

doing this at about 10 a.m. Having the bees in the boxes, set them in the cellar or in some shady place where outside bees can not get at the bees which are confined, leaving them till about 5 p.m.

Now get a virgin queen for each box, putting each in a cage having a stopper in it filled with queen-candy, so that it will take the bees about half a day to eat out the candy and liberate her. Take these queens to the boxes of bees, picking each up in turn and suddenly setting it down, when all of the bees will fall to the bottom, when the funnel-hole is quickly opened, the caged queen put down through it, and the cage secured by means of a bent wire clamped between the slide covering the hole and the top of the box. Then close the hole, the cage hanging about one inch below the under side of the top to the box, so the bees can cluster all about it while they are hanging in a cluster, as they soon will be.

After the queens are all in the boxes in this way, they are to be set away where they can remain undisturbed till near sundown of the next day but one, or allowing the queen and bees to remain a little more than two days in the box when the bees are found all contented with their new queen, and hanging to the top of the box like a swarm.

I now go to the hives that can spare and take as many frames having a small amount of brood in them as I have boxes of bees, shaking all the bees off from each and replacing with a frame of empty comb. Put one of these frames in a hive where you wish your new colony to stand, together with a frame of honey, or enough in it to secure the bees from starvation, and another frame of empty comb, placing the one having brood in it in the centre. Having each hive thus fixed, the bees from one of the boxes are to be put in each. To do this, lower the box down into the hive near the outside comb, and with a knife pry the wire-cloth frame off enough so the bees can run out freely on the combs, when the hives are to be closed and the entrance adjusted to suit the size of the little colonies.

When the full colonies are strong enough to take more bees from them,

get the boxes, now free from bees, fixing them and proceeding as before. As the season advances one little colony can be formed from each decent colony twice a week, the colony furnishing the queen-cells being equal to any of them in this regard. If you do not have the combs, frames filled with comb foundation will have to be used, but in this case your progress must necessarily be considerably slower.

When the honey harvest arrives, keep plenty of combs on the strongest colonies, so that plenty of honey can be stored in these for winter, and as the season advances use more bees each time in making the colonies; and when fall arrives, if you do not have plenty of combs of sealed honey for stores which you can use, take bees from several hives, thus forming a strong colony at once, and hive them on these frames of sealed stores. I have so formed colonies in September that turned out to be best of any the next season.

With plenty of combs at one's command, ten colonies in the spring can easily be increased to 100 in the fall by this plan without feeding, or any outlay in cash for queens or feed or anything of the kind, and if the season is really a good one some surplus can be secured besides. But the success of the plan lies very largely in not commencing operations until the colonies are strong, nearly enough so as to swarm, and then not robbing them of bees till they are too weak to work to the best advantage, using few bees for each little colony in June, and more and more as you go along, thus having all come up to full colonies in August and September.

Half a dozen nucleus-boxes and a funnel have become a part of my outfit in bee-keeping, and I use them much more often than any one would think, for with them I can handle bees almost as well as could be done with potatoes; and they will stay where put, when this plan is used, almost as well as would the potatoes. With almost all the other plans of making colonies or nuclei, the great trouble is, that so many bees return to the parent colony that the nuclei or small colonies are so weak as to be of little value, even if the return is not so great that they are absolutely worthless.—American Bee Journal.