All right, friend F. I have no objections at all to queens from the egg; in fact, the greater part of ours have been so reared. In grafting, we have been obliged to get larvæ that have just broken the cell, but perhaps we shall succeed just as well in grafting eggs; who knows? I know very well, bees will winter better where surplus honey is stored in boxes and natural swarming is practiced, for I have tried both; but, my friend, is it not because the combs are well filled with honey, all around the brood nest, just as they need it naturally, and in a much different shape, from those where a novice has divided and subdivided all summer? Does Doolittle increase entirely by natural swarming? Will friend D. please stand up and say? If I am correct, he reduces his number greatly, both in spring and fall, and you may be sure he keeps the best queens, and destroys the others.

Well, I declare! Friend D. obeys a summons pretty quickly. The following postal was just handed me, and although it does not quite tell what we wanted, it verifies my last remark.

Friend R.:—I have just been reading on page 431, November GLEANINGS; please book me for a queen from the queen told of as producing the honey gatherers, early next season, if—if she don't die in wintering. G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y., Nov. 15, 1879.

Before your remarks, friend F., I had thought seriously of having an apiary next season devoted to rearing queens from imported mothers by natural swarming. How much more will the friends give for such queens? I have several times wondered if it might not stop the balling, swarming out, spring dwindling, etc.; but the farmers all over the land, with their box hives, have about as bad dwindling as any class I know of. They, neither in bees nor honey, come anywhere near the educated, modern bee men of our day. I shall hardly expect the A B C class to escape spring dwindling as well as do the old bee-keepers; but do not "wisdom's ways" admonish us to glean from both and from all systems?

BEE BOTANY AND ENTOMOLOGY.

A RELATION OF THE SIMPSON HONEY PLANT.

ENCLOSED, please find a sample of a honey plant. I counted as many as 87 flower stems on one stalk. It commences to blossom in July, and remains in bloom about 2½ months. Bees work on it late and early, wet and dry. If you know any name for it, I should like to hear from you, and to learn if it is worth anything for honey.

Buchanan, Mich., Sept. 26, '79. WM. BLAKE.

Prof. Beal replies as follows:—

It is the top (a very poor specimen) of *Lophanthus scrophularifolius*. It is a sort of giant hyssop, of which there are several in this country. They are tall herbs belonging to the mint family. Bees are fond of all mints, in which they can reach the honey.

The word scrophularifolius seems to indicate that it is a relative of the Simpson honey plant (*Nodosa scrophularia*), does it not? I should be very glad indeed to see even a distant relative; will you not send me some seed, friend Blake?

ASTERS.

I herein send you a twig of a bush that is quite a honey producing plant, just coming into bloom. I would like to know its true name, if you will please answer by card or in GLEANINGS.

Hammersville, O., Sept. 11, '79. J. L. SHINKLE.

This is a small *aster* (probably *A. miscr*), of which there are many species, all good for bees. The specimen is imperfect. W. J. BEAL.

Mich. Ag. College, Lansing.

Enclosed, you will find a branch of a plant that grows on low lands. The frost has not hurt it yet, while all other vegetation has been hurt. The bees are busily working on it. C. L. GAGE.

St. Johns, Mich., Oct. 6, 1879.

The above is a poor specimen of some kind of aster. These are very common in autumn, and all good. There are many kinds. PROF. W. J. BEAL.

Bees cover this plant; what is it?

Oxford, Penn., Oct. 6, 1879. S. W. MORRISON.

Prof. Beal replies,—

This is another aster,—a poor specimen with no leaves.

ACTINOMERIS SQUARROSA.

Enclosed, I send you a good honey plant. Please tell me the name of it. It is very dry and hot here now, and scarcely anything else yields honey. Buckwheat is drying up, but the bees are on this plant from morn till eve. It grows from 5 to 8 ft. high, in the timber lands along the creeks, and has now been in bloom about a week. I send you some seed pods, and flowers in full bloom, some buds and a full grown leaf. M. M. STOVER.

Table Rock, Neb., Sept. 1, 1879.

Answer by Prof. W. J. Beal:—

This is *Actinomeris squarrosa*, a tall perennial, somewhat resembling coreopsis and helianthus. These are all good for bees wherever found, and there are many kinds.

