with adhering bees alternately between the combs of the other. Remove one queen, if one is inferior to the other, otherwise let the bees settle it amongst themselves. Be careful not to get too strong colonies in this way, as they do not as a rule winter as well as medium ones.

All colonies going into winter quarters should have a laying queen, and colonies that have been queenless a short time may be given a laying queen by some safe plan of introduction.

If the colony has been queenless since the swarming season it will be useless to spend time and feed on them, as the bees are too old, and will die during the winter.

The most important part of this season's work is to provide each colony with sufficient good stores to carry them through until they gather feed next season.

If we could supply them with about 25 pounds of good clover honey, well ripened and capped, there would be little danger of winter losses.

We must have some reliable way of determining the amount of honey each colony contains as found when we are doing this work. Some good bee-keepers weigh their colonies on scales, allowing so much for the hive, combs, etc., but I consider it unreliable, as there may be a difference of ten pounds in the make-up of the different colonies, a difference in the material of the hive, amount of brood, pollen, etc., in the combs.

I consider an examination of the combs the best way to estimate the stores, and if honey is found to the amount of five or six Langstroth frames it will be sufficient. A colony with less than this amount should be given well-capped combs to make up the shortage, removing empty combs and crowding the bees upon as few combs as the food supply and quantity of bees will allow, putting in division boards or dummies. This keeps the cluster more compact and in a body during cold snaps in winter.

If colonies are short and combs of honey are not at hand, liquid feed may be given, after first contracting the space for storing, as in the other case.

As a rule pure sugar syrup is fed made from best granulated; it may be given in any kind of feeder if fed early in the season.

A handy feeder may be made to go into an extracting super, made one inch smaller than the inside of the super; it may be made of undressed lumber waxed at the corners, and made of different depths to hold just enough for any colony; a few small strips or blocks of wood for floats.

Place the feeder upon the tops of the frames, and if the weather is cool feed the syrup warm. Contract the entrance and feed during the middle of the day.

The syrup, I think, gives best results when made of a consistency of three parts sugar to two of water. Sometimes a little honey is added to prevent granulating, but I never practice using it.

Our syrup is made with steam, and it gives good satisfaction. A half-inch steam-pipe is run down into a barrel or honey-storing tank; put in 2½ pails of sugar and one of water until the tank is nearly full, then turn on the steam, which will then warm the water. Agitate the sugar with a little stirring. The sugar is soon dissolved and the syrup can be drawn off at the bottom.

In conclusion I wish to state that what I have just given you on this subject is solely for the preparation of the bees for outdoor wintering.

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MR. DENIS

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