

CUBAN SHOOK SWARMS; SHAKING A SOLUTION OF THE FOUL-BROOD SITUATION; WHEN AND HOW TO SHAKE; THE EFFECT OF SHAKING ON BLACKS, CARNIOLANS, AND ITALIANS; SHAKING GIVES PERFECT CONTROL OF SWARMING.

By Harry Howe, Cuba.

I have made several hundred of them this year, and "am still shaking." There are two reasons for this - to control swarming and to keep clear of foul brood. On account of the latter, as well as the high price of foundation, I use starters this year entirely.

Last year I used full sheets of foundation, and I cannot see that they are of enough advantage to pay the difference in cost, though perhaps they would in a colder climate or a shorter honey-flow. There is a difference between shook and brushed swarms when some bees are left. In brushing you get those that the brush hits, and leaves those that it misses, while shaking takes those that have the poorest hold of the combs, and leaves those who hold on better. The result is, in the latter case, that the queen is about certain to drop off, while the bees that are left are the young nurse bees that are wanted to care for the brood. Even in this hot climate there must be bees enough left to care for the brood until some bees hatch.

In shaking, make a quick vertical move, and no honey is jarred out if not too violent, but if the combs are slanted the honey on the lower side is spilled. This, however, does no great harm, for it stays with the bees in the old stand, and they will look out for robbers. I smoke pretty well so the bees fill themselves with honey. The old hive should be filled with frames about as fast as the combs are shaken out, to make a place for the bees to cluster, or they will run out

of the entrance or boil over the top, and perhaps lose the queen.

The best time to shake is toward night, for the bees are not so apt to swarm out. In case a frame of young brood is left, there is very little danger. If they do swarm out they are not apt to run away, for they will usually stay several days before leaving the limb.

Blacks are much more apt to swarm out than Italians. Carniolans build combs faster than the others, and build up quicker; or at least, those in one of Coggshall's apiaries do. The brood is to be put into a new hive and set facing away from the swarm. I stop the entrance with green grass; and by the time the grass wilts the colony is able to care for itself. In filling the hive with brood I put in ten full frames, the combs of honey or those with but little brood being put either on other colonies or extracted. This makes less increase and stronger colonies. Sometimes there will be brood from three different hives to make one.

I give a queen-cell at the time of shaking; then by the time the brood is all hatched there is a young queen laying. This colony can then be "shook" in its turn. but, of course, there will be no brood, so the bees are all left.

I melt up the combs for wax after extracting what honey there is. By this means I hope to keep clear of foul brood and to get a lot of wax. I consider "shaking" the most valuable thing that has come up in the bee journals for a long time, for it gives "perfect" control of swarming.

No man loses anything by being true and steadfast to his convictions. He may not be popular, but what does that amount to? Conscience is, or ought to be, dearer than human favor or approval.