

again a little. You will understand that the parent colony contains the queen cells and when the first of those cells hatches out that parent colony is going to cast what is called a second swarm. Those cells will hatch sometimes in eight days, other times they will run ten or eleven days. If you have been at it quite awhile you can tell by the examination of the cells. For the beginner I recommend the following. On the seventh day I take the parent colony up and set it down on the opposite side of the hive. That means that all the bees which have flown from that parent colony when they go to the field and come back in search of their home will return to the old stand. Their hive being gone they do the next best thing and unite with the colony near it. That takes out of the parent colony all the bees that can fly and it is done just at the time when the queen is being hatched. Consequently, with the queen hatching at that time, she has no bees that can fly by which she can form a swarm and take them off. On the other hand, if it is about eleven days they will gain sufficient strength in that time to cast a swarm again. So I give them another move. About the 10th or 11th day I take them up and put them where I want them.

Another factor in the manipulation of our yards comes in now; spring management. Begin it while the swarms are on. There are three elements necessary in order to have successful spring management. One is good queens. Another is plenty of stores and another is warmth, and I might add a fourth, let them alone. We provide for the good queens now. If any of your colonies lack good queens this is the time to remedy the defect. We will suppose you have a colony that has done extra good work and you want to breed from it. After it has cast a swarm you raise it up and you

will find that queen cells have been built along the bottom bars. Just before they are ready to hatch you get a jack-knife and go along and nip them off and slip them in what we call the cell protectors. Those cells will hatch in a couple of days. You have some colonies you want to re-queen. You go to such colonies that have cast a swarm a day or two before, take a knife and knock off the queen cells, then take one of the protectors with a cell in it from your select colony and put a little pin through it cross-wise and shove it down between the combs and when that cell hatches there is your queen. I have raised queen cells in nurseries, artificially. Some of the cells I have been doubtful about whether they were going to hatch or not. I take the little blade of my knife and split them down carefully, spring them open a little bit, look in and if they are all right close them up and stick them in the protectors, and put them in the hive and they will hatch. You can tell the age of them, too. You can pick an extra queen in the same way. If there are any of your young queens whose blood is not up to the mark and you want to introduce a superior strain that is the way to do it. If you want a good colony of bees, breed from the best and you will find it will pay.

Now, we will suppose the season is over, and we have got to the end of it. When these cases are finished, no matter whether comb or extracted honey, I recommend taking them off. For that purpose I use the Porter escape. That escape will clear any case of bees unless it has a queen or brood or is put on too late in the season, when it is cold.

Another thing, I want to draw your attention to is this. About the last of July, if your locality is like mine, you will get no more honey. When you take the honey away from your bees