

may not be the best according to the records, and into these same cells insert larvæ from the best colonies, being sure to obtain them not more than two days of age from hatching. We are keeping bees for honey, and not for the purpose of maintaining beautiful insects on the premises, and for this reason the selection of queens and drones should be based upon the amount and condition of the honey produced, the temper of the bees, and such other features as the apiarist may wish to emphasize.

8. A good queen does not necessarily mean the one that is beautiful in color, nor always one that is large in size at the time of receiving the same by mail. A good queen is one which keeps the hive so well filled that the workers are forced to put in double time on the general order of "upstairs with the honey." A good queen is one that has a record in her ancestry, not of mere purity of breed, but of actual work performed. It is advisable for the small apiarist occasionally to introduce such a queen, and then make an effort to propagate her strain. From one good queen an entire apiary can soon be worked over to become her individual strain or kind. We should warn beginners and the smaller bee-keepers against the general introduction of queens of several different kinds. After their first year the results are liable to be a hybridization that may be quite undesirable; but as we cannot at present foresee the results of the importation of so many different races of queens in one apiary, it is better to "make haste slowly" and "hold fast that which is good." It is yet our belief that a good, active strain of Italians, making a record for honey production, is the best that can be obtained for all-round purposes.

9. The bees should be given close attention during certain seasons of the year. Even the keeper of the home apiary should realize that, for the short time he works with his bees, he is liable to obtain ten times as much profit as can be had from the same amount of time and effort expended upon something else, that may perhaps need his attention at the same time. The important periods of the year for watching the bees, are during the month of September, or but a little later, to see that winter stores are present in abundance, and feed if necessary; then during October or November, see that chaff cushions are placed on top of the

hives to cover the bees entirely and keep them warm, and especially dry, by absorbing moisture, and also see that the hives are covered or protected by being placed in proper winter situations. Next, in the spring of the year, prevent too frequent flying when the air is becoming warm, but the ground may yet be covered with snow, and result in spring dwindling. At that time we would recommend restraining the bees with wire netting over the entrance, after making sure that they have sufficient stores. In our opinion, one flight per month, for cleansing purposes, in early spring or latter part of winter is sufficient. Who differs and why? Stimulative feeding, shortly before the first blossoms, will come next in order; then watching the hives for the first whitening of the comb near the top bars to indicate date for placing the supers to receive stored honey, and at this time inspect for drone comb as one of the first evidences of their swarming, and remove the same from colonies in which drones are not desired; then a little later occasional inspections for queen cells; the clipping of the wings of the queen at any time seen is in order; the placing of queen traps and drone traps if desired, and the raising of nearly filled supers to place new ones beneath them, or extracting honey from the hives almost filled, in accordance with whether the product is to be comb honey or extracted, and watching occasionally through the summer that the hives do not become filled by an unexpected flow, and watching against robbing in late summer, will constitute nearly all the attention that the bees may demand for success in the home apiary. In many cases the owner may be able to look through the hives by giving less than five minutes to each, and this means that in the average apiary of the small producer an hour per week will be sufficient to keep the owner informed as to what is taking place. Of course, he should be wise enough and prompt enough to act immediately upon any hint that he may receive from the busy workers.

10. The bee-keeper, whether small or extensive, should keep pace with the times and learn the modern methods, in order to practice those that are tried and found effective. He can do this best by reading the bee journals and attending the Association meetings, and discussing the subject with his neighbor bee-keepers.