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The Prevention and Controlling of Swarming With the Heddon Hive in the Production of Extracted Honey.

(Paper by F. J. Miller, London, Ont.)

The subject assigned me is one leading up from early spring management, hence my article begins with the work as the hives leave the winter-cases. At this time supers are put on all colonies showing sufficient strength. Queen-clipping follows as rapidly as possible, great care being taken that no queen is allowed to pass unseen, although last year's record may show her to have been clipped. Apple-bloom is now closing, and some queens may yet remain unclipped; this makes but little difference with the short-cut methods of handling the divisible brood-chamber hive, and the work is completed, as I must know that every queen is clipped in order to carry out our future plans.

During this early management a watchful eye is kept that no colony becomes congested with honey in the brood-nest. If the queen is being crowded and not allowed all the room she can occupy, the divisible brood-chamber hive affords the quickest results possible with the least amount of labor. We simply divide the centre of the brood-nest horizontally by exchanging the two sectional parts of the brood-chamber, i.e., by replacing the bottom chamber with the top one, thus placing honey in the centre of the brood-nest. This being averse to the instinct of the bees, the honey is quickly removed. The brood now extending to the top bars under the queen-excluder, the honey is carried above this line into the supers, leaving empty cells for the use of the queen in the centre of the brood-nest as it now exists.

During the week of honey dearth between fruit bloom and white clover, this interchanging of the brood-nest has the same stimulating effect as feeding, or the uncapping of honey. With the opening of white clover supers are again added underneath on the tiering-up plan, as soon as the last one contains from five to seven pounds of nectar.

About this time, or as soon as the indications of swarming are apparent, each yard is visited as nearly every four days as the weather will permit. During these visits each hive is examined for queen cells by simply raising one end of the top section of the brood-chamber, and drawing slightly forward and raising it up about six inches, thus giving a view of the bottom bars, which will expose a part of any queen cells that may be present. If there are no cells in view the hive is closed, the