

from the cellar that quite a number were light in stores. These were fed up on syrup until a cold snap prevented me from giving them any more. In eight or ten days the weather moderated a bit, and I looked through the yard to see how things had been going. They hadn't gone any too well, evidently, for some seven or eight colonies that had received my expert(?) attention had gone to the wall. Eight colonies gone to pot, and all because I hadn't eight combs of honey to give them when they needed it, and that summer the remaining colonies averaged me \$7 worth of honey each, a loss of \$56, besides the bees, against a saving of possibly \$4 worth of honey. I wonder if it would really have been extravagance to have saved over that honey.

There is a time, however, when sugar syrup can be used to great advantage, and no outlay in the honey business will give more immediate or greater returns than stimulative feeding in the late spring and early summer, before honey comes in from natural sources. If fed in small quantities, regularly, it will keep things booming along in good shape, the queens will continue laying during a dearth of honey, and such a thing as starved brood will be unknown in the apiary. It is a well-known fact that bees will not use capped stores to feed the larvae when there is nothing coming in, and many a promising colony that may be well supplied with honey from the previous season receives a serious setback from this cause. The proper thing to do in this case is to use a cheap part of the honey every few days until it is used up, and after that feed a little thin syrup daily. The best feeder that I have used for this purpose is one recommended by A. W. Alexander in the "Bee-keepers' Review."

The syrup is poured in from the out-

side of the hive under the cluster and there is no disturbance to the bees whatever. During the coolest weather the syrup is taken up if put in warm, and no bees are lost by becoming chilled away from the cluster. This feeder consists of a block of wood four inches wide and as thick as the bottom board. It is four inches longer than the width of the hive, so that when placed under the hive body at the rear of the bottom board it projects out four inches from the side of the hive. This projection is covered by a heavy block that is easily removed when pouring in the syrup. The feeder rests on the hive stand and the hive body is pushed back along the bottom board, so that it covers over the feeder. Five or six wide sawcuts a short distance from each end, and these are made as deep as possible without cutting quite through the bottom of the block. It should be paraffined to prevent the syrup from soaking into the wood and fermenting.

For stimulative feeding the syrup should be made thin, about half water and half sugar. Last season I melted up 25 pounds of sugar, with the same quantity of water, and fed this amount each evening to 150 colonies from May 1st to fruit-bloom, and again between fruit-bloom and clover.

There is no use attempting to build up very weak colonies by this method. Instead of helping such, it is a positive detriment to them. Take out part of the combs of these weak stocks, and if they do not have enough honey to last them until the summer give them some from those that are better supplied. When giving full combs like this, never put them down in the centre of the cluster, but just at the sides, within easy reach of the bees. Then make the hives as warm and comfortable as possible, contract the entrance and leave them alone until they need more room for brood-rearing.

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