

combs they are treated similarly to the first, except that a frame of honey is placed on either side of the brood, as such colonies are apt to get short of stores, or a cold snap may come to keep them from going to the outside of the hive where their honey is most liable to be. Then, such a colony does not have the number of bees to go to the fields to secure the little early honey there may be, as do the stronger ones in bees, so it is always best to make sure that all will have honey enough, and that close to the brood, to last till the bloom from fruit trees opens. The stone to mark this one is placed on front side of the cover, which says "fair."

As I pass along, I find more good colonies, with now and then a fair one; or a poor colony may be found. When such an one appears on opening a hive, I will find it has brood in only one or two frames, and only small patches at that, while the little honey there is, is scattered throughout the hive. To fix such a colony best, I take the two frames having the brood in and set them near one side of the hive, and then take all the other combs, after brushing the bees off which may be straggling on them, to the bee-house. After getting two combs quite well-filled with honey, which were left over from the previous season, I return with them and place one each side of the two combs of brood, drawing all as near the side of the hive as is consistent with the necessary bee-space, after which a division-board is nicely adjusted to suit the requirements of the little colony, with a quilt carefully tucked about them on top, under the cover, and down the side of the division-board. The entrance of the hive is now regulated so that but one or two bees can pass at a time, and is so fixed that it comes beyond the division board, thus shutting off the cool,

outside air, coming directly upon the bees, as well as enabling the little colony to protect itself much better from robber-bees. The stone to tell the condition of this colony is placed on back side of cover, telling that the colony in the hive is weak.

In this way I go over all the colonies in each row of hives in the apiary putting each colony in the best possible condition when they are left undisturbed till the opening of the fruit-bloom.

When the fruit-trees bloom I again go over the bee-yard as before, so we will again commence with colony No. 1. After opening the hive the first thing to do is to look for the queen to see if her wing is clipped. If I find her wing not clipped, the clipping is now done, as it is much easier to find queens for this purpose now, than it will be later when the hive is more populous in bees.

Having clipped the queen I now observe the brood, and if the colony has gotten along as it should there will be brood in seven or eight combs, the centre ones being nearly or quite full, while those on the outside are from half to two-thirds full. I now change this brood right around, that is, I place the outside frames of brood in the centre, and the centre frames on the outside. This causes the queen soon to fill those part-filled outside combs completely full of brood, while the combs filled full of brood, next the frames partly filled with honey, near the side walls to the hive, cause her to put eggs in them, or in every cell not occupied with honey, so that in a week or so every available cell is occupied with brood, and this in just the right time to produce the maximum amount of bees in time for the white clover honey harvest.

By this time the fair colonies may have nearly or quite caught up with the good ones, and if so they are