

honey at the entrance, when the honey will be removed from the entrance and the brood nest extended forward along the combs already having brood in, instead of spreading crosswise of the frames. Sometimes when there are plenty of bees and no danger of chilling brood, I alternate and put the brood end of part back. By getting combs full of brood from end to end there are not so many combs with brood in, hence easier to contract, or unite brood of two or more colonies.

This method of changing the position of the brood might be called spreading brood. Changing each alternate comb with the front or brood end back is spreading brood, and should not be done except when bees are abundant enough to cover all the combs containing brood. The only difficulty when all are changed is a little more danger of robbing when the honey is at or near the entrance. To change the whole brood nest, and put the brood clear to the back is perfectly safe except in the matter of robbing, and it surely results in getting brood from end. I think it would surely pay to reverse just as the honey flow opens, because honey will not be stored at the entrance if there is any other place to receive it, and with brood at the back wall will tend to cause super storage. Where hives are loose bottomed the work can be done by simply lifting the chamber from its bottom and giving it half a turn.

Having the colonies made strong and ready for the flow, the super should be added at once. I prefer the super on several days before the flow opens. With such strong colonies it is necessary to get the forces into the supers as quickly as possible, both to discourage swarming and to get the best results in honey. With the unqueening method the swarming is absolutely controlled, yet we want the force in the supers. If they get too crowded or will not work the super they will cluster out.

Having the colony so strong it must either occupy the super or the outside of the hive, usually super work will begin if there is plenty of honey; but a very great inducement to super work is to have one or more bait combs. If there are combs with cells deep enough to receive honey, there need be no fear about work being done there. My experience is that once a bit of honey is stored in a super, with plenty of bees, and nectar coming in they will push the super work.

Every super should be full separated and the sections have both top and bottom starters. Full sheets of foundation will be worked more readily than starters, and especially so if the flow comes on abruptly, or if it is slow not exceeding two or three

pounds daily gain. It is my opinion—not sure that it is a fact—that after the flow has fairly started, say four or five days, that there is wax goes to waste if the colony is not allowed to build comb. I consider that it is best to have full sheets in the sections (bottom starters too) at the start, and possibly only starters at the close. At the close of the flow there is frequently a surplus of wax that is wasted and plastered here and there, especially if the flow ceases abruptly, so that I am not so sure that full sheets are so good at the close of the flow.

To be sure of surplus in poor years, and also sure that all will have winter stores, have only strong colonies. To get the greatest amount of fancy honey and big yields in average to good years have strong colonies. For profit, strong colonies first, last and all the times. Of course colonies will be weak in the spring, but as the honey season approaches, get those strong that are to store surplus. Instead of dividing, add to.

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### An Experiment in the Production of Comb Honey.

Anything which can be done to produce better filled and straighter comb honey, with less travel stain, will materially increase the value of the honey crop. In addition, it will increase the demand for honey, which is a matter of vast importance in the healthy development of the beekeeping industry. It may be argued that the points referred to do not influence the flavor of honey, and that a section not entirely filled, bulging and travel stained tastes just as good as the comb free from such defects. In reply it may be said, that in stimulating and pleasing the sense of taste, the eye plays no unimportant part, so that in this respect the statement is open to question. In having well-filled sections free from bulges and depressions, clean and white, there are other great advantages. When the cells next to the wood which contains the comb are unfilled, or only partially filled, and therefore uncapped, a very weak point is left between comb and wood. If the sections be dumped or dropped, as is often the case, the comb at the weak point parts from the wood. It is difficult to handle or sell such sections. During transit they are frequently thrown backward and forward against the neighbor