can be pretty surely relied upon not to desire to swarm, no matter how strong it may be made within any reasonable bounds; and the same rule holds if it has a virgin queen, if there be not also occupied queencells in the hive. This fact may be taken advantage of to safely make some of the strongest possible colonies. and at the same time the most profitable ones, notwithstanding the notion that some cherish (but without good reason, I believe) that the possession of a virgin queen renders a colony upprofitable for comb honey.

How best to minimize the disadvantages of swarming which give rise to the other objections I have mentioned, is a somewhat more difficult matter. The absconding of prime swarms can be almost certainly prevented by having had the wings of the queens previously clipped, which is most conveniently done about the first of May preceding, but, though I have hitherto been strongly in favor of it, and would take as a choice of evils in the absence of the queen-trap. I find it liable in an apiary of any considerable extent where there is little danger of swarms clustering out of convenient reach, to one valid objection, and that is, that swarms usually remain a tantalizingly long time in the air, giving an unnecessarily pressing invitation to other swarms, and perhaps virgin queens to join them, thus complicating the matter of successful hiving. In small apiaries this objection would not have the same validity, but in any case there is first the danger of the loss of valuable queens, and then in nine or ten days, in the absence of the apiarist, the loss of powerful swarms with virgin queens, so I now consider the queen trap indispensable unless one is willing to watch his bees continually during the swarming season, and even then it is a great convenience.

For this purpose, the trap should be so made that the queen once in it cannot return to the hive. This enables the apiarist to determine, with the exercise of a very little attention, whether a swarm has issued during his absence from any given hive or not, by the conduct of the bees and the greater or less cluster remaining with the queen in the trap. If a swarm has issued and returned, usually the trap is found full of bees, or nearly so; in such case I return the queen and bees to the hive and readjust the trap with the expectation that in a day or two I shall discover them making their next attempt, or, if I had no such expectation, I would shake out enough bees to make a good swarm and hive them with the queen in the ordinary way.

A trap full of bees at the entrance of a hive from which the prime swarm, or at least the old queen has been taken, indicates that the young queen has attempted to issue; if the trap has but few bees, it shows that the young queen has attempted to take her mating flight, or perhaps sometimes that she has got into the trap in endeavoring to escape from a rival. In either case, swarming is over, and the trap should be removed and the queen returned, unless it is certain the colony still has one.

It is best then. I think, to keep traps on all colonies likely to swarm, removing them as soon as the danger is over, being particularly careful on this point in the case of those having virgin queens. When a swarm is discovered issuing, remove the trap, thus allowing the queen to go with the swarm, which induces speedy and perfect clustering, when it may be secured in a moment in a basket.

A light pole to which a basket is attached near the farther end, serves both to shake out and secure most swarms that cluster out of reach of the hand.

For the highest success in the production of comb honey, strong swarms are desirable, and hiving swarms on the old stand not only conduces to their strength, but has also a strong tendency, often almost prohibitive, to prevent afterswarms. However, with the methods I use there isa limit to the profitable strength of swarms. If they exceed seven or eight pounds in weight, there is apt to be discontent and an early preparation to swarm again, even if they do not persist in attempting to abscond. This determination to abscond is a difficulty which I had to encounter very frequently during swarming scisons owing principally, no doubt, to the amall size of the brood-chamber and removing the lower section in two days. This plan has proved a decided relief in the management of swarms.

Little need be said in addition to meet the objection made against swarming on account of the time required for attending to it. Most prime swarms issue between 9 o'clock a. m. and 12 o'clock a. m., so that with the traps, three hours a day answere very well. In case of necessity, even less time may be made to serve without serious loss, even to so little as three hours every third day.

It is possible that there may be a little danger of swarms going away with the virgin queens on their mating flich, but it is not great, for such queens are distast ful to prime swarms, though any laying queen is acceptable.

If a prime swarm and an a'erswarm with their queen unite, the young queen will usually be found balled, and it is seldom worth while to separate them