

Mr. Alpaugh, dealing with spring dwindling, blames sour stores and ice-cold water as two predisposing causes; so he heats his water, as has frequently been advised on this side. Further, he has this to say of the water he supplies in spring: "To every pail of water I add a small handful of salt. I believe this salt will do more towards keeping the bees free from disease than anything else you can give them. When I first started giving salt I had two drinking-troughs, one salted and one fresh water. I found they would not touch the fresh as long as they could get the salted." The fascination shown by bees for saline water about manure-heaps may be due to the greater heat as well as the salt taste.—D. M. Macdonald, in "British Bee Journal."



Keep your eyes on the toads. One of the hives we bought this spring was an old chaff hive. It was set down hurriedly on four bricks. It had very little alighting board space, and we foolishly placed a board in front of it for this purpose. On visiting the yard on June 3rd we found that it was about depopulated, while it had been quite strong on May 25th. That the bees had been there was evidenced by the great abundance of capped brood. We took this as an evidence that abundance of bees had been there until very recently. There had been no robbing. It was clearly a case, therefore, of the bees having deserted the hive and gone to another one—a thing most unlikely where there was so much brood—or else the bees were being destroyed. We therefore looked for the cause. We think we found it. Here was a large, fat toad perched up at the entrance, which started to hop away as we disturbed it. It is needless to say we were not slow in giving him his quietus. We are of the opinion that it had eaten about one-third of the bees of that hive. Hives should be elevated sufficiently to be beyond the reach of toads.

My opinion—I think the common opinion—has been that, on the same journey, a bee gathers both pollen and nectar. So high an authority as Gaston Bonnier says that the same bee gathers only pollen or only nectar or only water or only propolis.—Dr. C. C. Miller, in "Gleanings."

Editor Root adds:

Our bees are busily working on dandelions. We can see the pollen in little lumps hanging to their legs, while their abdomens are very much podded out, indicating that they have gathered considerable honey at the same time. If both honey and pollen are present in the same blossom, it would seem very strange if the bees ignore the honey and take only pollen.

On June 3rd we followed a bee in its work on dandelion, and noted particularly all its movements while passing from flower to flower. It sunk its head and tongue down deeply into the flower, sipping up any nectar that was to be had. At the same time we noticed clearly that the pollen was gradually adhering to its legs as it moved to and fro. We feel perfectly safe in saying that the bees do gather both pollen and honey at the same time.



Here's to you, brother York! May you guide the destinies of the "A.B.J." another twenty-five years! Yours is an A1 journal, fearless and independent. More power to you!



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