

order and loss. For four seasons I have practiced placing them on their own stands and have not had any of the above mentioned troubles, nor have I lost a single queen in the spring. Four years ago I felt a curiosity to know how my bees had wintered and also wished to have their company in the yard. It was a fine sunny day in March. So I accordingly entered the cellar and carried the first hive out, placing it on a nice dry stand in the centre of the yard, they soon commenced to fly out, and I watched them with interest and pleasure as they flew so strong and healthy, but I soon noticed quite a cluster on the front of a corner stand, and I began to wonder what caused them to gather there. Then I remembered that this was the last hive carried in and so belonged to this very stand. To further experiment I brought out the next hive and set it on the corner stand, where the bees had gathered, they at once entered but did not seem satisfied, but the bees that flew out surrounded the stand next to it where they belonged.

I took the lesson, placed each on its original stand, and as I carried the remainder out followed down that row up the next and so on until I had every hive where it was before, without the trouble of numbering hive and stand as some advocate and practice.

The next important work in connection with setting the bees out is examining them. This I have reduced to a minimum by having each hive contracted on five or six combs, the previous fall taking out four or five of the undesirable combs and placing a division board beside those remaining. Thus having the bees snug and tight, clustering while in the cellar right down to the bottom board, and where they can be seen plainly, by holding a candle close to the opening at the back where the hive is blocked up three-eighths or half inch off the bottom board.

A few days before setting out time go through the cellar with a candle and take a peep in each hive. If they are clustering quietly, the bottom board clean and dry, I place a mark on the hive indicating that they are all right and need no examination. Thus I have only the few that are uneasy or those in which the dead bees have not been cleaned off the bottom board, to examine. Perhaps only ten or fifteen out of say ninety or one hundred hives. This is a decided knock in the head to the robber. They do not get any snap that day and attend to legitimate business. I might

just say that when carrying them out, if I notice one unusually light, I mark it to be examined also. Thus we have eighty to ninety per cent, with the propolised quilts undisturbed, air tight at the top, contracted, and, as I consider in the best possible condition for future prosperity. After placing on rance blocks and sun caps on each hive leave them alone for nearly a month until the young bees are hatching nicely and pollen coming in freely, then have a general examination looking into each hive carefully, but quickly, noticing the brood, honey supply and in fact the exact condition of each colony.

If the bees do not cover the combs take one or two away, only leaving those that will be well covered by the bees. Crowd the combs very closely together, brood in the centre and a well filled comb of honey at each side. Place a comb or two containing honey and pollen outside of the division board, (there ought to be a bee space underneath the division board so that the bees can come around and carry this food into the living apartment.) This stimulates brood rearing, keeps them at home contented, on windy rough days and is a perfect assurance against starvation. It also aids in the more generous feeding of the larva, and keeps the bees healthy, and strong, I believe they look upon these combs as not belonging especially to them and the more eagerly and joyfully carry it around, placing it in cells just above the brood, uncapped and ready for present needs. A constant supply is kept in this way until they occupy the entire hive and there is no further room for it.

During the willow bloom they may need more room. The brood should not be spread, the additional combs ought to be placed just inside of the comb containing the honey, and outside the brood nest, never adding more than one or two at the same time and repeating the operation from time to time until the whole hive is full, I generally use combs that the honey has been taken from and that has been cleaned up by the bees, outside of the division board, they are more likely to be filled right up to the top-bar with brood. Always keep them crowded and if anything short of room, so that the brood is well covered and cared for, and the queen looking for more cells is compelled to lay in the very corner ones, thus giving solid combs of brood as we go along.

During the early part of fruit bloom, hives ought to be cleaned all burr-combs, barr-combs, and propolis scraped off the frames and hive. All queens ought to be clipped, this is the most convenient time