

OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Things I Have Noted.

FROM REV. J. CARSWELL.

**W**HAT "old foggyisin" in bee-keeping is not yet dead.—When we take into consideration the opportunities enjoyed for obtaining information upon the most approved methods of bee-keeping, and the abundant evidence furnished of the remuneration to be obtained in this way above that received according to the old style, one would think that no one could now be found who would advocate and practice the old system. Yet such is not the case. Occasionally in travelling through the country, you come to a farmstead that is ornamented with a few old "gums" or hollow logs in which bees are kept in the most primitive fashion, and if you enter into conversation with the owner, you soon discover that he is a man incapable of being taught. He already knows too much, and so it is a waste of wind to try and convince him of the advantages of modern methods over that which he pursues. The large yields of honey obtained by some bee-keepers, he takes no stock in, they are either stretchers or frauds unworthy of the credence of any sensible man.

2. That a great many people think they can keep bees without any knowledge of them. They admit the necessity of knowing something about every other department of farming, but imagine they can keep a few bees without any knowledge of their habits, or the best methods of management. The inevitable result is that their bees die the first season; whereas if they had been at a little trouble in acquiring the information necessary, they might have met with encouraging success and saved the loss, which their ignorance and inexperience have entailed.

3. That a great many people who keep bees do not receive any Bee Journal. Through a false economy they try to get along without the slight expense which this would incur, and the result is that they lose in the course of the season far more than a good Bee-Journal would cost. In my own experience, I have often obtained from one article information far more valuable and that led to a financial gain, far in excess of the cost of a Bee-paper. During the eleven years I have kept bees, I have been a constant reader of Bee Journals, and attribute any little success I have had very largely to the information obtained from this source. I can therefore strongly recommend every one who has bees, or intends to get them, to subscribe for a Bee Journal, and there is none better nor so adapted to our coun-

try and climate as the C. B. J. It is one of the cheapest and best of the numerous publications and being Canadian should receive the hearty support of all loyal Canadian bee-keepers.

4. That bee-keeping is too precarious to depend upon entirely for a livelihood.—It furnishes a good addenda to some other occupation, but to rely upon it entirely for a maintenance would be to find ourselves some seasons in the position of vagrants, without any visible means of support.

5. That the number of families who do not use honey as a diet is still very large.—They get a little occasionally to cure a cold, or because they have a visitor that they have discovered is fond of honey; but as an article of daily food it is seldom thought of and enjoyed. And so it is only very occasionally offered to one either in private houses or hotels. Now, when we consider its cheapness and healthfulness, that it costs a great deal less than butter and preserved fruits, and will go a great deal farther, it is surprising that it is not in more general use.

6. That bees winter as well upon sugar syrup as they do upon honey. I settled this question satisfactory to myself the first season I kept bees. One of my neighbors was going to "brimstone" some second and third swarms so as to get the honey, or "take them up" as it was called, and I obtained permission to drum out the bees and put them into one of my hives. I put four into one, giving them empty frames and about 30 lbs of syrup, and they came out in spring better than those that had honey stores. Since then I have frequently fed syrup for wintering on, and found it answer as well as the best honey. Now that sugar has become so cheap it will pay those that have the time to devote to it, to extract pretty closely at the end of the honey season and feed syrup, but let them be sure to use the best sugar, to give it in sufficient quantities, and to clean out the combs that are to be used for extracting in the spring so that none be left to mix with the honey.

7. That bees consume more honey in a mild winter than in a cold, steady one. I know that the opposite opinion is very generally held and stated in Bee-Journals and at conventions. But my experience leads me to believe that in cold steady winters bees hibernate or "lie in a quiescent state," as friend Clarke would say, and do not consume much stores; whereas when the weather is changeable and frequently mild enough for them to obtain a flight, they consume much more food. Last winter was comparatively mild, there being frequent thaws, and so thought I give my bees some five pounds