Enclosed, please find a plant of which bees are quite fond. I have inquired of several persons for a name for it, but no one can tell. The stalk and leaves resemble smartweed. There are acres of it in this section, and when the weather is fine, the bees are very busy upon it. It grows from one to four feet high, on low wet land. Do bees get honey from it? Please reply through GLEANINGS.

Fielding, Ill., Sept. 12, 1879. JOSEPH MASON.

It is of the family Polygonæcæ (Buckwheat); the genus, I think, is the same as smartweed, *Polygonum;* the common name is blackheart.

WILLIAMS' HONEY PLANT.

Prof. Cook:—I send you by to-day's mail a sample of a weed which we call the "Honey Plant." It grows on all kinds of soil, and on no soil at all. I have all kinds of ground from a rock quarry to the richest bottom land, and it grows well on it all. The sample I send you grew on dry and fine rock which was thrown out of the rock quarry 10 feet below the surface. The stalk was 6ft. high. It commences to bloom the first of July, and blooms till hard freezing. We have had 3 light frosts already, an uncommon occurrence for this climate.

This is a species of *Compositæ*, near to bone-set.

Mich. Ag. Col., Lansing. PROF. A. J. COOK.

SYMPHORICARPUS AGAIN.

The bush with the red berries grows every where about here. It grows in stools like the gooseberry bush, and about the same size. It has a cluster of blossoms under every leaf, which begin to open in May, and the last ones are now just gone. Bees work on this and the plant mentioned above from morning till night. We call this buck bush. Please send the name and description to GLEANINGS.

Fort Scott, Kan., Sept. 16, '79. F. B. WILLIAMS.

This is *Symphoricarpus vulgaris*. A. J. COOK.

SEVERAL HONEY PLANTS, ETC.

Please name enclosed plants. Bees have been working on Nos. 1, 2, and 8, about a week. They grow along fences and in uncultivated places. Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 grow on low land and meadows. Bees work on them during August and the first of September. No. 9 is very valuable, for it keeps our bees busy between basswood and buckwheat bloom. No. 10 grows in great quantities on sand bluffs, where nothing else will grow. Bees have been working on it about 6 weeks.

AN ASTONISHING DAILY YIELD FROM WISCONSIN.

This has been a good season for bees, since the middle of April. Basswood bloom only lasted 11 days, but bees gathered honey very fast from it. One of my best Italian colonies, placed on scales, gained in weight 18lb., the 12th of July, and 17½lb. the 13th. This colony had not been helped in any way. Several others gained nearly as much.

Eau-galle, Wis., Sept. 8, '79. FRANK MCNAY.

We sent the specimens to Prof. Beal, who said they were too incomplete to analyze. One of our girls who is studying "bee botany," then took them and reports as follows:

Nos. 1, 2, and 6 are species of Golden Rod. No. 8 belongs to the same family as the above, the Compositæ, but is of a different genus, the Aster. No. 7, which has been mentioned quite frequently by bee men lately, belongs to the mint family, and is called *Melissa officinalis*, or bee-balm. Other specimens are too incomplete for analysis.

Just think of it, boys and girls! 18lb. in a day, from one colony! If this result is due to these honey plants, we would better all have some, unless we do a still better thing, and move up to friend McNay's neighborhood. Say, friend M., does it "do so always" (every summer), up where you live?

LIPPIA NODIFLORA, AGAIN.

I will send you a few seeds of the honey plant that Prof. Beal calls *Lippia nodiflora* (see page 346, Sept. No.), which is in full bloom now, and has been since about the first of May. It is our main dependence for honey, especially in a dry year like this, for it blossoms 7 months or over, and my bees have done very well on that alone, or nearly so. The honey is equal to the best white-clover honey. I have 180 swarms, and there are about 500 more within a mile or so of me. I would like you to plant the seed, and report the result next season. The plant lives from year to year in the ground, and also comes from the seed. You won't want more than about one plant to every square yard, for it runs and spreads rapidly, and stands dry weather well. The blossom resembles the white clover, especially at a little distance. If any of your readers wish to try it, I will send them some of the seed at about the cost of gathering and postage. O. E. COON.

Many thanks, friend C. I would suggest that we make 5c. a uniform price for samples of seeds. If they are plenty, a good lot can be sent, and, if scarce, only a few.

BITTER HONEY; WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

I send specimen, from which bees make bitter honey—in some years, thousands of pounds; in others, scarcely any. They get pollen from it every year. C. R. CARLIN.

