

enough to remove one comb next to the wall, replacing it by one filled with syrup. The entrance should be closed while the top is open, and the change made as quickly as possible to conserve the heat of the hive. Sealed combs, with cappings crushed to induce the bees to distribute the honey, are preferable; but are not so easily obtained at this time of year. I need not state that the matter of spring stores is of the utmost importance. It is equally important to guard against robbing.

As it is so ably expressed in "Langstroth on the Honey Bee," under the adage, An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure: "Bees are so prone to rob each other in time of scarcity that unless great precautions are used the apiarist will often lose some of his most promising colonies . . . . As soon as they can leave their hives in the spring, they may begin to assail the weaker colonies. . . . If the marauders. . . . . attack a strong and healthy colony, they are usually glad to escape with their lives from its resolute defenders. The bee-keeper, therefore, who neglects to watch his needy colonies, and to assist such as are weak or queenless, must count upon suffering heavy losses from robber bees." Experience teaches that where fifty or more hives are kept, the apiarist, during the spring months, should go through the yard at least once every hour, when bees are flying and no honey coming in, to watch for indications of robbing. These are detected by an unusual activity about the entrance, and a shrill sound peculiar to robbers. The flight of young bees which occurs from many of the hives almost every warm afternoon may be mistaking for robbing; but there can be no doubt if the bees emerging from the entrance are loaded with sweets. When it is discovered that a hive is being robbed,

sprinkle quantities of flour on the bees at the entrance, and watch the other hives to find the robbers' home. Close their entrance for a time, taking care not to smother them. Put hay over the entrance of the hive robbed, and sprinkle freely with cold water. If this does not break up the robbing, remove the hive to the cellar in the evening, leaving an empty box in its place as a decoy to the robbers. Two or three days buzzing about this box will satisfy them, and the hive may safely be replaced on its stand, in the evening. The time of greatest danger from robbing is when the bees are first out, and from fruit bloom to the opening of white clover.

As soon as the thermometer reaches 70 degrees F. in the shade, on a still day the brood chambers may safely be opened for adjusting brood and stores, and clipping queens. First, find the queen and gently lift her from the comb by the wings; then grasp two or three of her legs between the thumb and first finger of the left hand, holding her so while about half of one wing is clipped off with a small pair of pointed scissors. By experienced bee-keepers, spreading brood may be practiced with advantage; but for the beginner and average bee-keeper it is safest to leave the matter to the bees.—Farmers Advocate.

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#### Honey and Horehound Cough Drops.

Put a handful of horehound into a saucepan, cover it with water and boil until the liquor is strong. Then strain and add honey to it, boil until the water has evaporated, test it like other sweets and when sufficiently boiled pour into shallow tins to cool. Then cut into pieces.