

them. We examine them closely to see that the queens are all good. Right here we might say, that it is not an uncommon thing for queens to die in fall or winter, and the bees to have other queens raised in their stead. This occurring when there are no drones for the young queens to mate with, they of course, will be drone-layers. All such are treated the same as queenless colonies, doubled up, after destroying the drone-laying queen. They are also examined carefully as to stores and great care should be taken to have a sufficiency in every colony, as two colonies of equal strength, but one having plenty of stores, and the other being light, if examined later in the season, a great difference will be found between them. The one with plenty will brood much faster and be much stronger than the scant one. This is a very important matter, and should not be neglected, as a scarcity of stores in the early part of the season checks brood rearing, and leaves us with weak colonies instead of strong at the commencement of the honey harvest.

The importance of having plenty of stores, is scarcely given sufficient attention. There are very few who fully realize the quantity of stores consumed by the bees while brooding in the spring. Some may open their hives and find a few pounds of stores in the combs, close them up and imagine they are all right. These stores may be consumed in less than a week, and in the height of the brooding season the ordinary consumption of stores by a colony amounts to several pounds a day. We have frequently noticed that some which appeared to have plenty of stores at the time of examination, had none in a few days. In this condition the bees would commence removing the food from the larvæ, uncapping the brood removing larvæ, biting holes in the same, and sucking out the contents as a last resort. Colonies thus brought to want scarcely recover during the entire season; they appear to get thoroughly discouraged and disorganised and never work with the same vim afterwards. Those that have some stores and appear to be doing moderately well would do very much better with a little surplus. They seem to realize that without a fresh supply, starvation will soon be staring them in

the face, and as a consequence brooding almost ceases. The neglect of this important point simply means the loss of the season's profit.

We are also very careful in our examinations not to cause robbing. A comb filled with honey uncapped placed in the centre of the brood-chamber after they have become sufficiently strong, seems to stimulate them to greater exertion.

Until the weather becomes warm and the colony very strong in bees, no escape of heat should be permitted. Flat lids are much better for early brood-rearing than the sloping top with the open space between frames and lid. The flat lid seems to retain the heat and prevents its escape, while the sloping one does the opposite to some extent.

From the time our bees are set out in spring, until the honey flow begins, we examine them sometimes every week, that is, those which need such attention and nursing. Should we find any with a surplus of pollen or honey, we exchange combs with those in want. We have given up spreading brood early in the season. We find that we get better results by reversing the combs, and it is a much safer method for ordinary practice.

There are those who imagine that "doubling-up" all the weak colonies, will give a lot of strong ones. Such, however, has not been our experience in early spring. We have sometimes put a number together, and they appeared quite strong in bees, when an examination a fortnight afterwards revealed the fact that they were very little better. The old bees seemed to die off more rapidly when doubled than when left as nuclei with their queens, until the weather became warm enough to enable them to carry on brooding themselves. If there are any very strong colonies in the yard some fancy that it is advisable to strengthen them by inserting a frame of hatching brood. This also is a great mistake, and should never be resorted to, as the bees are unable to care for brood, and much of it will perish, thus causing not only the loss of the brood, but discouraging the bees by having the dead brood in the colony. The only safe way, that we have ever found, to strengthen them, is by the plan of taking frames containing young