

time I had enough to do to lift the double hives away and replace with new ones before the bees began to return, the queens being clipped. I had heard of 20 swarms issuing at the same time in large yards, but two at a time were enough for me just then. Those five colonies gave me 928 lbs. of extracted honey and increased to 16. At the end of the next season I had 35 colonies and 1400 lbs. of honey from them. I had 30 colonies in the spring of 1904, five having died in the cellar. They yielded about 2,600 lbs. In the spring of 1905, I had 33 colonies when the weak ones were united with the strong ones, they stored 4700 lbs. of honey and increased to 49. Last spring 1906, the numbers decreased to 40, five being queenless and four too weak to go alone. They yielded 1600 lbs. of honey this year and I have 59 colonies this fall.

As to stings, my first serious experience with stings nearly put me out of business. It was when I had only five colonies. They seemed to be trying to make a record of 200 lbs. per colony for that season, and when I attempted to take the honey off, they resented my interference with their plans with such vigor, that I left the hive open and ran to the house saying to the folks when I got there, "There is no use talking about getting used to stings, I will never be able to stand such punishment as this. It is too much for me." But I did not like to be beaten by the little bee so I fortified myself against having another attack by covering my hands and wrists with long, heavy gloves and succeeded in taking the honey off. Ever since that time I have worn gloves in handling my bees, even when clipping queens I use gloves with the finger tips cut off. I know that the wearing of gloves is not looked on with favor by the professional bee-keepers, but when it comes to a question of gloves of defeat, wear gloves.

There are other things connected with the occupation that are not very agreeable, the stickiness of the honey in uncapping, extracting, weighing, and pouring into cans, which has won for the male bee-keeper the title of "Lick

Thumbs" is one of its mildest miseries, so easily reduced to insignificance by the use of water, as to be scarcely worth mentioning, only, we are treating of bee-keeping as an occupation for women, and she who takes it up is sure to find that this feature certainly belongs to it.

She may expect too, considerable hard work and heavy lifting, for in handling 8 frame Langstroth, one of the smallest hives, there are many 60 lbs. lifts, and if she be incapable of lifting that amount, a woman is likely to be handicapped by her inability to move or carry a full hive or super, or a 60 lb. tin of honey. It is well enough to depend on outside help for big days when carrying in supers of honey for extracting, or in weighing it or in crating for shipment or conveying bees from the yard to their winter quarters, but for the common everyday work of the apiary which requires much muscular exertion, the woman who aims to become an efficient bee-keeper cannot afford to depend too much upon outside help.

Bee-keeping may be looked upon as a healthy occupation for women in comparison with many of the avocations to which she is called, wherein exercise, fresh air and sunshine are denied her. It is true there will be times when the humidity of the air and the intense heat of the sun, aggravated by the exercise she is forced to take, through the excessive activity of the bees subsequent upon these weather conditions, may lead her to exclaim, "Why was I ever born to be melted like this," but these conditions usually last for only a few hours in a day and not very frequently through the season, and there are so many rare, beautiful, days to enjoy during the honey harvest, that one forgets the discomforts of a few hot, damp, wilty hours, in the pleasure of those when air and sun and bees combine to make the bee-keepers' life worth living.

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