

son. A Carniolan colony serves this purpose very well, as the withdrawing of frames at regular intervals keeps even these prolific queens from glutting the brood nest.

5. If medium increase is no objection, making three colonies out of two at the right time hinders swarming. A modification of this may be sought in exchanging hives. A very strong colony may be transferred to the stand of a weak one, while the weakling is brought up to a high degree of strength by the acquisition of the flying bees from the shifted hive.

6. Make a "shaken swarm" of your bees, and place the old stock close beside the other colony. After some time lift it bodily over to the other side of the hive. This can be repeated, and at the end of 21 days, the hive may be cleared away, giving the full force of bees to the new lot. Instead of this removal of the original body-box many prefer to place it above the other one, as this insures that there will be no loss from chilled brood, which sometimes results when the combs are overmuch depleted by bees.

7. Caging the queen for some days, closing her on one or two frames by means of excluder-zinc, forcibly preventing her from leaving the hive by a trap or excluder in front, have been tried; while some have even recommended that she should be bodily with drawn for even ten days. It may be taken as a truism, however, that force here is no remedy, and a long cessation of egg-laying, from whatever cause, acts in the long run to the detriment of the colony.

8. Simmins says that a colony with a full body below with unfinished combs, or a long hive with a suitable number of combs incomplete in front of the actual brood-body, never swarms. The process seems to me to be expensive, cumbersome, and labor-

ious. While, perhaps, in theory it is about correct, the manner in which it is generally carried out makes it unreliable.

9. Keep no old, failing queens. These are a fertile source of swarms. As soon as the bees feel a desire to supersede a queen their first thought is to secure queen-cells. Once these are started scarcely anything will quite get rid of the crazy impulse.

10. Undoubtedly strains of bees differ very much in their propensity to swarm. If you have bees determined to trek re-queen them. Races, of course, differ very considerably. Our common bee is not given to excessive swarming, but so much of the foreign element is being steadily introduced that they are fast becoming contaminated.

11. The presence of drones in undue numbers make it pretty certain that bees will acquire a desire to seek a new home. The ancient skeppist knew this, and depending as he did on increase, he rejoiced to see the presence of a large body of drones in early June. Under modern methods we can keep their numbers down. If on examining a hive you discover too many drone-cells, shave off their heads if sealed, and place some powdered sulphur in cells which show drone larvae, thus lessening the output of these undesirables.

12. Whenever a hive is opened in May or June, notice the presence of queen-cells, even in a rudimentary form, and quietly, but ruthlessly pinch them with your finger and thumb. The "cure" may be only temporary, but it provides a breeding space. Some of the newer "systems" designed to check the swarming are based on a ready means of observing and cutting out queen-cells.

I think the instinct to swarm, so ingrained in the being of the bee, could