

Question No. 10: Have you ever noticed bees gathering honey from apple tree buds just opened in the spring about two weeks before the blossoms from the same tree are in bloom?

Mr. Sibbald: I have noticed them around buds but I don't know whether they got any honey.

Prof. Fletcher: I am not quite sure about propolis being gathered from apple buds but propolis comes from the buds of trees.

Mr. Chrysler: I have noticed it; it is a small white drop of nectar. It is very sweet and tastes very much like clover honey when on the buds. I have noticed it only one season and on a common apple tree, one of the grafting varieties; I didn't notice it on other trees to any extent at all.

Prof. Fletcher: Prof. Cook mentions about finding in California, trees that had drops of delicious honey on them, which he said were secreted by the trees.

Weak Colonies in Spring—When to Unite Them.

By G. M. Doollittle

When colonies of bees come out weak in the spring, it may be beneficial to put two or more of these weak colonies together, so that one strong colony may be made from several weak ones. Some suppose that if their is any uniting of weak colonies to be done, the earlier in the spring it is accomplished the better the results will be, but from years of experience along this line I am positive that such early uniting is a mistake. If these colonies are left to themselves, the best we can hope is that they will become strong enough in bees and honey for winter; while by uniting just before the honey harvest I secure a good yield of honey from the united colony and get the two in good condition for winter. My plan of work in uniting, and

looking toward this end, is as follows:

As early in the spring as the bees can be looked over, all of the weaker colonies are shut on as few combs as they have brood, by using a division-board to contract the hive. They are now left until warmer weather comes, being sure that all have stores enough where they can conveniently reach them to carry them until this period. They are now built up as rapidly as possible by reversing the brood, etc., so that by June 1st the best of them will have five frames of brood, others four, and so on down to one for the very weakest. As soon as the best has its five frames filled with brood, down to the very bottom corners, a frame of hatching brood is given to one having but four frames, and an empty comb put in its place.

In taking a frame of hatching brood in this way I generally take all the bees there are on it right along, only being sure that I do not get the queen so that all the young bees on this comb help to give strength to the weaker, as the younger bees will not return to their old home.

In a few days a frame of brood and bees are taken from each of these two-frame colonies, and given to the one having but three frames, and so I keep taking until all have five frames each.

Do not make the mistake some do and try to strengthen the very weakest first, for by so doing from one half to two-thirds of the brood will be liable to perish with some cold spell, as these last colonies have at this time all the brood they can properly care for.

By the above plan we are always safe, and advancing warm weather is in our favor also. In a few days after all have five frames of brood we are ready to unite, and if all have

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