

SPACING COMBS.

SOME NEW IDEAS.

Written for the C. B. J. by C. W. Post.

I notice in the Bee Journals of late many very interesting articles on the above subject. As I have been requested to give my system of management, I will first state that there is such a great difference in localities right here in Ontario that a system that will give the very best results in one locality will prove outright disastrous in another.

I have experimented largely in spacing combs for the last six years and I have at last settled on a bee space that, for my locality gives the best results.

I use what is called a nine framed Langstroth hive 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, inside measure, and frames with top bars one inch square. I have now in use 7200 such frames and don't see any that suits me better.

I winter on nine frames which gives a little over $\frac{3}{4}$ in. space between top bars. Now in the spring, from the time they are set on the summer stands until the end of July I want the brood chambers in the very best possible condition to raise brood, for plenty of brood means a good crop of honey in an average season. I want as little honey as possible stored in the brood chamber up to the 31st of July.

About the first of May I go through my apiary and open up the hives and see that the queens are all right. If not clipped I clip them and enter their ages in a book kept for that purpose. Place the combs in the same position as first occupied, only space them close enough to admit an extra frame, thus making ten frames with a bee space with a fraction over a quarter of an inch between top bars which leaves a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch space between the sealed brood. This brings the sealed honey too close together for a bee space and they will begin at once to cut away the combs that are shouldered out, which stimulates breeding at the same time, and if the weather is favorable they will build up at an astonishing rate.

They are allowed ten frames until the last of July then one of the outside frames is taken out and set away to be replaced in the spring and the balance of frames equally spaced. At this time there is but very little honey in the brood chambers, but through the buckwheat season all hives are

filled and combs shouldered out in good condition for winter.

I am wintering twenty five at present on ten frames and I believe they will winter as well as those on nine.

Last winter I took a hobby to winter some on eight frames, spaced the same distance as in my extracting supers. It looked to me so feasible that I prepared 340 colonies in that way, but they did not winter quite as well as those on nine frames. The honey granulated badly in some of the thick combs, besides they are shouldered so heavy it is very difficult to get them back to ten frames in the spring.

Now in running my hives with eight, nine and ten frames, I find which bee space has the least burr or brace combs. I find when run with ten frames the brace combs are not worth mentioning; when run with nine, just enough to keep the frames in place when moving the hives, but with eight frames the burr combs, brace combs, and combs that have no name is perfectly awful.

Murray, Ont., Feby. 23rd 1894.

GATHERED BY THE WAY.

Three Rather Funny Stories.

The editor of the C. B. J. has hinted to me that his critics have expressed a wish that its columns should contain only solid "pure extract" of common sense. From this I infer that the readers of the Journal must be very wise or otherwise for it is said that "the wisest men relish a little nonsense now and then." However, if my fragments are not worthy a place elsewhere, the waste basket is surely big enough to hold them.

My first incident bears no relation to bees or honey, nor do any of them, but it may sweeten life a little by creating a smile:

An engineer, employed on the Grand Trunk R'y, and who lives at the Bridge, was the unfortunate possessor of a Thomas cat of which he was heartily tired and which he determined to get rid. As cats are possessed of nine lives, the owner determined on less drastic treatment than killing, and so the doomed feline was put in a bag placed in the cab of the engine, and given a free ride several miles and then released. On the return home next day there the innocent victim of his cruel plan sat in a most forgiving spirit.

The next day the defeated engineer smiled a complacent smile. He again put his catship into the bag and carried it and its lively occupant to the station. No secret was made of his determination to dump the