Shreveport, La. Oct. 17, 1879.

Prof. Beal replies:

This is *Helenium tenuifolium*. There are ten species of *Helenium* east of the Mississippi. One of the species is common in Michigan and south, and is sometimes called "sneeze-weed" (*Helenium autumnale*). The latter plant has quite often been sent in, as a good bee-plant. I see no reason why one should make very bitter honey and the other not. Sneeze-weed is usually in rather limited quantities, and perhaps apiarists are not certain about the quality of honey this makes.

SIDA SPINOSA.

Find inclosed a bunch of flowers that bees are working on all day, from morn till evening, when it is warm enough for them to fly. It ought to be a good honey plant, as it is not a beautiful plant, by any means, and without a doubt is good for something. It is about one foot high. Please tell me the name. S. H. LANE.

Whitestown, Ind., Oct. 14, 1879.

Answer by Prof. W. J. Beal:—

The plant is *Sida spinosa*. It is a weed common in the South, and was introduced from tropical America or Africa. It belongs to the mallow family.

SYMPHORICARPUS VULGARIS.

After seeing the statement of W. C. Smith, of Warsaw, Mo., in GLEANINGS, No. 11, Volume 7, concerning *Symphoricarpus vulgaris*, I wish to say to the readers of GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE, that I will deliver on board the cars at Reed's, Mo., in good condition, plants at the following rates, and will warrant them to be good and healthy:—Per 100, $1.25; 200, $2.50; 500, $5.50; 1000, $10,25; 2000, $19.00. And where ten dollars' worth are taken at one time, I will take one-half their value in Italian queens, at prices in GLEANINGS. I have my bees packed in wheat chaff, as per GLEANINGS, which is the "man" of my counsel. NORRIS C. HOOD.

Reed's, Jasper Co., Mo., Nov. 20, 1879.

The above is pretty near advertising in our reading columns, but as it is unlikely that any one will care to invest largely just yet, and the price is also extremely low, we let it pass. Besides, it is from an A B C scholar, and we always rather expect youth and inexperience from them.

I this day send you, by mail, 5 specimens of our flora, which I would like to have you name (common name), as the flowers are all new to me, and I can't tell whether your magazine speaks of them or not. I also send, in a little box, specimens of insects, which appear in buckwheat and other flowers, and must rob our bees, as they come in millions.

M. H. PORTER.

Western Park, Elk Co., Kan., Sept. 26, 1879.

Answer by Prof. W. J. Beal:—

Number 2 is *Helianthus giganteus*. There is no definite common name, except large wild sunflower, and several plants are entitled to the same common name. In the Eastern part of the United States are 25 or 30 species, all good for bees, and all found in abundance in certain places, some in one place and some in another.

Number 4 is *Solidago rigida*, one of the golden rods. This looks so unlike many of the golden rods, that none but an expert would know it. Every bee-man knows, by this time, that golden rods and asters are all desirable.

Number 5 is *Salvia longipes* a sort of wild sage. Sages, like all other mints, are favorites of bees.

REMARKS ON BEE BOTANY.

Plants are coming in every few days from various parts of the country. There are some repetitions. New species are also among them; I mean specimens unlike any before sent. Those who read the journals must begin to realize that the species good for bees are not a few, but exist in many hundreds of species. These cannot (many of them) be learned by any except botanists. If a set were named and placed before any other person, he could not be trusted to compare other plants with them for identification. This the writer has seen exemplified in the case of many sorts of plants, for twenty years past. The same is true of insects, or other small animals. W. J. BEAL.

Mich. Ag. Col., Lansing.

THE November number of the *American Bee Journal* contains a very full report of the convention at Chicago. Among the valuable papers read was one from Prof. Cook in regard to the bee's tongue, illustrated with diagrams.

WE clip the following good advice from the *Cincinnati Grange Bulletin:*

Scrape up all your beeswax on rainy days, but do not send it off by mail or express and lose half in charges; if you cannot sell it near home, club with your neighbors and send a barrel of it by freight.

MR. JAMES BOSTON of Cincinnati, Neb., has a tenement hive with the roof in two pieces, each piece hinged so as to be raised like the lid to a chest. The connection with the ridge board, where the hinges are, is made water-proof by a strip of enameled cloth.