

Spring Management

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and everything will be all right. This does the work of uniting with one manipulation. But not so with the wire screen idea. Should there be a considerable quantity of honey in the strong hive, or honey coming in from natural sources, a shallow extracting super should be placed above the weak colony to hold the surplus of stores, or the queen in the top hive will soon be crowded for room to lay.

Where just a few colonies are kept, and there being other bees in the same neighborhood, a simple way to feed light colonies in early spring is to fill a fruit sealer with bee feed, and put a piece of cotton cloth over the mouth of the sealer; then turn on the ferl until the upper rim of the ferl is within half an inch of the cloth. This forms a bee space when jar is inverted over a hole cut in the quilt or honey board above the cluster or frames. Where a honey board is used above the frames, quart bottles may be used to hold the bee feed. Tie a cotton cloth over the mouth of the bottle, have a hole bored in the honey board sufficient size so the neck on top of bottle will fit the hole like a cork. Bees in a cellar can be fed in this way, only I like to wax the cloth and make a small hole in the waxed cloth with a 17-gauge wire nail, and invert this right over the cluster. I have fed bees in this way in outdoor wintering, placing the feeders on in the fall when bees were packed and leave them on hives till spring, when I would find some feeders empty and some more or less full. With one small perforation in feeder only four or five bees can get at feed at once, and in this way there will be no excitement.

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