

OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, A  
STRONG COLONY WILL STORE  
THE MOST SURPLUS.

Admitting that extra strong colonies very often fall behind medium, or even light ones, at the beginning of harvest, yet, since it is bees that gather the honey, is it not reasonable to suppose that, OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, an extra strong colony will often store more than twice as much as the medium one, especially of comb honey?

This brings us down to the "present condition" of our colonies, upon which depends our success or failure in a far greater degree than upon numerical strength.

A hive may be overflowing with bees at the BEGINNING of the harvest, and yet be a disappointment to the bee-keeper; all because the RIGHT CONDITIONS do not exist. Our success in comb honey production depends upon a certain condition of our colonies called normal or natural, and every bee-keeper who aspires to become a successful comb honey producer should see that every one of his colonies are up to this condition at the beginning of the harvest.

A COLONY IN A NORMAL CON-  
DITION NEVER BECOMES  
TOO POPULOUS.

A colony may be said to be in a normal condition when it contains a vigorous queen and plenty of good, clean, worker combs, and, at the beginning of the honey flow, is well filled with brood and fairly boiling over with bees. With such a CONDITION, it is doubtful if it can become too strong from one queen.

Reasoning from effect to cause, we have found that the unnatural

results first mentioned can be traced almost invariably to a failing queen; and, since the slightest failure of the queen will often throw the colony into an abnormal condition, it is difficult to estimate the actual loss occasioned by allowing the bees to re-queen THEMSELVES. I believe this loss is far greater than is generally supposed.

By giving to each colony, at the close of the harvest, a young and vigorous queen, all this trouble can be avoided. Such a queen will rear brood late in the season, which insures a strong force of nurse bees the following spring, and, consequently, a strong force of workers for the coming harvest.

IMPROVEMENT IN STOCK AN  
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN  
RE-QUEENING.

Another important point in this discussion, one which no bee-keeper can afford to lightly ignore, is the improvement of our bees that may be brought about through queen rearing. A weak and debilitated mother cannot reasonably be expected to produce vigorous offspring, hence, an apiary that is run on the non-swarmling plan, and permitted to rear queens from feeble mothers, in supersedure, results in a weakened and inferior strain of bees.

On the other hand, by re-queening and rearing queens from our choicest breeders, we are gradually improving our stock, and bringing our apiary to a higher state of permanent productiveness.

To my mind the difference between these two systems is so wide as to leave no room for comparison.

The cost and labor of re-queening have been used as an argument

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