

nice weather begins about the 16th of April. Make sure that the weather is fine, and the snow all out of the sod, and the grass on the ground is dry. I advise and practise putting the bees out at night, making sure that the following day will be a nice day. When morning comes the bees do not run out. If you put them out in the day time when the sun is shining the bees will rush out all in a jump and tumble. I have reversible bottom boards. In the spring when you put them out your hives require cleaning out. Go out with an assistant early in the morning before the bees have attempted to fly. Pick up your hive; your helper takes the board away and you put a clean one in its place. You go to the next and so on. This saves your bees a lot of cleaning out and gives them a good clean start.

In coming across a hive which feels somewhat light, chalk on it "light." If you come across one that is heavy mark it "H." Then go over the yard, examine and equalize the stores, but do not uncap any honey for fear of robbing. If you have not outside protectors to drop over the colony, take four or five thicknesses of newspaper and slip over. Now you have got all your colonies comfortable. You leave them alone.

In the spring, as a rule in every case the queen starts laying in the centre of the cluster. Now make sure every colony has a queen. If you have got a weak colony and you know the queen is a young queen from last year, laying in good shape, try to build her up by simply taking away whatever surplus comb is there that the bees can't occupy. Crowd them up close and put in a false division, the size and shape exactly of a comb, only slotted. If the colony only occupies about two or three or four combs fill in the dead space with a cushion or something so that there will not be that vacancy. If I find a colony

that is strong, occupying six or seven frames without a queen, I take the weak colony and a good hive and place them side by side and give both a touch of smoke. I take out three combs out of the centre and shake the bees in front and let them run in. Take out the weak colony with a good queen, and put them in there quietly, and after you have got all in there cover them up and give them a little touch of smoke; it disarranges them and destroys the scent of both colonies. Give them, preferably, a little tobacco smoke.

The critical period for beginners, and indeed everybody, is between apple bloom and white clover. Keep the queen breeding right through this period. I practise a system of feeding. If I find that a colony requires an extra supply, that is a comb or so, I give it a comb and put it along side of the cluster, but if I want to do general feeding I adopt outside feeding. An outside feeder that I use is made 30 inches long by two feet wide; the depth is 3-16 of an inch, screened; the idea of which is that your bees gather on the top and can take the honey away home and they will not daub. This is ahead of even a float. I have a tank which holds about 60 lbs., with a faucet; and a rubber tube fits onto the end of it. I fill that up in the morning with water and buckwheat honey or granulated sugar, dissolved in the proportion of one and a half to two. The honey or syrup is let on gradually and it flows all over. You only start a little the first day and the bees get started; then you can regulate your faucet and just simply allow it to flow over enough so that they will take it away. That keeps the queen laying right on.

When the clover flow begins, you must have the workers, but the colony that hasn't honey in the hive is not going to give you the workers. Possibly you may have had a good supply of

April, 1911.

soft maple, and when a sudden change with simply enough through the brood. A good queen amount of brood, bees die from a man thinks perfect foul brood.

We have now If you have got I should advise of foundation. I pays.

If you want to get on your comb don't wait until bloom in the field possibly a week or begins to bloom, a better care of the Put a sheet of paper and then your upper you have got your will perhaps be but you see a swarm or didn't expect any What has happened colony that supercedure may be an early queen. I go to the and see what is to find there are a lot and some hatched that has been led of I shake that swarm front, and I leave the I advise the beginner he can of his work hour or so before sunrise that he won't be with robbers, and then and more tired at night back with the virgin all the cells. You must in from 10 to 12 days, is laying.

The clover season is want to watch careful