

Preservation of Combs for Future Use.

WHEN colonies are found to be dead, say about the 15th April, take three or four combs out of the hive, and place the remaining ones about one inch and a quarter apart; take out those having most honey in so as not to encourage robbing, and leave the quilt or honey board off; hang those taken out in empty hives in the honey house, or nail lath to the joist so as to hang them overhead if storey is high enough, or if loft is bee-tight, nail strips to rafters, and to roof between rafters lengthwise of same, and hang $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, or hang an empty frame between each. This is also a good plan to keep them apart when hung in hives which will serve to keep them apart when handled. The above applies more especially where outdoor wintering is practised. It seems impossible to keep out moths by simply closing hives up tight, as the eggs of the moth are already in the combs; and if combs are kept in a cellar too cool and damp for the eggs to hatch, they are likely to mould.

My roof is made by nailing the shingles to 3 x 1 batting three inches apart, so by nailing a strip to rafters parallel to these I can hang up a large number of combs nicely. If roof is not too steep they will hang nearly plumb. All dead bees should be brushed from the combs, and where the comb cells are full of bees scrape them right down to the foundation. Save this waste comb for beeswax, also with a pot kept hot in a double tin lamp chimney full of water sharpen uncapping knife; cut away all excrement from the face of the comb, and scrape the frame up clean and tidy, as well as the inside of the hive. Where portions of comb are too bad cut out and splice in good worker comb. The same thing may be done now with patches of drone comb, so as to eliminate all drone comb from black or hybrid hives.

After taking off supers in the fall, and extracting combs for the last time it is a good plan to carry them about eight or ten rods from the yard, and allow the bees to clean them up, and you will find them in much nicer shape the next spring. A little robbing may start up, and the weak hives need to be closed down to passage for one bee at a time, and a pint of bees may perish in the fray, but in a couple of days all will be normal again, and you can gather in your clean, dry combs the second evening or morning early, leaving them at least one inch apart with sticks or empty frames. For closed end frames cut up lath the right length, say sixteen or twenty four inches long, and pile up combs, placing two sticks between each. For those left out in the hives (or hives brought into

honey house) shorter pieces of lath would do placing them between the upright bars perpendicularly.

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After-Dinner Thoughts.

"Jars of jell and jars of jam,
Jars of potted beef and ham.
Would that all the jars were these
That occur in families"

AS I have just eaten rather hearty, and as this old arm chair seems the climax of comfort and fitness, there seems to be wafted to me a kindly feeling toward all mankind. How long it will last I do not know, so I sharpen my pencil, and say perchance if in the past I have been hasty or seemingly unkind towards any one, please forgive and forget it all. You, brother Hutchinson, I am sure will overlook my failings, and you, Brother Miller, as a doctor, very well know that a late supper has made many an angel almost a fiend. Yes, I have a good heart, but my pencil never seems to know when it has gone far enough, and is always leading me astray. If I could only write in that quiet way—that balmy, significant ease and dignity with which Bro. Pringle and others are possessed—ah, yes, if I only could—but please make the best of me, such as I am, and I will try to love all those that I can trust.

Now I leave the subject of human frailty, as the gentle zephyrs waft my thoughts in another direction, conspicuous among which appears the mention of my name on page 61 by Mr. J. E. Pond.

Bro. Pond wants me to furnish proof that my theory as to the origin of foul brood is correct I see that I did not make my statement plain enough, or at least Mr. P. does not seem to understand me. It is not so much the lack of larvæ food as the disturbing of it with the extractor that causes foul brood. If you have the C.B.J. of July 1, 1890, then turn to page 151, and you will find an article of mine which explains the matter, and is just as good as a new explanation, the only difference is that I have discovered a new way bee-keepers have of very innocently killing the larvæ, and that is by extracting from the brood chamber. This statement I make in no hasty manner, just to raise a discussion, for I have other business on hand than discussing for the sake of discussing. I make it because I believe it to be true, and of enough value to be worth writing about. I don't blame you for not seeing as I see, I only write that others may know how I see, and if there is