

in the place where the old one stood, and let the swarm go back. Then I have every queen in the brood-chamber. That is the main reason why I use queen-excluders. They hinder the brood some in going back into the supers, but I don't have second swarms. If I have some queen-cells ready to hatch I put one right in. The queen hatches and finds there are not enough bees to keep the brood warm, she tears the cell all down. A little later in the season, when I get my apiary full that way, I take the next lot, brush all the bees off of these brood-combs, and put one set of them with each one of these. I don't put it all on, mind you, because once in a while I find these have supers full of honey. Then I take the honey and put it above, and put the brood below. In that way every one of my colonies stores several supers full of honey every season, I do not have a lot of little, weak swarms where the bees do not get into the supers.

Mr. Gilstrap—I have worked with bees in Central California, Southern California, and in Colorado, and I find location and quality of honey produced has a great deal to do with the use of the hot or cold knife. Lacking 15 cans we took off 9 tons of honey last year, and never used anything but a cold knife. I find keeping the knife sharp has a great deal to do with it. There are only two locations where I have worked with bees where I have found the hot knife necessary. Where the honey is not very stiff the cold knife can be used very satisfactorily.

J. A. Delano—My experience with the hot knife and cold has been during the last 15 years I have been in the bee-business. I started in with the idea that the cold knife was a good plan. It saves a fire in the honey-house, the heat and bother.

Another reason I thought it a good plan, was because several of the large bee-keepers were using the same plan. Mr. Charles Graham, one of the largest bee-keepers, used that plan himself, keeping the knife sharp, and running it on the same plan as Mr. McIntyre. But I found, after I had used it for about five years, that if we had boiling hot water to put our knives in, and kept them sharp, we could accomplish probably twice as much, and do the work a good deal easier. In this State we have different kinds of honey in different localities. With sage honey you can use a cold knife very well, as there is dust you have to wash off with a cloth; but I find in general practice the hot knife takes the lead in my experience. Mr. Graham has also done away with the cold knife, and taken up with the hot-water process. In extracting from an apiary where the honey-flow is coming fast, in sage honey, and where a couple or three men have to handle so many combs in a day, a cold knife would be at a disadvantage. At least I think it would be with us. When we take off a ton, or ton and a half, with two or three men, we must use the easiest plan. Along this coast the cold knife works very successfully because the honey is thinner, and you will find it will cut easier, but you go inland, where it is drier, and it is harder to run a cold knife.

J. S. Harbison—I have inspected quite a large quantity of extracted honey, and I find one of the evils is the excessive use of smoke in handling the combs. Much very choice honey has been ruined in that way, so much so that a delicate taste would reject it on account of its bitter taste. You cannot be too careful with reference to this matter. Honey is very sensitive to acquire a bad odor, as much as butter. Another thing,

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