

LESSON LEARNED.

Now as to its lessons. I have learned that the bees should have liberal stores in the spring otherwise brooding will be slow and the bees will not come into condition in time to harvest the crop, feeding therefore should be resorted to, and every colony that has not an ample supply should be liberally fed and thus forced into condition in time for the harvest. A dollar spent in this way I feel sure would bring a return of 100 or perhaps 200 per cent profit.

"Contracting the brood Nest." I had read more or less of the advantages of contracting the brood nest for comb honey. But had not tried it until this season. I use the Richardson hive, and contracted it to 6 frames, put on a queen excluder and a case of sections, and ran in a swarm. Next day they decamped without having done a particle of work in the hive. We overtook them in a neighbors field, I by a liberal use of water brought them down. Hived them in a hive with free frames and they went to work like Trojans.

A few days after I ran another good swarm into the contracted hive, they accepted the situation and went to work. But in 15 days and before they had filled the case of sections, they swarmed out, leaving scarcely enough bees to care for the brood. On opening up the hive I found first, nearly all the comb made in the brood nest from starters built for drones,—the Queen was only one year old; secondly, I found no less than 36 Queen cells on the way to completion. Some of them capped over, and only a small amount of worker brood. I cut all these out, took out the dummies and ran in a small swarm that was just then conveniently at my disposal first removing the drone comb and filling up with other good worker comb, and now I have a strong colony there. one or two other experiments on the same hive resulted a little better but altogether I do not see any particular

advantage in it. and will not resort to it again.

"FULL SHEETS OF FOUNDATION FOR SECTIONS AND NO QUEEN EXCLUDERS."

I have tested this with much more satisfactory results. Last session I tried producing sections without excluders, but did not use full sheets of foundation, the result being that in most cases the bees built out the balance with drone comb and the Queen filled it with brood. I find this season in every case where full sheets of foundation was used and all worker brood comb made the queen did not come up to lay and I had five sections without the use of excluders. I managed a single colony for a neighbor in this way and they made four full cases of 27 sections each of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{1}{2}$ sections each case netting about 30 lbs or a total of 120 lbs of comb honey, and were at the last crowded for room. I am now quite satisfied that if full sheets of foundation are used in the sections we can save the bees the annoyance of crawling through excluders to prevent swarming. In the first week of warm weather after the rains were over. I took out all frames in the brood nest that had no brood, spread the frames having brood in over to the sides and put in empty frames of worker brood alternately between the other combs, put on a Queen excluder and a surplus case filled with combs, and in nearly every case there were no swarms. On some colonies I tried putting supers early, and when they got fairly to work in this I raised them up and put still another under, but when they had the upper super filled they swarmed out. So that I am now more in favor of removing all the honey from the brood nest and giving the Queen plenty of room.

As this communication is now much too lengthy. I will reserve what I have to say of my experience with "Harmony Hives" and a few other things for another issue.