

of any amount, and might starve; while with the frame of honey they will go right on converting that honey into comb, storm or no storm. If the right number of frames is given to suit the size of the little colony, they will fill them quickly, especially when honey is coming in from the fields; and each comb will be filled with worker brood as fast as built."

"How long will they build worker comb?"

"If not too strong they will generally build comb of the worker size of cells till the brood begins to emerge from the eggs first laid in the newly-built combs by the queen; but as soon as many bees emerge they are liable to change to the drone size of cells; or if the little colony is quite strong in bees they may change the size of cells sooner than this if honey is coming in very rapidly."

"What is to be done then?"

"As soon as the first frames I gave them are filled with comb I look about to see how many bees they have; and if they are still well stocked with bees or are in shape where I can expect that they will change the size of cells before they reach the bottom of any frames they may have started with worker comb, I take out any full frames they may have already built, and thus put them in the same condition they were in when I started with that colony."

"Will they do as well in this way as they did at first?"

"They will not build combs quite as freely now as they did before, unless there can be some young bees emerging; so if I can conveniently, I give them a comb containing mostly honey with some emerging brood (if they have such a comb it is left with them, which is more often the case than otherwise) from some other colony, when they are ready to work the same as before. If just the right amount of brood is left, or given them, so that

they stay in about the same condition, they will build worker comb all summer by the apiarist supplying them with honey or feed when none is coming in from the fields. If not so strong but that I think they will build worker comb still longer, instead of taking the brood away, I spread apart the combs now built, and insert one or more frames with starters between, when these will generally be filled with worker comb, before enough young bees emerge for them to change the size of the cell."

"Suppose they do change the size of cell, what then?"

"One thing is always to be kept in mind whenever you find them building drone comb. The combs they then have, all except the ones mostly filled with honey, are to be taken away so that they may feel their need of worker brood again, when they will build cells of the worker size once more."

"Have you used this plan much?"

"To the extent that I have had hundreds of frames built full of worker that the bees had built partly full the that the bees had built partly full the season previous, and hundreds if not thousands, patched where I had cut out patches of drone which had gotten in one way or another; or where I had cut out pieces of comb having little larvae, in, that were to be used for queen rearing. In this way the bees fix these holes in any comb in a very perfect manner; in fact, very much better than any man can do it by fitting in patches of worker comb as was the manner of fixing up combs having a little drone comb in them, during the past. Therefore I do not fear mutilated combs nearly as much as I formerly did."

"This has been an interesting and profitable talk with me, and I feel very grateful to you for telling me so freely. I will be going now. Good-day."