three most serious troubles can be almost wholly overcome, I have written this, my first article on the production of comb honey. We will first consider the natural desire to swarm. This is the honey bees' natural way to perpetuate their race, and is the most strongly imbedded law, not only of the whole animal world, but the vegetable world also, except the desire for food, of any law connected with our existence. This is why we have made no progress in changing the nature of our bees since man first tried to domesticate them. It is true that certain strains, or, more properly speaking, certain families, have far less desire to swarm than others. This same law can also be said to apply to other animals, including man. Now let us see what we can do to prevent the desire on the part of our bees to carry out this main object of their creation. First we will keep only bees that have but little natural desire to swarm; then we will raise their hives from their bottom boards all around about half an inch as soon as the weather begins to get warm. In this way we shall give them two or three entrances in the shade at all hours of the day. This, I know from experience, goes a long way to prevent the desire to swarm. Then we will supersede every queen at the commencement of our harvest with one just fertilized, which, we all know, of itself will to quite an extent prevent the desire to swarm. Then we will see that their hives, including their clamps of sections, contain but a small amount of capped honey for any length of time.

Here is one thing that I used to be very particular about during my 30 years of producing comb honey. As fast as I could find four or five nicely-finished sections in a clamp they were taken out and empty ones put in their place, never using more than two clamps at one time on a hive. I don't wonder that your bees swarm when two or three clamps of mostly capped sections are on a hive and a lot of capped honey in the hive below, and then only one entrance where the sun can shine down on the bees through the hottest hours of the day. This will make almost any colony restless, and frequently start a desire to swarm.

The honey-producer, until recently, has been justified in keeping his queens longer than one year, for it is only since Pratt gave us his method of rearing queens that we can have all we want early in the season with only a little trouble. If you will do as I have suggested in the above, you will almost wholly prevent the desire to swarm.

Next we will consider the matter of a steady harvest, with no lost days, even if the flowers do fail to secret nectar for several days at a time. This can easily be acquired in this way: First divide your apiary into two equal parts as to number of colonies, but have all your strongest colonies in one part and your weakest ones in another. Then run the weak colonies wholly for extracted honey and the stronger colonies for comb honey; and attach a good practicable feeder under every hive that is producing comb honey, and extract all you can from your weak colonies and feed it to those that are working in sections. Be sure to give them some every night. If the weather is fine, and they are getting considerable from the flowers, it will not be necessary to give them much; but if from any cause they fail to gather from the flowers, then feed enough to keep them busy in their sections night and day, with no stop until the harvest is over and every section is finished in fine shape.

Now don't say this cannot be done, for I know it can. I used to produce comb honey in this way 25 years ago, and I am sure 50 colonies managed like this, with 50 more to furnish them with honey during bad weather, to