

From Gleanings.

How Many Colonies to the Square Mile.

THE season has been a remarkable one here—never so poor; though bloom in orchard, field, and forest, was abundant, very little nectar was secreted till the last week in June, when the season for surplus honey usually closes; then until after July 15th we had a good flow of honey. My own average will be 40 lbs. of surplus to the hive for 100 colonies, spring count. The quality is very fine, largely from blue thistle.

OVERSTOCKING.

The old question, never yet settled, and one, perhaps, like some others, never to be fully settled, will again present itself—stocking and overstocking the field. It is when we have such seasons as the present that we realise what overstocking is. How many bees may be kept profitably upon a given field is no more decided, and, we may say, no more to be decided, than the much-debated one touching the profit of deep ploughing, and for much the same reasons. Widely variant seasons so affect the secretion of nectar, that, setting aside the very important question of management, the results of the season's work are in no wise conclusive as to the point at which any given locality is overstocked.

Somewhere we have read, that in Europe as many as 6000 colonies have been kept in one square mile of land; but no mention is made of the product of these colonies. Who can report the largest number of bees to the square mile in America? It will be interesting in many ways to have some comparison of localities by reports from all sections.

We know of no greater number than 200 so kept in Virginia. Every observant apiarist knows that there are seasons when it seems that the supply of nectar is exhaustless; that, have as many bees as we may, all are employed from dawn till dark in ceaseless movement.

It will be a matter of interest to know if as many as 1000 colonies are kept on any one square mile in America, with profit to their owners—this without regard to the range inside of the mile. It is true, that four apiaries may be one mile apart, and on the four corners of a square mile; but even then have we any such localities? Can any reader of *Gleanings* report as many as that ever profitably worked?

Friend Manum, at Bristol, Vt., who made such a splendid record one year, with his product of 36,000 lbs., was obliged the year before to feed 6000 lbs. of sugar to winter his stocks. One year he was surely overstocked. He had bees in five localities not many miles apart. Let us get at the statistics, and see what they will show.

J. W. PORTER.

Charlottesville, Va., Oct. 5th, 1887.

American Agriculturist.

BEE-NOTES FOR NOVEMBER.

IF any hives have not yet been prepared for winter, they should be attended to the first warm day. If hives are to be wintered indoors they should never be taken in until cold weather begins in earnest, or it may be necessary to set them on their summer stands again. The later bees are housed the better, provided the weather remains warm enough for them to fly and void their fæces. The room in which the bees are to be wintered should be dark, dry, quiet, and well-ventilated. If it is in a cellar under a dwelling, a good way to ventilate it is to run a piece of common stove-pipe into the flue which is used by stoves throughout the house; this creates a good draft and forms perfect ventilation. Before placing the hives inside, remove the caps and nail wire cloth over frames as well as at the entrance; this will keep out mice. Now place the absorbing material on the top and set the hives inside laying sticks over them (to allow a perfect ventilation), and set the others on top of sticks. After bees have been prepared in this manner, and all made snug inside, it cannot be recommended too strongly that they be left severely alone. Have a thermometer in the room and keep it as near fifty degrees as possible; but better have it forty degrees if it can be held at that all the time than allow much variation. Do not disturb them until ready to take them out in the spring; there is no gain in setting them out for cleansing flight, but very often loss. All colonies on summer stands should be packed with absorbing material and given upward ventilation through it.

WM. B. TREADWELL.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

H. C. DANIELS.—My yield for the present year is 1,300 lbs. comb and 1,800 lbs. extracted honey from forty swarms. Not bad for an off year?

J. M. KINSEY & Co.—Note heads and envelopes received. It beats us to know how you can furnish them so cheap. We enclose you our price list for 1887.

Rochester, Mich.

Convention Notices.

North American Bee-Keepers' Society and the Northwestern Bee-Keepers Society will meet in joint convention at the Commercial Hotel, cor. Lake and Dearborn streets, in Chicago, Ills., on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 16, 17 and 18, 1887. Arrangements have been made with the Hotel, for back room, one bed, two persons, \$1.75 per day, each; front room, \$2.00 per day each person. This date occurs during the second week of the Fat Stock Show, when excursion rates will be very low.