitated, as possible by tapping the sides of the frames on a board thus shaking out the most of the dead drones. His general process of getting rid of the surplus drones was to cut out the drone comb and let the bees build up fresh.

R McKnight.—Thought that little