

Robbing—Some Valuable Hints.

—J. W. Sparling.

In complying with your request to answer Beginner's Queries, "How to Stop and Prevent Robbing," I'll take his last question first.

To prevent robbing, keep all the colonies strong. Do not allow a colony to remain so long queenless that they will run down in bees. Keep the entrances of weak colonies and nuclei contracted in times of dearth, and do not leave honey exposed at such times. Should you inadvertently do so, do not take it all away; leave a little for the bees to work on; then when they have cleaned this up they will gradually leave the spot. More trouble is caused by this than any other one thing: Bees get started on some honey; it is all taken away; then they attempt to effect an entrance into the hives adjoining, and should any of these be weak, robbing naturally ensues.

Should such things occur and should you remove the hive, do not forget the caution just given: leave a hive in its place, with a comb or two containing a little honey for the robbers to clean up, and it is very unlikely that any commotion at all will ensue; it is well, as a precautionary measure, to contract the entrances of adjoining hives somewhat.

If robbers have got thoroughly started at a hive, 'tis a difficult matter to do much for them. This is a case where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It may be heterodox, but I'm not sure but that you might as well let them finish the job, for if they are left to clean out the hive without the apiarist's interference, there is not apt to be any further trouble. You might save them if you could take the hive to another yard some distance away. Even if you were to put them in the cellar for a couple of days, as some recommend, the attack would very likely be renewed when they were returned to their old stand. A plan which has been frequently recommended is to change the hives, putting the robbing bees on the stand of the robbed and vice versa. Another plan is to pile hay or straw in front of the hive and keep it wet with water; it has also been recommended to use diluted Carbolic Acid on the straw.

In conclusion I would suggest to Beginner should he find it necessary to examine his

bees at a time when they are not gathering, to do so in the evening, when they are about done flying.

Bowmanville, Feb., 1896.

Those Medals.

—George Wood.

Kindly let us know through the Journal what is the latest information in regard to the World's Fair awards, as I have heard nothing since what you had in the Journal last Spring, when you said you intended to keep your readers posted in regard to the matter. My own opinion is that the Yankees will never pay their debts if they can get out of it.

At the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London a few years ago, if I am not mistaken, each exhibitor received a commemoration medal and diploma, and that without any necessary delay, but the people who claim to "beat all creation" will not give the awards to those who won them in fair competition, or so it seems; as the "big show" died over two years ago, and still no prizes have shown up. Give us the reliable business methods and honesty of Old England in preference to the "Spread Eagleism" and tricky ways of our neighbors to the south of us.

Last season was the worst for bees that I have experienced; no increase, and I fed 300 pounds more than I extracted, and have twelve colonies less than a year ago. I have still a little of my honey left (people are too poor to buy), and wintering 80 colonies. Speed the "good time coming."

Erasmus, Dufferin Co., Ont.

[It is certainly unfortunate that the World's Fair medals and diplomas have not been given. It is a reflection upon its management. Of course, the United States government has nothing to do with the matter. We have heard nothing more about the medals.—Ed.]

Query.

Have you ever been able to overcome entirely the trouble or found the real cause of the combs in the outside sections of a half story not being filled out and filled with honey as quickly and completely as those in the centre of the half-story.

[Will some of our contributors please answer.—Ed.]