

REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

American Bee Journal

J. L. Byer refers epigrammatically to two conditions most bee-keepers are familiar with, viz.: Much nectar and no bees and no nectar and "much" bees. As to which is worse he is not prepared to say. There is a third that many have experienced this year, that of early nectar and late bees. "My bees are just seven days late," exclaimed one of our friends at a field demonstration, and in those seven days he missed half the crop.

C. P. Dadant, than whom, we believe, there is no greater authority in America on the subject of bees wax, writes interestingly on "Bees Working out Comb Foundation." He advises that foundation should be given to bees before the crop is in full swing, as then the bees thin out and use the extra wax contained in the foundation much more efficiently. "There are two possible reasons for this action," states Mr. Dadant.

"The first is that they have ample time when there is no crop, and that they will naturally use everything to the best of their ability. An excess of wax in the comb is useless. With plenty of leisure they can make this excess useful. But if the crop is on, in full, they find themselves crowded for room, cells are needed at once, and before much depth is secured some bees will have deposited honey in them. This puts an end to further improvement or manipulation. Then, in a heavy honey crop, the stomachs of the bees, being full most of the time, the process of wax secretion begins, involuntarily or otherwise. On this we are not yet sufficiently informed. But does it not seem probable that whenever the bees are compelled to remain loaded with honey for a long time, the transformation of a portion of it into

bees-wax becomes a natural necessity without any volition on their part?"

He believes also that some honey will be saved by giving the bees the foundation ahead of need.

Other useful contributions to the August issue of the A.B.J. are "Making Rapid Progress" by Louis H. Scholl, and "Watery Looking Capping of Section Honey," by G. M. Doolittle.

British Bee Journal

The weekly issues of the British Bee Journal always contain much that is useful and interesting. Of British writers, perhaps none commend themselves more to the reading bee-men on this side than our friend D. M. Macdonald. We see that D.M.M. has been rubbing shoulders lately with old "Cotton" and he writes interestingly of ancient apiculture in a current issue. Cotton, writing in 1842 gives a list of over 120 works on bees, so that bee literature has always been great in bulk if lacking somewhat in scientific precision.

Bee literature shows a tendency to bend away from the upright truth towards an alluring picturesqueness. D.M.M. himself resents the condemnatory remarks of certain men of science who have recently passed somewhat severe criticisms upon their predecessors. We too, when we read Mr. Snodgrass' recent article in "Gleanings" had an uncomfortable sort of feeling that the present does not always make sufficient allowance for the past.

To return to the ancients, whose acquaintance Mr. Macdonald has been cultivating. He finds Virgil amongst the bee hives in "Sweet Parthenope." Virgil was one of the chief of the early writers on bees, and we should not condemn him because much of what he wrote was lacking in the matter of scientific correctness, but should love him rather because of his loving references to the honey-bee.

-NO HONEY

results are found against the production. In the Yunnan where opium was quantities and at a low great deal of it was that the poppy is, owing to the recent poppy fields have quite to statements and Rigaud. How a disastrous effect on the region. In fact, Yunnan was renowned as the bees had no production of honey is The new crops which such as wheat or as will give a honey another side of the that the habits of not suppressed by the as some supposed but according to Dr. ing is again on the American.