

at full figures. During the last few years when a fair crop was secured, some bee-keepers seemed to be so anxious to get rid of their honey and get ahead of their neighbors that they sent it in to the nearest town and sold it for whatever was offered. The price obtained was often ridiculously low, and the market was thus ruined for the balance of the year. The bees are not now in the country to gather a very large crop, even should the season be exceptionally good, and there will surely be no more honey produced than can easily be sold at about present rates. It is better to secure the crop first, in the nicest possible condition, and no matter if grocery men begin to wonder why honey is not forthcoming they will be all the more anxious to buy when it is brought in. Don't take in too much at a time, especially at first—a crate or two is plenty. Better supply them often and keep it neat and fresh and keep it going. In this way it will never become old stock and unsaleable.

Allan Pringle in Canadian L. S. and F. Journal.

JUNE JOTTINGS.

By the first of June the "spring dwindling" in the apiary has about spent itself, and the bee-keeper can balance up his winter and spring losses, which, from all accounts received, appear to have been unusually large up to date. Within the area of my knowledge in this district (Lennox, Addington and Belleville) about four fifths of the bees are dead. My own winter loss, which is on an average from 3 to 4 per cent., is the past winter and spring from 5 to 6 per cent. The great loss of bees throughout the county, though perhaps chiefly owing to mismanagement, is in part at least due to natural causes over which the most expert apiarist has but limited control. Yet while this is a fact, so much of the loss is obviously the result of incompetent management that it affords another argument against everybody going into bee-keeping.

There is perhaps no other department of agriculture that requires so much special knowledge and adaptation as this, and hence the folly of those without skill or experience going extensively into bee-keeping, either as an exclusive or main pursuit. Of course if but little is invested in it, and but little expected from it, there can be but little loss, and the disappointment will be correspondingly small.

The natural causes to which the late mortality is partly due may be traced to the excessive drought last summer and the continued severe cold of last winter, which persisted continuously for several successive weeks. The drought operated injuriously on the winter prospects of

the bees in several ways. The failure of the honey flow resulted in a shortage of winter stores, and as a consequence some starved to death; while from the same cause brood rearing was checked in the fall and discontinued much earlier than usual; and as many old bees went into winter quarters, they naturally died off during the winter and spring before they could be spared from the hive. A poor quality of food, resulting in bee-diarrhœa, was another cause having its origin in the drought. Not that clover, basswood or buckwheat honey gathered during a drought is inferior, but during a scarcity the bees will gather sweets from any and every source. They thus get into their hives at such times odds and ends in the shape of sweets of various kinds, which, though perhaps good enough for summer food, are quite unfit for winter.

Then, the continued cold weather lasting through several weeks in the middle of the winter operated against the bees in two ways. Bad food and low temperature are, in my opinion, the prime causes of bee-diarrhœa. The unwholesome food and the excessive cold together had their natural effect, while the latter alone had the effect of preventing the bees from reaching such stores as they had, with the result of starvation with food in the hive.

But while these primary natural causes are beyond the control of the apiarist, he ne experienced or inexperienced, wise or otherwise, wisdom and experience may to a certain extent obviate their pernicious effects. The brood-rearing, checked by the drought, can be kept up in the fall by judicious feeding, thus securing young bees for winter. The unwholesome stores can be extracted and good food supplied. Under proper wintering conditions such temperature can be secured and maintained in the hive during the coldest weather as will enable the bees to reach their stores when needed, and thus avoid the risk of starvation, and also reduce the risk of disease to a minimum.

THE PROSPECTS.

Considering the freaks, fancies and general instability of June, it would be unsafe to prophesy, but the present prospects of a good honey season are favorable. That the surviving colonies will be in strong condition to take advantage of the harvest when it comes is more questionable. Generally they came out of winter quarters in rather poor condition, and the spring has not been overly favorable for building them up. Only, therefore, in the hands of the skilled few will the colonies be strong and ready for the harvest when it arrives. There may be an abundant yield of nectar and a comparatively small