

because there will almost certainly be sufficient of the prime swarm with the young queen to destroy her or break up the colony.

Some complaint is made that queens escape through the perforated zinc of the queen-trap. The perforations in my traps are $5/32$ of an inch, and no queens escape.—Review. Lapeer, Mich., July 7.

Personal Mention.

Mr. Chas. Dadant, of the firm of Chas. Dadant & Son, the well-known comb foundation makers, made us a very pleasant call on Tuesday, July 28. He was on his way to Sturgeon Bay, Wis., where he goes annually for a month or so in order to avoid an attack of hay fever were he to remain at his home in Hancock county, Illinois.

Mr. Dadant says they have 325 colonies of bees now, and they had extracted about 5,000 pounds of honey so far, with more to follow. One year they had about 45,000 pounds from about the same number of colonies as they now have.

In speaking of beeswax, Mr. D. mentioned a very simple test to detect adulteration. Have a vial partly filled with water, into which is put a small piece of beeswax of known purity. Then pour in alcohol until the piece of beeswax sinks to the bottom of the vial. Now put in a piece of the beeswax you wish to test—if it floats it is adulterated; if it goes to the bottom it is all right.

When Mr. Dadant first came to this country, from France—over 30 years ago—he found on the bank of the Mississippi river a single small plant of sweet clover. It was quite a distance from his home, but when it was time for the seed to be ripe, he went after it, and scattered it so that it might spread. Later he also gave some seed to a friend near Keokuk, across the river. By following up the practice he soon had a great deal of sweet clover growing, and in fact now it is pretty well spread over a good share of the States bordering on the Mississippi, and Mr. Dadant believes that much of it is the result of the one plant which he watched so carefully, and in due time scattered its seed. He values sweet clover very highly as a honey-plant.

Upon reaching the United States, Mr. Dadant, and his family were almost penniless. So both he and his good wife (who departed this life about a year ago)

had to work hard in order to get along. They picked and sold blackberries about the first season and from the money thus made Mr. D. paid \$5.00 for an Italian queen—and she was not even a warranted one. Mrs. Dadant disapproved paying \$5.00 thus but said very little. But the next year Mr. D. sold some queens reared from her for \$10.00 each. He began with two colonies, and increased from year to year until the bees became his main source of revenue.

For a man 79 years of age Mr. Dadant is remarkably well-preserved. In fact we do not remember ever seeing him looking better than now. We wish him yet many happy years, in which we are sure the thousands who have read his practical and helpful articles in the Bee Journal will most heartily unite.

While this is rather a lengthy "personal mention," we think no one will object to it, or even feel slighted if they do not receive one of equal length when "their turn" comes.—The American Bee Journal.

Conditions of the Market.

Reports continue to arrive giving advices of an unusual honey yield in the east; which is uncertain as to the effect upon the price upon California honey. We think if the eastern yield affects any class it will be the comb honey producers. Comb honey is more extensively produced in the east than extracted honey, and ours will come in direct competition with it. Our comb honey is usually put up in the western shipping case which many times is a rough-looking affair beside the eastern case, and as the best appearing package sells first, the eastern producers will have that advantage.

Extracted honey is not so much the product of the east as it is of the west, and we think, owing to the use of extracted honey for manufacturing purposes, that it will hold its own.

One encouraging sign for an advance is the rise in the price of sugar. The leading sweet controls in a great measure all other sweets. Considering the extremely low prices of all other food products, honey is holding its own, and we are confident prices will improve after the heated term, and the fruit season is over. Nearly all honey sold previous to cool weather is moved upon purely speculative purposes. Proper time to sell our product is very much of a problem well worthy the attention of producers.—The Rural Californian.