

## Lessons of the Season

Loss of Bees  
from Feeding  
Sugar : : :

By A. BOOMER.

The season, as is well-known to all beekeepers, has been a most peculiar one. So much unsettled weather that rules and methods that would work out fairly well other seasons, would not work at all this year, the system of preventing after swarms by removing the parent colony to a new stand, after six or seven days and cutting out all queen cells but one, would not work at all, as they would swarm again before being moved, even as soon as four hours after the first swarm left and I do not think that any colony I had waited six days before casting a second swarm.

For comb honey I tried contracting the brood nest down to 6 or 7 frames and using only starters. I had tried this plan years ago and with such poor success every way, that I had abandoned it, but when such men as the Dadants and others approve so strongly of it, I tried it again, and the results are so disappointing that I'll change my mind very much before I'll give it another trial.

First, they did not build the combs out fully, some of them not half and the most of what was built was drone comb.

Secondly, when the season was over, no worker bees being produced, the colony was too weak to go through the winter. Anyway I could see no advantage in it in any greater quantity of comb honey being produced and cannot recommend it to others.

Thirdly, supposing you did get a full crop of comb honey by this

method than in the ordinary way, you have no honey in the brood chamber, and where's the advantage? HIVING SWARMS ON COMBS OR FOUNDATION, WHICH?

I generally have a lot of combs at swarming time with too much pollen in them to be desirable for use in the extracting supers so use them for swarms. But this year in ten days, yes in several cases in eight days, they would swarm out leaving queen cells uncapped and not bees enough to take care of the brood and if put back would build more queen cells and swarm again, whilst with hiving on full sheets of foundation I have had no such trouble.

### PREVENTION OF INCREASE.

I notice that various methods are given for the prevention of increase, none of which I fancy are infallible. When an early swarm issues if I have a weak colony I put on it a queen excluder and set the brood of the colony that swarmed with all adhering bees over this one (first cutting away all queen cells) and leave it say a week or ten days, then I shake off the bees and runs a new swarm onto these combs, first saving any of the combs that may not have much pollen in for use in extracting supers and supplying their place with foundation in the center of the brood nest. This plan has worked very well with me.

The yield of honey was not at all equal to last season. A little over 100 lbs. per colony is the result of the season.

### LOSS OF BEES FROM SUGAR FEEDING

At the close of the extracting season finding more of my colonies short of supplies than I had reserved from combs to level up with. I bought a barrel of Redpath's best cane sugar made my syrup in a copper boiler, and