

he will do no harm with the brood, and if lost she cannot be found. In fact we hunt queens, except in rare cases, but once a year, viz., at the clipping season. Give this queenless swarm a young queen, a ripe cell or a card of open brood and eggs. If the latter is given, all but the best cell must be destroyed at the next visit.

The parent stock as we may call the hive of brood, sits directly behind the swarm and has enough bees to take care of the brood and the best queen cells which have been saved unshaken. It is given an extracting super at once, and removed to a new stand at the next visit. To save time these parent stocks might be given young queens, or on the other hand the brood might be shaken clean of bees and used for building up weak colonies and nuclei.

For comb honey production I know only one better system than the one just described. That is to allow the bees to swarm naturally. No stocks work in sections with the same vigor as natural swarms. This system is the nearest approach to natural swarming, and is all considered, though cheaper to make it more profitable. In producing extracted honey I think that the twelve frame Langstroth brood chamber and super capacity of twenty frames with one large entrance and upward ventilation from the 1st on, will reduce swarming to a minimum which may be almost entirely disregarded. I hope to be able to report more fully on this subject next year.

On examining, later stocks which have been shaken on starters without a comb, I found in some cases, the queen gone. She had been worried to death by the bees, who could not see why she did not go up into the super with them.

Mr Sibbald: Mr President and Bee-

Keepers. I must compliment Mr Pettit on his paper. I consider that it is a splendid paper. It was not written without experience. I hoped that he might differ a good deal from me so that I could get at him and I was trying to find out some weak point, but in that I was a little disappointed. I feel that the paper hardly needs any discussion, only to be endorsed, but since I have a place on the program and platform I might as well go over the points again. In the first place he mentioned "Labor". Labor is the greatest factor in bee keeping. The amount of money it costs to buy an apiary does not amount to very much compared with the money you can make out of it, but labor is the big thing and in that he is right. Anything that will help us to manage our bees with less labor and enable us to keep more bees will help us to make more money and that is what the most of us are after. Some like to keep bees for fun.

Then he mentioned the swarming. That is our greatest difficulty, to keep a lot of bees without having someone to watch the apiaries. He also mentioned a number of good things to retard and prevent swarming such as possible and among these things he mentioned equalizing. Equalizing the brood is necessary for more than that, viz.; to have your stock all in the same condition so that one manipulation is sufficient for almost every hive. In one day you can do the whole work of the yard. If they are uneven you have to come back in a day or so and do something else; supering early and the proper ventilation has to be given by propping up the bottom. Mr Post has a screen underneath, but in my experience propping up both the back and front lets a current of air through and I think the bees are rather better satisfied with the board bottom than with the screen