

layer, so you can put 8 men at work. Now suppose a second wall be 64 feet long by 10 feet high. That wall contains as many bricks as the other, yet it can be built in half the time. Why? Because you can put 16 men at work instead of only 8. Do you see?

Now suppose you give some of your colonies full sheets of foundation to some other fair-sized starters, and to the rest only small starters. Two or three days later you go and look. Those having the smallest starters have only them perhaps to only one-third of the section. Those having the larger starters have extended them to two-thirds and perhaps a few drops of honey are deposited already in the deepest part.

But the full sheets have been drawn over nearly their whole surface; the cells are partly built up, and quite an amount of honey is already in. Why the difference? Simply because there is room for a larger number of bees to work at the same time on a full sheet than there is on a starter. The bees might be there, and the wax scales also, but only a limited number of bees could work on the smaller starter, just like the masons on the wall above referred to. I think this is the most important point gained by using full sheets of foundation.

CONTRACTION.

Contraction, or small brood-nests, came also under consideration with a number of writers. Their argument is something like this: If, when the honey-flow opens, there is room in the brood-nest, the bees will store the honey there, and go into the sections only after the brood-nest is full. If, on the other hand, the brood-nest is full, the honey brought in by the bees will necessarily go into the sections because there is no other place to put it. Don't you see?

Yes, I see—that is, providing it is so. May be it is a question of locality. In my locality the thing does not quite work that way. At the opening of the flow I have only sheets of foundation, sometimes only starters in the sections. In this locality it is impossible for the bees to store honey in empty sections. How it is in Illinois or Michigan, I don't know. It takes about three days to establish the wax secretion in full, and that many more days, or about, until sufficient headway is made in the sections to admit a rapid storage of what can be brought from the field.

Now suppose the brood-nest full. What will be the result during the first week? Having no place to deposit the nectar, the field bees will necessarily be idle; and the result is, the first week of flow will be practically lost. Lucky will be the apiarist if the bees thus forced to remain idle do not take a notion to swarm.

If we use large brood-nests there may be, at the opening of the flow, perhaps two, three, or more combs empty, or practically so. They will be filled rapidly with honey.

The movement of the bees, the constant handling of the nectar, the fullness of the bees, will provoke the secretion of the wax, regardless of the room in the brood-nest; and if the strength of the colonies, and the temperature, are right, the comb-building will begin in the sections not quite but nearly as soon as in the other case. So in fact, the honey stored in the brood-combs is almost a clear gain. Furthermore, the propensity to swarm is considerably reduced. At any rate, that is the way the bees do in this locality.—Adrian Getaz in Gleanings.

Remember that in making character for yourself you are making character for posterity.

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