

we have to take from the hives to reduce the brood nest will not suffer from exposure.

Each hive is opened and reduced to six frames, leaving those best filled with brood and eggs. Those frames taken out may be placed in a hive with a portion of young bees adhering to the combs, and form a new colony. At the expiration of a couple of days a laying queen may be given this hive—ordinarily she might be introduced at once—which will be ready in three or four weeks, or so, for a section case, and will send off probably a young swarm, which would be made to stay at home, or equivalent to that, of which I will have more to say about subsequently.

A CLEAN SHAVE.

The old hives now have six frames which should be carefully shaved, over the portion containing honey, to seven-eighths of an inch, and spaced in the hives to bee-space—three-eighths of an inch. If the frames are fixed with reversible attachments—as I would have them—reverse the frames and use a dummy on each side so the surplus case will fit without leaving any open space. 24 or 28 pound sections supplied with thin foundation sheets are enough, and perhaps if half the number could be so arranged to place on at first it would be better than the larger number. After these sections are all filled with comb, and two-thirds of the upper portion capped over, this case may be raised and another case of the same size placed upon the brood frames. A wide frame containing eight sections may be placed each side of the brood frames—removing the dummies—but I should expect they would be immediately filled with eggs by the queen.

If the honey flow is copious, our five stocks will each send out a new swarm by the 10th of June. Hive them upon empty combs or sheets of foundation, and, if preferred, the new colony formed by frames of brood taken in reducing the old stocks to six frames when putting on the section cases, may be drawn upon to the extent of a frame for each new swarm, replacing the frames so taken by empty comb or foundation, which the laying queen will quickly occupy.

Restrict each stock to sending off one new swarm, and these new ones not to be allowed to swarm at all. Such first swarms will probably swarm in about four weeks. Let the swarm issue, hive in the ordinary way, place on a new stand a little distance from the former stand, and run the frames from parent colony, bees and all, into the new hive, in the new location; place on the surplus case, and things will be likely to go on through the season without mere trouble by swarming. If they do swarm out again, after a couple of weeks, run them over again, and keep to work in surplus room.

The old stock, having all queen cells but one removed, five to eight days after sending off, the swarm will very likely swarm again, in three or four weeks, when they, too, should be changed over as described for the others.

SOME ADVANTAGES.

Objections may be raised to this plan on the ground that if one has a large number of colonies, it is undesirable to increase as fast as this method contemplates.

In rebuttal it may be urged that, as a rule, the old stock and one new swarm issuing from it,—all things being favorable,—will store more honey than the old stock alone, prevented from swarming. Again, the method I have given somewhat in detail, contemplates putting only strong stocks into winter quarters. Reduce the number of colonies by doubling up at the end of the honey harvest; make sales of stocks according to value, reserving the best for yourself as you would select your sheep and lambs, keeping the best yourself and turning the inferior ones to the butcher at what they will bring.

But this course of allowing the old stocks to cast a swarm need not be followed, if one is satisfied with the product of that. By running over the combs and changing to new locations two or three times, the increase probably would be largely checked, if not entirely prevented.

INCREASE OF COLONIES.

If one has but a small number of colonies and wishes to increase as fast as possible and yet get as large amount of surplus comb honey as possible, I know of no better plan than the following:—

We will say the apiarian has four colonies. By the methods I have given, encourage breeding in the spring and when the times arrives for putting on surplus cases contract the brood apartment to five or six frames, shaking off nearly all the bees from the frames removed, and place them in a hive with a laying queen. Shave all brood combs to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch and space to $\frac{3}{8}$. When the old stocks send off new swarms capture the old queens and return them to their respective hives, supplying their places in the new season with young, laying queens, which can be introduced at this time without much danger. Remove all queen cells from the old stock to prevent after swarms and let brood rearings proceed. By this method in a good honey flow, colonies may be increased very fast and a good amount of surplus honey be obtained.

The plan of shaving the combs to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch thickness and spacing the frames to bee-space I believe to be of considerable importance. The idea was not original with me, but as far as I know to Mr. E. P. Churchill belongs the honor of first giving this method to the bee-keeping world through Maine's great newspaper the *Lewiston Weekly Journal*.

USING THE EXTRACTOR.

Can the extractor be used to advantage in running an apiary for comb honey, by extracting the brood frames when putting on the surplus cases? This is a question I am not fully prepared to answer either way, and certainly not in the negative. I have used the extractor in that way and thereby secured a good amount of honey, but it is generally a mixture of fruit-bloom and clover honey, neither one or the other. On the whole, I am not sure but as good results will be obtained by letting the honey remain in the combs when manipulating the