

fitted for this rough climate, if we take into consideration that the old Germans hardly knew anything of scientific wintering, of a pollen theory or any other theory. I am sure those old forefathers of ours were bee-hunters, and understood not much more than to cut a bee-tree, to eat the honey, to make mead out of it, and were masters in drinking it.

But we can prove that the honey-bee was in this country many thousands of years before men were there. Near Penningen, a small village in Baden, Germany, is found a petrified honey-bee. The rock in which it was found belongs to the Miocene, the youngest part of the Tertiary formation. No trace of a human being is found before the Diluvian, so it is sure and sufficient proof that bees were natives of Germany long before man. This petrified bee was found about thirty years ago.

Besides this we have some other proofs in the habits and anatomy of the bee that hardly any other animal is more specially fitted to stand a severe winter. While a single bee is hardly able to raise the temperature of its body about one degree over that of the surrounding air, we see that a colony of bees, by a temperature of 20° or 10° F. outside, can keep up 60° or 70° F. or more inside of the cluster. To make this possible, the main winter food (honey) is already prepared in summer-time; it is digested and stored for further use, so it can be assimilated at once and changed to heat. We do not know any other animal with a similar power. If we add to this that the honey is capped to keep out the moisture, that the surface of pollen likewise is polished to keep it for use in winter and early spring, we shall hardly find another animal which instinctively makes so much preparation for a long winter.

Further, the anatomy of the bee shows that the animal is especially created for a long winter. We know that bees are confined for five or six months (in Siberia even seven months) to the hive. This is possible only because the bees can accumulate their excrements for so long a time in the large intestine. Practice teaches that they can stand this long confinement as long as they remain healthy. All who have examined the alimentary canal of bees will never doubt that this part of the intestine is expressly fitted, created, or developed for this purpose.

If we, by our scientific and rational methods of bee-keeping, cannot winter our bees without more or less loss, it is a proof that our management or our theories are not correct. So much is sure: that many thousands of years bees lived and prospered, wintered, swarmed, and gathered

honey in a cold climate, and without any help (?) of a scientific bee-keeper.

Another proof that bees are natives of a climate with cold winters is the fact that a colony of bees breed in winter-time, and do this the more the colder the temperature. If a severe temperature in January and February causes a great consumption of honey we shall find more capped healthy brood than later, after the bees have had a cleansing flight. Whoever examined a colony in such circumstances will never doubt this fact. An insect which in severe weather can breed and can nurse healthy young ones, and for this purpose can raise the temperature fifty or sixty degrees, will remain healthy, using no other food than that stored, disdaining even water, without discharging feces, is surely created for a cold climate.

We again come to this conclusion if we observe the habits of a colony of bees. A single

#### Asthma Can be Cured by Honey.

The American Bee Journal for September, under the heading "Asthma can be Cured by Honey," quotes an article from the London Encyclopedia written by Dr. Monroe, for his "Medical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry," we give it in full below and leave it with our readers:

"The late Dr. John Hume, of the commissioners of the sick and hurt of the royal navy, was for many years violently affected with asthma. Having taken many medicines without receiving benefit, he at last resolved to try the effect of honey, having had a great opinion of its virtue as a pectoral.

"For two or three years he ate some ounces of it daily and got entirely free from his asthma, and also of a gravel complaint with which he had long been afflicted. About two years after he had recovered his health, when he was sitting one day in the office of the sick and hurt, a person laboring under great difficulty of breathing, who looked as if he could not live many days, came to him and asked him by what means he had been cured of his asthma. Dr. Hume told him all the particulars of his own case and mentioned to him the means by which he had found relief. For two years after he heard nothing of this person, who was a stranger to him and had seemed so bad that he did not imagine that he could have lived many days, and therefore had not even asked him who he was; but at the end of that period a man, seemingly in good health and well dressed, came to the sick and hurt office and returned his thanks for his cure, which he assured him had been brought about by the free use of honey."