

same attention afterwards as the colony receives. But this course I fear is not suited to this locality, for I began the season of 1884 with but seven colonies, and closed with 29, and took 400 lb. of comb honey. Both swarms and old colonies swarmed again during August and a few in September, sold one colony and lost 5 queens in wintering, which left me twenty swarms last spring. One queen failed in May leaving the colony hopelessly queenless, so the swarm did not count much during the season. Of these 19 good swarms, I now have 55 good swarms in winter quarters, and have taken about 1000 lbs. of comb honey. You will notice the swarming is disproportionate to the honey I get and when I look into the future, at this rate of increase I am fairly appalled. We had a dearth of honey from the time basswood failed until about Sept. 12th, in which time drones were mostly killed, when from 12th to Oct. 1st, we had a very fine flow from golden rod and general fall bloom. A number of prime swarms had swarmed again before basswood ceased, and if the honey dearth had not then intervened, I am almost certain I should now have 80 to 90 swarms. Like the Dutchman, when the triplets arrived, "dis ding's about blayed out," but like him, how am I going to remedy it. Hiving back seems of no use at such a time. I had prime swarms swarm again within three weeks, and plenty of surplus room in the hive. I had one prime swarm, Italian and Syrian mixed, to swarm again in one week. They were hived on full sheets of foundation, and on opening their hive I found cells partly drawn out generally filled with eggs, not hatched, little caps of queen cells started and an egg in each. I destroyed the eggs in queen cell caps and returned the swarm, when it remained and did well. I detail thus particularly to show the tendency to swarm in my apiary, and my bees are mostly Italians, queens bought in Michigan, in Ohio, New York, Mass, and Georgia, and I see no difference in any of them in this particular. Pringles' method of preventing after swarms is good and to the point, but for the reasons given, would not benefit me any, and if any of the readers of the C. B. J. have any experience similar to mine, I would like to hear from them, with their methods of management, so that when after swarms were prohibited that ended it and their bees did not swarm again the same season. I see a claim in the A. B. J. that if given large brood room bees were not so liable to swarm. Have you had any experience in that direction? Would it not have a tendency to retard after swarming, by a prime swarm, if at the time of swarming their queen was taken away, and they were compelled to raise a young one from a cell,

and would not this add to the amount of honey stored from the immediate flow, as they would not have any immediate brood to care for, they could and would give the gathering of honey their whole attention? And why could not the old swarms be doubled up, so as to make 3 swarms out of the original two, instead of four? I have been using Gallup hives 18 in. long, before swarming giving 9 brood combs and after swarming giving but 7, with 4 section frames to fill the hive. I think I shall experiment with a larger broad nest next year, and yet I hardly see any necessity for it, for I am not troubled with the queens laying in the sections, and I imagine those surplus combs will only be filled with honey and remain as "stock on hand." I would be pleased to have your opinion on this subject, or that of any of your correspondents.

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Colonies can be made to swarm by crowding them up. We have had swarms issue quite unexpectedly when the division board had not been moved back to give them sufficient room. In order to test the matter we have returned the swarms and they would come out again, but when the division board was moved back giving them more room they would generally wait until they got too much crowded again. Any method which admits of giving room in proportion to strength of colony has a tendency to prevent excessive swarming, but in your locality where you have a second or fall flow of honey, the same management as here will not do. You ask if the queen were removed at the time of swarming would that not stop them? The queen is removed as there are only cells in the hive. We suppose you mean to remove the cells. If the cells were removed just before they hatched there would be no eggs or larvæ young enough to commence other queens cells with. If you remove them soon after the swarm issues the bees would take the oldest possible larvæ they could utilize for queen rearing, and produce useless queens. Reducing the strength of colony in proportion to size of hive by removing bees or increasing the size of