

Bulletin No.9.

B.C.H.P.A. - CAPITAL REGION DIVISION

As there will be no general meeting in December, this Bulletin will be the last for 1974. I have dealt, briefly, in previous bulletins, with overwintering of bees, and stores for overwintering, and as the next bulletin may not appear until late January, so I thought it appropriate, in this bulletin, to jot down a few remarks covering the months ahead.

The Beekeepers calendar for British Columbia, for January, deals only with advice in regard to the ordering of equipment, so, may I direct my few remarks to the living rather than the inanimate. It should be realized that the queen bee will begin to lay, in a small way, from January onwards, but her laying capacity, provided she is a good queen, will depend on whether the colony has enough bees to maintain brood rearing temperatures and a good supply of pollen and honey. By the month of April, when it would be safe to inspect the colony, the brood cycle should be greatly increased to about five or more brood frames. The most common trouble that causes weak bees in Spring, is lack of enough bees in the cluster to keep up the required temperature, or the failure of the food supply. If the colony is weak, but the food supply is abundant, then the fault can be a poor laying queen and she should be removed. Weak colonies should be united.

At this time, attention should be paid to proper ventilation and so avoid excessive moisture build-up within the hive. This should be done as soon as possible with the onset of the cold weather.

For good ventilation, hives should be raised off the ground by using bricks or cement blocks to allow ventilation underneath the hives. Should you have your apiary in a cold damp area, which, of course, you should not, a good suggestion, I am told, is to place an empty super, with a screened bottom, on top, and fill this with straw to absorb excess moisture. The accepted local procedure of ventilation is to raise the inner cover, with a piece of wood $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. Hives should, of course, be tilted forwards slightly to allow excess moisture to run-off from the bottom board.

EAT MORE HONEY. From a diet point of view, honey has three particular advantages :-

1. It is a pure and natural food.
2. It provides energy quickly and sustains it for a period.
3. It produces a satisfied feeling.

A honey based diet, therefore, can keep you going and diminish, if not remove, the desire for sweet and other more fattening snacks between meals.

DO TRY THE FOLLOWING : THEY ARE MMMMMMMM !

HONEY BRAN MUFFINS. 1 egg; $\frac{1}{2}$ c. honey; $\frac{2}{3}$ c. milk; 1 c. Bran; $\frac{1}{4}$ cup oil;
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ c. Flour; 3 tsp B.P.; $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Salt; 1 tsp cinnamon.

Heat oven to 400° and grease 12 muffin tin.

Beat egg, honey, milk and oil until light and creamy. Add bran and stand for 10 minutes. Sift remaining ingredients into mixture and stir just enough to blend. Batter should still be lumpy.

Bake for 20-25 minutes.

GOOD LUCK

H.R.

9th November '74.