

"Well, after I have the syrup, how am I to feed it?"

"At this season of the year, I prefer to feed it from feeders, as the bees carry it where they wish for winter, and seal it up better than they do where it is poured into the combs, as is a good plan in times of scarcity during the fore part of the season."

"But suppose a person has no feeders."

"Then the alternative is to make them or use such dishes or pans as you may happen to have about the house."

"But won't the bees stick fast in the feed and be drowned, if the syrup is put in such things?"

"Yes, unless you make a float to keep them from doing so."

"How is this float made?"

"Some use pieces of shingles, shavings, corncocks, and such like, but I do not like any of these as they all soak up quite a lot of the syrup. My plan has been, when using such, to fill the dish with syrup, after which I pull up two or three handfuls of green grass and scatter over it, renewing this grass every time I fill the dish. If a milk pan is used you will rarely have to fill it more than twice, and generally not more than once."

"I see. The grass being green and full of sap, it will not allow of any soakage as long as it is green."

"That is correct; and, besides, the bees can work all down and through it so that not a particle of the feed will escape them, while with other floats, more or less of the feed will remain underneath them, as they are too heavy for the bees to move."

"But how do you get the bees to work in these pans?"

"After having the pan filled as I have told you, set it on top of the hive another hive, surplus arrangement, or and place over it the cap of the hive, something of the kind, making all secure, so no robber bees can find their way to it. Set up a small piece of

board, chip, or something, of the kind, so that the bees can easily climb over to the feed when a hole is to be opened to the hive below in some way the most convenient in accord with the hive you use, for the bees to come up through. Now, scatter a few drops of feed down through the hole, and over the chip, when the bees will attend to the rest, after you cover all up securely. However, if you have a little time at your command to make feeders, you will find them more satisfactory."

"How, are they made?"

"From fourth-inch stuff, or something thin like picture backing. Get out two pieces of wood the same size as one of our frames, less half an inch at the top. Nail these on each side of the frame, fitting the joints together with white lead, so as to prevent leaking. If, after making, hot wax or paraffine is run all over the inside, there is no possibility of leakage and all soakage of the feed into the wood is prevented also."

"I suppose this feeder is to be hung in the hive in the place of a frame."

"Exactly. And to fix for pouring the feed in it is best to bore a hole through the top-bar the size of any funnel you may chance to have, when, by turning up one corner of the quilt covering your colony, cutting a slit in it, over the hole, or boring a hole in the right place, the funnel can be inserted and the feed poured in. If a slit in the quilt is cut, the hole in the same will immediately close on the removal of the funnel. If a hole is bored through the cover, a cork of the right size can be used in closing the hole."

"But how about a float for this feeder?"

"As the feeder is only an inch wide there is no need of a float, as the bees can easily catch hold of one side or the other of the feeder and crawl out of the syrup, so that very few, if any, ever drown in any feeder not over an inch wide. If the feeder is made wider than this a float of some kind is necessary." — *Conversations with the little,* in "Gleanings in Bee Culture"