

we dare not advise an inexperienced person to attempt it at all.

Mr. Alpaugh—I have never done much spreading; have been very cautious, for the simple reason that the weather may be favorable, nice and warm, just when you do it, and immediately after that it may run a good deal colder, and then you will find yourself with a chilled brood. If the conditions are right, it seems that bees spread their brood just as fast as they can gather, providing there is anything coming in or if they have plenty of stores to look to. You find in the spring brood in the centre and eggs on the outer edge of the brood chamber. It should turn colder and the swarm contracts there is least harm done by drawing away from the eggs.

Mr. Holtermann—When it comes on so that the hive is quite strong, and the centre of it is all brood, pretty well, and there seems, on the outside honey, do you think it might be possible at that time to spread to advantage?

The Chairman—Perhaps; in removing they get stimulated a little, but if they have room and are good and strong the queen will lay all she can if she is removed. The matter of spreading the brood is a matter of judgment, born only of experience.

Is it Advisable to Equalize Colonies Before the Honey Flow; if so, how? Is it Desirable to Double up Weak Colonies; if so, How Weak; When should it be Done, and how?

Mr. Shaver was of the opinion that the good ones should be let alone, and the bee-keeper should build the others up, if he could.

Mr. Armstrong—Supposing I have a colony at a certain spot that is extra strong, but have not got quite enough room, and I have another one in the yard with a good queen, I just take that comb and put it in the other hive. In a very short time you can build that one with the good queen, and you won't note the effect on this strong colony; but from an ordinary colony I would take nothing.

Mr. Roach—I have taken a comb, and brushed off the old ones or smoked them off; sometimes you may make a mistake and do more harm than good unless they are very strong. I have taken them out occasionally when they have been very strong.

Mr. Taylor—I take and double up my weak colonies just before clover. Never

touch a strong colony; give them all the room they like.

Mr. Shaver—Do you think you gain much by doubling up your weak colonies?

Mr. Taylor—Yes, at that time, just before fruit; I put a newspaper between the two colonies.

Mr. Heise—A few years ago I tried to equalize, but it was unsatisfactory. The only way I do now is to take a weak colony and try and get it up to its proper strength.

Mr. Mitchner—We always contract a brood chamber, and give to the weaker ones.

Mr. Shaver said he did not think it paid to weaken good colonies a particle.

Mr. Holtermann—I would sooner let the bees run right along and build up strong ones, and let the weak ones do the best they can, and if there are weak ones at the honey time unite them then—at the clover flow, and then if you want to build up the weak ones at the expense of the strong you can try.

The Chairman—I have done some equalizing; that was in times when I did not have as many bees as later on. I believe you can do it to advantage, but you need to be careful; it is worse than spreading brood—to take from one hive and give to another. Go to your strong hive, take out your frame of hatching brood, take it to your weak colony and replace it for a frame that is just full of eggs, and take that back to your strong colony. You will find them both strong, afterwards, and no loss of brood; the same bees are there to cover the same amount of frames.

Mr. Shaver But don't you lose bees for the honey flow?

The Chairman—Yes, but the idea is to get both queens laying to their full capacity.

Should Supers be put on the Hives Before or After Swarming; if Before, Under What Conditions?

This was the next question for consideration. Mr. Shaver told the Convention that he generally examined his colonies, that he wanted them full of brood; he put on an extract to start with; he did not very often get any fruit bloom honey.

Mr. Heise—They always swarm on comb honey. I crowd them until they are black. I generally run pretty strong ones, and am pretty sure of them. I do not put any comb honey on any fruit bloom; I draw the extract off and put on the comb; very often I will give this