

uncapped sometimes too much, and have made a mistake ; but it is well to uncap two or three in an evening in the bare time, in order to supply them with unsealed stores and to feed the larvæ. I get the honey used up rapidly, and I increase in bees. A little later on I uncap more. Some bees will not uncap the old sealed honey fast enough, when they are caught suddenly, to keep pace with the amount of larvæ on hand ; then it pays to look after uncapping or bruising. This year I went through the colonies three times between fruit bloom and clover, and with 95 colonies I had it so arranged that almost every frame was filled with brood clear up to the top bars and from end to end to the outside wall. Did it pay ? Yes ; I never did anything in my life that paid so well. I would not advise every one to do it ; some might go on a morning of a spring day when there was not much to get and uncap too much. You must use judgment.

Mr. J. B. HALL : Mr. Heise's paper is excellent ; the only part I object to seriously is that which says he does not practise it himself. I differ with him a little in the crowding of the bees in the fall. Bees are like communities : sometimes in the community there are no deaths, and other times deaths are large. If you contract them in the fall, they still want contracting in the spring. My practice with bees several miles from home is to leave them just as they are in the fall, and give them sufficient to last until fruit bloom. Do not unpack your hives ; don't clean them out ; they will clean themselves out. The contraction, if any, should be done in the spring and not in the fall. I think Mr. McEvoy will differ from me.

Mr. McEvoy : Certainly, on that point.

Mr. HALL : My experience is this : the weak colonies winter better than the very strong colonies. The middle colonies are the ones that winter best ; the very strong colony is dead, generally speaking, in the spring, or very weak, and that is the time they want contracting ; so do your contracting in the spring instead of the fall. The bees will contract themselves and get into a small compass. We never clip our queens like Mr. Heise said. We clip our queens, of course ; we cannot run after swarms. We hunt our queen and, after finding her, we simply set her outside at the hive, and we get down on one knee at the business with a very sharp knife (shows), and we simply get the queen by the wings and use the knife, and take away the part we lay hold of.

Mr. HEISE : Mr. Hall says a colony of bees will contract themselves in the fall. We know that : why then not contract the space to accommodate the size of the cluster ?

Mr. HALL : In the spring, when you open up the hive at the time of fruit blossom, you will have eight cards of brood, with perhaps four or five pounds of honey in them. Then, as far as taking weak bees and uniting them with others, you are wasting your time. If they cannot pull through themselves you are better without them.

Mr. HEISE : I would not attempt to equalize the bees by taking from the strong to build up the weak. But would it not be better to take the weak ones and put them together ?

Mr. HALL : My experience of over twenty years is that if you take nine weak colonies and put them into three, you will have three weak colonies ; if you shut them down and do not meddle with them at all, there will be sure to be some of those that will come up and be good colonies, and the others that are no good will die out ; and if you put them together one of the poorest queens might be the one saved.

Mr. HEISE : I did not advocate uniting weak colonies in my paper ; I advocated, where there were queenless colonies, to unite them.

Mr. HALL : That is worse still ; these queenless bees were born the fall before.

Mr. HEISE : Mr. Hall, referring to about 10th to 20th April, how many young bees would you find hatched in that hive ?

Mr. HALL : If it is a good stock of bees there will be more bees than we put in in the fall.

Mr. HEISE : Your colony differs from mine.

Mr. HALL : We do not open them except they are hungry. We do not open a stock of bees in our yards until the fruit blossoms. We let weak ones die if they choose.

Mr. DICKSON : Between apple blossoms and clover is a blank ; sometimes there is a week and sometimes possibly a week and a half—I am down in the extreme

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