

Comb Honey Production

(By W. A. Ellis, Victoria, Australia.)

The following on the production of comb honey was awarded first prize among a number written on the same subject for the "Australasian Bee-keeper." The writer evidently favors a hive after the Heddon or divisible brood-chamber pattern lately discussed in these pages. The methods suggested are worthy of comparison with those followed in our own country:

There are many bee-keepers in Australia who could not produce sectional comb honey profitably, for to get anything like a yield you want a very good locality, hives that tend to keep down the swarming fever, and plenty of time and patience. As regards the former, experience will teach where to find a good area of blossoms. The hive that is most favored is the Bolton, consisting of two 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch bodies, each containing eight closed end frames, and a special follower which can be pressed up tight against the frames by the two metal screws in the side of the body, and this allows of them being inverted. On top of these two bodies forming the brood-chamber put a slatted honey-board for preference, and then the section-crate, or if for extracted honey, supers containing frames. A good strong colony is the first step in the direction of comb honey; the hive should be boiling over with bees, just when the honey-flow commences. Having got the brood-chamber just about full of bees, brood and honey, invert the bodies, place the honey-board on, and on top of it a super on shallow extracting frames

(empty combs, if you have any spare). Now those combs in the brood-chamber not attached to the bottom bars of the frames have no support when the hive is inverted, and the bees will attach them to the bars, while for the time being are on top, thus increasing the capacity and strengthening the combs. Any honey that is along the top of the brood-nest will now be in the middle, and this is a very unnatural a place for it that the bees will remove it, and, having no other place to put it, carry it to the surplus chamber, thereby giving the bees more room for laying. The reason for putting the super of frames on both sides of the sections is to get the bees into the habit of going above, for if the sections were put on first the bees would be loath to enter them, perhaps not at all, but probably swarming in a few days. When they have been well started in the super of frames raise it up and place the section-crate under it, removing the super when the bees have begun to work in the sections. This unfinished super will be well for starting another colony. This method more comb honey is produced than if the sections were put straight away; you have the extra honey as well, and not nearly the loss caused by swarming.

Never let the bees get in the habit of hanging around the entrance of the hive from the midday sun. To make the entrance larger, which will decrease the desire to swarm, and the bees take to the sections more

than others, and the producer will do these for breeding. Comb-honey produce more than the bees, swarm the chance of securing the field during the swarming the brood-chamber once a week to be destroyed, as they started, as they have more room for the young bees in the brood-chamber. Their cells, instead of being honeyed, honey is being her less space. This honey divide the bees are to be removed to its place. Since the colony shows a division of labor between the third body between the sections of foundation. Now, when the first nearly complete section is another benefit. The honey-flow ceases. The amount of first way to take the bees a bee-escape tube, and next to the hardly a bee left. Remove without having taken the four honey-room grading them; the sole, be sufficient, come up to No. 1. The hives to be at the end of season next year, to be making the bees along. 1 Grade.—All w