

their appearance, and as a consequence the hive is populated chiefly by little drones, it is no use bothering with. The appearance of a comb containing brood from the eggs of these laying workers is so entirely different from that of a comb containing the brood of a good queen that even a novice will notice it at first glance. Whereas "proper" brood is capped evenly, and almost level with the top of the cells, this freak brood of the laying workers is very uneven and patchy, with the cappings bulged away up in some places, and having the general appearance of rough ground, or a field covered with boulders. Laying workers lay any number of eggs in a cell—as many as there is room for, sometimes. So does a "drone laying" queen. But there is this difference, which will enable the beginner or anyone else to distinguish between the work of the two; that the eggs of the laying workers are nearly always stuck to the sides of the cell about two-thirds of the way to the bottom, while the eggs of a drone-laying queen will be placed in their proper place in the bottom of the cell. This difference is no doubt due to the fact that the abdomen of the worker bee is not long enough to reach the bottom of the cell, while that of any kind of a queen is. A drone-laying queen is no use and must be destroyed and her colony united with one having a good laying queen.

After seeing that all colonies have good queens and enough bees, each hive must be weighed to find whether there is sufficient honey in it to winter the bees. An eight-frame Langstroth hive, with cover, bottom-board and everything complete, should weigh in the fall, say at the first of October, at least sixty pounds if it is proposed to winter the bees on their summer stands. If to be wintered in a cellar anything over fifty pounds will generally be all right, but a few pounds more is usually safer. A ten-frame hive should weigh

about 10 lbs. more than an eight, for equal results. When weighing, if hives are not built all alike, allowance must be made for variations in weight of lumber or other material in their make-up. The weights given above are for ordinary hives of well-seasoned one-inch pine lumber, with single board covers and reversible bottoms. Mark the weight on each hive at the time of weighing, and after the weighing is done, get the light ones up to proper weight. If one has some heavy combs of honey saved from the extracting supers, it does not take much time to do the feeding. Simply open the light hive take out an empty, or nearly empty, comb, or more than one if necessary, and replace them with full ones. Arrange the combs so that all those containing much honey may be near together, any which are nearly empty being placed by themselves at one side of the hive. By arranging the combs this way, the bees do not find it necessary to move across empty combs to get at the full ones during the winter, as would happen if half the honey is at one side of the hive, and half at the other, with empty combs between. If no full combs are to be had the bees may be fed up to weight on granulated sugar, mixing equal parts by weight of sugar and water and melting it upon the stove and feeding in a feeder or some kind of dish inside the hive or in an empty super body set on top of the hive. A shallow pan placed on top of the frames, and with a piece of thin wood just a trifle smaller than the inside of the pan placed in to float on the feed, so that bees may not fall in and be drowned, works all right. Place warm feed in the pan each evening, as much as the bees will take down in the night, and get them up to weight as fast as possible. Better feed to five pounds or so over weight, as they will go back that much after feeding stops. Get the feeding done soon as possible, and look out for robbers while doing it.

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