

Notes and Pickings.

—D. W. HEISE.

Are the same honey plants differently affected by different climates and localities? is a question brought up by F. Greiner, in American Bee-Keeper. He answers the question himself by saying, "Yes, they are indeed." And he cites a number of cases that came under his own observations, and that of others, to show that such is really the fact. I think this is a question that very few bee-keepers will need to search very little for proof of, and it applies very forcibly to my own locality. Take for instance the much renowned honey plant. "White Clover." Only one year in ten have the bees gathered anything to speak of from this plant in this locality. I have often been led to wonder why this should be the case, since the plant flourishes luxuriantly in all waste places. And I have sometimes thought, that perhaps it is owing to the fact of alsike clover being so extensively grown, and coming in bloom, as it does, about the same time as white clover, and possibly it affords opportunities to the bees that white clover does not. Then, again, take "golden rod," although we have in this locality quite an area of uncultivated lands pretty well covered with this plant, yet it is very rarely that the bees will be noticed working on it to any appreciable extent. Wild cherry and buckwheat come under the same role, the former scarcely ever being noticed by the bees, and the latter having only yielded me a crop one year in ten, although it is not extensively grown in this locality. There are a number of other plants that flourish moderately in this locality which are considered great honey producers in other sections, but they offer very little encouragement to the apiarist in this. Fruit trees as a rule, secrete nectar lavishly, I believe, but the weather is generally so bad during the bloom, that the bees are not able to profit much by it. Alsike is our mainstay, and the only thing that can be depended upon for a surplus crop in this locality.

"Best hive for beginners being asked for in the American Bee Journal, more of the veterans agree upon 10 frame Langstroth than upon any other."—Stray Straw, Gleanings. In a foot note, the Editor says:—"It is a fact that the call

for the ten-frame is on the increase, as our orders from season to season attest. We may talk about the eight-frame being big enough, but to insist that it is large enough for all localities, all conditions, and all bee-keepers, is foolish, to say the least." Just so. And yet we can find not a few who will persist in that foolishness.

[I think very few persist in saying the eight frame is large enough for all localities and conditions. I believe improper care and management has more to do with failure than the hive. But the hive can stand to be blamed, it can neither hear or answer back.—Ed.]

"What a wholesale recanter ye Editor is, when once he finds he's wrong. From thinking fifteen minutes enough to boil foul brood honey, he has gone clear up to three hours. I protest that there is no sort of proof for the necessity of boiling more than two hours and a half. It is rather humiliating to have to turn 'right about face,' but when one sees he is wrong, it is the only thing to do. Three hours! why if two and a half hours is just enough—just barely enough—why not make a sure job of it by taking three hours?"—Editor Stray Straw, Gleanings.

[There has been a lot of guessing on the above subject and the end is not yet.—Ed.]

The man who does the boiling for the American Bee Journal, makes a quotation from a foreign journal, in which J. W. Green says, he once had a full sheet of heavy brood foundation one side every cell drone comb, whilst the other was all worker. Cogitator thinks its all right, and says "The foundation was probably so heavy that the bees treated it just as they would a waxed board—first left one side alone, then levelled and propolized it, and later on made it a half-comb of drone cells."

Mr. Boiler of "Beedom" thinks I am making for myself a whole lot of trouble, by being disrespectful to the generally accepted opinion regarding winter protection for bees. Now just to save you any further anxiety Mr. Boiler; and to avert any possible trouble to this paper, I will modify my statement so much as to say, that the protection spoken of by J. E. Crane in a late number of Gleanings, is about what suits me. Will that do?