

INTERESTING GERMAN ITEMS.

Translated by Jacob Haberer.

How Are Bees Secreting Wax?

Mr. Dickel, of Darmstadt, writes in Hess Biene: With H. Mulot of Hrnstadt, I come more to the opinion that the natural secretions of wax is not through the wings of the lower part of the body, but takes place through parts of the mouth in liquid form. Wax scales on the body are only secreted if the temperature is too low, and no opportunity to build. For many years I have watched the bees how they work up this scale so often seen on their body, and on the bottom board of the hive. For many hours I have watched through the glass of my Alberti hive the building of combs. In doing this, for years, I never saw bees taking scales from their wings of the body, nor did I ever see these scales when building was going on, and if considered that it would take very many of these small scales, we should be able to see the operation. Last year I took a small after swarm from the starts of the new combs and put them under a glass bell, after I had looked sharply whether I could notice any wax scales on their body I put them in a cool cellar, and after a few hours many of these scales could be seen on the bottom board and also between the body wings.

By closely watching a comb-building colony, we will see the bees run through the comb spaces or come out from the cluster without having anything in their mouth running to the building place, put their head in a started cell, working a little in there, bring out the head and have a small lump of wax between their mandibles, add it to the wall of the cell and draw it out, or run to another place to use it up there.

For a long time I had the idea that bees secret wax through one of the glands in the mouth, and only in cool weather through the wings, but I will

not dispute that under circumstances they may use some of the dropping scales. I would have published this earlier, but as most scientific men have a different opinion, I wanted to observe it for a little longer time. It was confirmed lately that food for the larvæ contained quite a lot of wax that can only come from the glands, and after speaking with many of the best bee-keepers and close observers, they had to state that they never observed how the bees took off and used the scales from the wings. I may ask all interested bee-keepers to pay more observation to the matter, so we may clearly understand the secret and be confirmed of it.—Leipziger Bienenzeitung.

A law for the protection of honey in Switzerland has been introduced lately.

1. The term honey is only allowed to be used in commerce for pure honey from the bees.

2. Honey produced by feeding sugar to the bees has to be declared as sugar honey.

3. Foreign honey only can be brought in and marketed by naming the country of its origin. The packages with foreign honey, if offered for sale have to show in large letters the country of production. In all advertisements and accounts the same has also to be mentioned. Honey mixed with foreign honey has to be handled as foreign honey.

4. In judging honey chemical consistency, appearance, smell and flavor has to be considered.

5. Honey with more than 20% consistency is not allowed to be marketed.

6. Fermented or otherwise spoiled or impure honey is not allowed to be sold.

7. All kinds of artificial honey have to be named and labelled so. The term "Table Honey" or similar names can only be used for pure, natural honey.

8. Artificial sweets, colors, or mineral substances are not to be used in artificial

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honey; a small percentage of water may be used.

9. Artificial honey must contain more than 20% water.

10. All impure and adulterated honey is forbidden to be sold.

11. All packages of honey have to be labelled with the name in large letters.

12. In advertisements, labels, table cards in restaurants, artificial honey has to be named.

13. Whoever manufactures honey has to notify the authorities of the amount has to be kept in stock coming in and out of the country of product turned over to buyers. They have a right to inspect the honey at any time.—P. Wegweis

V. Mona, of Bellinzona, Switzerland, Parisian Apiculture, has been awarded three gold medals for his bees living peacefully together.—Lux, Bienenzeitung

A FEW COMMENTS ON THE ARTICLES

R. B. Ross

The careful reader of the Canadian Bee Journal must often be struck by the statements and advice published without warning, and which are often absolutely wrong. A letter off a letter on the subject only overcome by either the "oversight" of the editor was accidental. The latter, then no doubt of calling out some useful discussion through my mind. I am tempted by the late date of the issue between the editor