

bed, even though it is only just started, close it up and keep it so for several days; then if they have any brood, set them on top of a strong colony with a queen-excluder between. If they have no brood, and still have a queen, give them a comb containing brood from some other colony.

In putting two colonies together in this way don't disturb either of them any more than you can help, especially the stronger one. If you keep a close watch on your apiary and treat them as above described, you can save nearly all of your weak colonies with but little trouble, and at the same time prevent your apiary from getting into that demoralized condition which they frequently do when they find several weak colonies which they can overpower with but little loss of bees.

A Caution Against Making Increase Too Rapidly.

Then the desire for more bees is almost sure to tempt the inexperienced to divide his colonies to that extent that they are almost worthless, either for surplus or to try to winter. So don't make your increase too fast. If you do, you will not only lose your prospect of securing a fair surplus, but the chances are that you will lose many colonies during the following winter.

Keep Good Bees and Produce Good Honey.

Then don't be contented in keeping bees that are not good honey-gatherers. This is the principal thing we keep bees for; and if they fail to give us a good surplus when they should supersede their queens with queens of a good honey-gathering strain.

Then don't produce poor-looking comb honey. You have no more excuse for producing poor stuff than the dairyman has for producing poor butter; but produce a quality that you will take

pride in stamping on every package of it your name and address.

Some Good "Don'ts."

Don't set your bees in a place where they will annoy the public. Either keep them where they will not disturb anyone, or sell them and go out of the business.

Don't allow drone comb in any hive except one or two, and see that these hives have choice breeding queens. There is no more profit in keeping a colony of bees where a large per cent. of their combs is drone comb than there would be in keeping a poultry-yard of roosters.

Don't allow king birds, skunks, toads and snakes to hang around your apiary. If you do they will weaken the working force of every colony.

Don't think that bees will give you good results in either increase or surplus honey if you neglect them and fail to do your part. The day is past when the word "luck" has any bearing on bee-keeping. The man who conducts his business in a careless, slipshod way, taking it for granted that this and that will come out all right, is only fooling himself; and the sooner he realizes it to be a fact, the better for all concerned. So, don't try anything of the kind, but look close to all the minor parts; and when you have united them into one fine method for practice you will be well rewarded for your study and perseverance.

Don't spend any time in worrying over the frequency of poor seasons, but spend your time in preparing your bees to make the most they can of any kind of season that comes, then you will be almost surprised to see how few poor seasons there are. We have not had a really poor season in 25 years, while some of my neighbors complain of a poor season nearly every summer.