

cessful. Removing queen cells after they are built is about as good as locking the stable after the horse is stolen.

What might be called full reports were received from twenty-five experimenters. The average number of colonies which these experimenters used in experimental groups is 11.7. Each group according to instructions was divided into two lots, Lot A and B, having an average of 5.8 colonies in each lot. Of the colonies in Lot A, 18 per cent., cast first swarms. Of the colonies in Lot B, 33 per cent. cast first swarms. It will be seen from this that while the experimenters could not be expected to entirely prevent swarming the first year, they have met with a marked degree of success in controlling the swarming impulse, reducing it from 38 per cent. to 18 per cent.

As a result of this control of swarming and the extra attention given to the colonies of Lot A, the average return in honey was 83 pounds per colony as against 75.3 pounds per colony of Lot B. In addition to this there was an average number of seven combs per colony built in Lot A, and five combs per colony in Lot B. Of those who carried the experiment through, ten experimenters said that the colonies of lot A, are in better shape for wintering than Lot B. Thirteen said they could see no difference and two failed to report on this point.

Perhaps the most interesting part of these results is the report on the benefits derived by the experimenters from the work. Some of these are the following

"Closer attention and practical experience." "Your method saves half the work." "Much more intimate knowledge of bees." "I do not know, I want to try this again. It is hard for me to drop my method or to think some other system is better until I try it again." "More interest." "More knowledge." "I have the bees under my own control." "Better knowledge of bee-keeping." "More honey for more work." "More

system in work." "Increased knowledge." "Learn to systematize." "Saves watching for swarms."

Some who were unable for various reasons to carry out the details of the experiment stated they have received benefit. One man says that he has derived no benefit whatever. He examines the bees in the spring to see if they are all right and lets them alone. It is interesting to note from his report that his returns in honey are far below the average of those who gave their bees attention.

After having made the test carefully according to direction, six experimenters though their own method was just as good, if not better. Two were uncertain and wanted to try it again. Seventeen out of the twenty-five said they very decidedly prefer the method prescribed in the Experiment.

Upon the whole the response has been very gratifying even though the number of satisfactory reports is small. The estimate of good done by the wide distribution of a circular describing how to control the most unruly impulse of these faithful workers is not limited to this visible result. Bee-keepers were taken by surprise and quite unprepared. Any number of men wrote that by the season of 1911 they will be ready to go ahead with the experiment.

The plan is to send out the same experiment to those desiring it in the spring, and also experiment No. 2, which will be for the prevention of natural swarming in the production of Comb Honey.

84 YEARS AND STILL AT IT. *Indexed*

You have not heard from me for a long time. The last paper I sent you never appeared in the Journal. I suppose it was too long a paper and would intrude too much on your space, and as it did not contain much bee matter you chucked

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it in the waste box old now, and still years ago last spring bees for sale in Tinal. I had a score me wanting to buy colonies for a fancy colonies would be would keep them. creased those ten first season. "The honey to winter, a section honey as with clamps outside with all came out in the The second season onies. They all started to winter on, and



One

of section honey from colonies all wintered. The third season—] increase; nevertheless stored honey enough feeding and gave me section honey per good honey season. I have these 25 colonies and we expect them all right in the spring. I am a pioneer bee-keeper and a few bees yet. Bees around this two-thirds of a crop increase.

Arkona.