

this matter while keeping bees in Cuba, some 15 years ago. Up to that time I supposed the idea was correct, having seen it repeatedly given by our foremost writers and never disputed by any one; but while watching some experiments on other points I stumbled on some new ideas.

Special conditions there make it possible to observe much more accurately some points in bee-keeping than it is possible to do in this country. Here our honey yielding flowers remain continuously in bloom day after day during their season, and any sharp difference in the quantity of honey stored by the bees on consecutive days is caused by weather changes of some sort or other. The bell-flower, from which most of Cuban honey is obtained, is a daily bloomer; that is, new flowers come out each day and last for that day only. It is very irregular in the amount of bloom it has day by day. I have seen hedges and other places almost as white as a snowbank one day with bloom, and the next day one might walk a mile and not see a hundred blossoms, while the following day there might be half or a quarter as many as on the first day. As the weather conditions are much more steady there than in this country the amount of honey gathered any day was in almost exact proportion to the amount of bloom on that day, and one could tell each morning with almost absolute certainty what would be the record of the scale hive at night. Any close observing bee-keeper will readily see what an advantage this irregular daily blooming was in certain lines of observation.

I practiced taking record of weight of the hive on scales after work had ceased each day and again before work commenced in the morning. This gave me the actual amount of shrinkage or evaporation occurring in the hive from close of gathering one day to com-

mencement of gathering next day. The percentage of shrinkage to amount brought in was quite regular during the entire season. It was about 25 or 30 per cent. Whenever there was a flowerless day and no honey gathered the shrinkage during the 24 hours until next morning would seldom exceed 10 per cent of the amount of shrinkage of the first 12 or 14 hours. Thus if the scales showed at night that 10 lbs of nectar had been gathered that day, they would in the morning show a loss during the night of 2.1-2 to 3 pounds, but if that day should happen to be a flowerless one, the following morning would reveal a loss during the 24 hours of not to exceed from one-quarter to one-half pound. This shows almost conclusively that nearly or quite nine-tenths of all loss of weight caused by curing of newly-gathered honey occurs during the first 12 or 15 hours after it is first deposited in the hives.

As soon as these observations had been repeated enough times to convince me of their accuracy, the question suggested itself to me: "From where comes the large gain in weight of honey supposed to be obtained by extracting every few days before being sealed over?" and that question is yet unanswered. Many other observations made while in Cuba and since returning to Florida seem to strongly corroborate the idea that little or nothing is gained by extracting unsealed honey. I will not give these points, but may do so some other time.

If the conclusions I have come to are correct, isn't it a serious mistake to teach that much more weight of honey can be obtained by taking out unsealed honey than by waiting until honey is in right condition to take? Some unscrupulous person will be sure to try taking advantage of that supposed fact.—O. O. Poppleton, Fort Pierce, Fla., in "American Bee-Keeper,"