

the whitening of the wax on the top of the frames. If comb-honey supers are put on before this, the bees often remove the foundation to use in the brood-chamber. Where an upper division of empty extracting combs was given earlier, and the intention is to run for extracted honey, nothing need be done excepting to make sure that the bees have enough room.

JULY.

All over the Province the clover honey-flow comes to an end about the middle of this month.

Ordinarily there is very little swarming after the beginning of the month, and it is well that this is so, as late swarms will simply starve to death unless fed regularly for several weeks.

All sealed comb-honey should be removed from the hive at the close of the flow, to prevent its delicate whiteness becoming soiled by the travel of the bees. Extracted honey should be left on longer, to ensure its being thoroughly ripened. When there is a second flow the crops should be kept apart by extracting the first before the other is due.

AUGUST.

Excepting in the fireweed regions, there is but little forage for bees in August, this being especially true of the Coast regions; in fact, were it not for fall dandelions and thistles, there would be practically nothing coming in. Towards the end of the month the second flow starts in the Dry Belt.

SEPTEMBER.

In the Coast districts there is no nectar. Early in the month the hives should be gone through to see how the bees are off for stores. Some bee-keepers feed for the winter before the month closes; others prefer to give half the necessary amount now, the balance a month hence. Any weak or queenless colony should be combined with another.

OCTOBER.

Before the end of the month make certain that every colony has at least six frames of honey or sugar syrup to carry it through the winter. Feeding over, the colonies should be prepared for the cold months, as described in the chapter on wintering.

CHAPTER VIII.

Swarming.

Living creatures reproduce their kind to ensure the perpetuation of the race. Generally speaking, the interest is centred in the direct descent from individual to individual, as each one in turn becomes the fountain source of a new generation. But with bees it is different, for here we have a social organism in which the factor of parentage is subordinate. There is continuity from queen to queen, but this is less important than the reproduction of colonies; that is, the fact of perpetuation is more centred in the community than in any individual. Furthermore, a queen may die and be succeeded by her daughter, without any increase in the population of the bee world at large; whereas, when new colonies are formed, there is an increase both in communities and in the total number of bees.

The bees' method of reproduction, then, is by the formation of new colonies. When the proper season has arrived, generally in June, the hives become very strong with a superabundance of inhabitants, and some fine day thousands of them rush pell-mell out of doors, circling in the air in an ever-darkening cloud for several minutes; then, as if of one mind, they settle in a cluster on a convenient object,