

(b) It is generally advisable to unite weak colonies in the fall. R. H. SMITH.

(a) I don't know. If in the cellar or winter repository, I remove the quilt, or honey board from one hive, and set the other (without a bottom board) on top of the first one.

(b) When one is queenless, or when one or both are too weak to prove profitable if left by itself. I question the desirability of uniting weak colonies in the spring, in order to make stronger colonies.

DR. A. B. MASON.

(a) To do justice to this query, a long answer is necessary, as it depends on the season of the year, and how the colonies are located in the apiary. If side by side, and honey coming in, remove both colonies a little to one side, place an empty hive midway between them, now alternate such combs with adhering bees, as you wish to occupy the new hive, irrespective of the queens, unless you wish to save one. Any remaining bees are now dumped in front of the new or made colony and all will be well; or, first remove, say one-half the combs from each colony, shaking the bees in front of their own hives, and as soon as they get settled, alternate the remaining frames as before, at the same time removing one of the empty hives to another part of the apiary. If the colonies are in different parts of the apiary, proceed as above, by shaking the bees into as few combs as requisite, at the same time making one of the colonies queenless and allowing it to remain so, say for 24 hours. Now place the queenless colony along side of the other one and alternate the frames or combs, close up the hive, and place a board in front of the new made colony, so that the strangers may mark their new habitation. If no honey is being gathered, sprinkle the bees with sweetened water, scented with peppermint, or give each a smoking, so as to induce them to become good natured, by filling their honey sacks. A little tobacco smoke is good. I don't smoke myself except—when my wife don't see me—and that ain't very often.

If you use the Heddon hive, confine the bees to one half of the divisible brood chamber, or one section of the hive, and double up by placing one section on top of the other. The evening is the best time for all such work. Placing a queenless colony *holus bolus* on top of another one, having a queen, with a quilt between, in which there is a small hole therein this will accomplish the same end.

(b) The conditions under which I would double up are several, such as a surplus of colonies, too many weak colonies to

winter satisfactorily, or when desirous of making good colonies for the honey flow about 1st June. I don't believe in uniting weak colonies early in spring, unless queenless, however

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If the colonies to be united are not setting close together, begin by moving them together about three feet each day, until they are close together. If your hive has eight frames remove four of the most undesirable frames from each hive, then remove one of the queens and place the eight frames to be united alternately in one of the hives, brush all the bees in the empty hives in front of the full one and set the empty hive away. Just as the honey season opens, all colonies not up to the standard of numerical strength should be united. Again in September all queenless colonies, also all that are not in good strong condition for winter should be united.

C. W. P.

When I find weak colonies in the fall, I place them in winter quarters so as to know them when putting out in the spring, and any that do not winter well I place together so as to be convenient to unite, if necessary, and then on some fine day I smoke them or give some honey, then shake them in front of an empty hive and place the combs that they are to have in the hive as they crawl in. They should be well mixed before going in. All colonies that are too weak to pull through the spring should be united.

A. D. ALLEN.

(a) Don't know as there is any best way under all circumstances. If there is a good honey flow destroy the undesirable queen and unite her colony with the other, the same as if it were a part of it. If there is no honey flow, place the queenless colony on top of the other with a wire cloth screen between them, being careful to ventilate so it will not smother and in 5 or 6 hours remove the screen.

(b) At the beginning or shortly before the honey harvest, if a colony is going to be too weak to be able to do anything, and also when preparing for winter.

A. E. HOSHAL.

Remove the poorer queen, then take a new hive and put the frames from each colony in it, alternating the frames when so doing, give only room enough in the new hive to accommodate both colonies. Give them a good dose of smoke, cover them in and then leave them alone for a few days. As a rule no difficulty will arise.

T. E. POND.

(a) A very good way to unite two weak colonies, is to remove the bottom board of one of them, and place that colony on top