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NOTES AND COMMENTS

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Bees Irritated by Black Clothing.

Only a short time ago it was my privilege to spend part of the day in an out-apiary belonging to one of Ontario's well-known bee-keepers. During the time I was there, although I walked all through the yard quite a number of times, hardly a bee offered to sting, and I concluded they were a pretty quiet lot of bees. During the day the owner came to the apiary, and together we started to go among the bees, when, presto! what a change. In an instant the bees were fairly swarming about the head of our bee-keeper friend, and it was more than funny (to the writer) to see the way he sprinted for cover to the honey-house. As I had been wearing a straw hat and the bee-keeper was dressed in dark clothing and a black felt hat, it struck me as a clear case of the bees being aggravated by the dark garb, especially the black hat. At least, that was the only construction I could place on the matter unless we accept the idea advanced by the victim; he "guessed they knew him, and were trying to even up some old score."

Effect of Winds Upon Nectar Secretion

Speaking of the poor season, Doo-

ittle, in August 15th "Gleanings," says easterly winds are against the secretion of nectar. Wonder if this is a matter of "locality," as such claims do not hold good in this part of Ontario. With us northerly winds are the most unfavorable, while a southeasterly wind quite often accompanies our heaviest honey-flows. This year it made no difference how the wind blew, there was very little nectar secreted, except from buckwheat, of which more anon.

Bees Dying in the Yard.

Was quite interested in friend Taylor's enquiry in August "Canadian Bee Journal," as our bees, especially at the home-yard, have been heavy sufferers the past two seasons from the same complaint. Every morning during the clover flow thousands of bees were crawling over the grass; after a time they formed in bunches nearly the size of a walnut, and by noon all would be dead. Mr. Smith's theory that poison is the cause seems plausible from the fact that the greatest number of bees were always noticeable in front of the most populous colonies. On the other hand, I can hardly think the theory correct, from the fact that the same state of affairs continued after time for spraying potatoes was past. Whatever the cause, no question, but that it cost me a good many pounds of honey last season, as many of my best colonies were nearly depopulated. I looked into the hives a number of times