

COLOR AND BEE STINGS.

That color has no effect upon bees' stinging propensities is ably argued by D. M. M. in the "Irish Bee Journal," endorsed by the editor. My good friends, Scotch and Irish, I can bring you a whole lot of proofs, not negative but positive, that, in this locality, bees have their "favorite colors." Only yesterday I stopped work in the apiary to change a colored shirt for a white one, because the little demons were peppering my back through the colored shirt. Although I worked hours afterward with the white shirt, not a sting did I get. Yet I have known bees so savage as to sting through a white shirt.—Dr. Miller, in "Gleanings."

[You are right, Doctor. According to our experience, too. Have often counted the stings left in my black felt hat by the dozen, and commented on the folly of the insects.—Ed. C.B.J.]



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Mr. Arthur Laing wants to know what average yield one may expect from 75 colonies in the immediate vicinity of 100 acres of buckwheat, and gives me credit for having an extended experience with buckwheat. I am only a (h)infant at the business; let him go to C. W. Post; and hundreds of others especially along the St. Lawrence river and Quebec, where they grow more buckwheat. I have already, before Mr. Laing moved his bees, given him all the information I thought of any practical use to him. To answer the question intelligently one would first have to know the conditions of the land, the weather and the bees. If small or ordinary hives are used that have swarmed, for one, I should not think it worth while moving them at all. Buckwheat is a very risky blossom, but sometimes does big things.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

PREPARING FOR WINTER.

Preparing bees for winter ought to now be the order of the day, providing any preparation is needed. Lack of stores, weak colonies, and old or poor



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queens are the main points that need correcting. Unite the weak colonies, supersede the poor queens, and feed when it is needed—don't put it off until cold weather. Don't get the idea that wintering is going to rectify any of these shortcomings. Some people have an idea that poor or unripe fruit is all right to can. It isn't. Canning does not change its character. It's the same with a colony of bees. If you expect it to be a good colony in the spring it must be good now—have plenty of bees and plenty of good stores, and a good, prolific queen. Such a colony kept through the cold weather in a warm cellar, say 45 degrees, is almost certain to be a good colony next spring. Now is the time to lay the foundation for next year's honey crop.—Editor, Bee-keepers' Review.