

PREPARING TO EXTRACT.

First consideration, hives; next, hives chock full, pressed down and running over with bees. "The Rambler" gets them that way by trying to winter them so that all will be strong early in the season. It is just true to have all swarms so strong as to require no fussing with. Any weak colonies should be braced up and strengthened by judiciously spreading the brood, and about the time supers are put on the strongest brood can be given to the weak from stronger colonies.

A greenhorn will probably kill several colonies in spreading brood, and probably that is a good way to learn the art. If slip-shod box-hive men could spread brood that way, what a blessing it would be.

The colonies all need to be strong when the honey comes, and just a little mad one loafing around. It is well to wait until the brood-chamber gets crowded with bees before putting on the supers, for most profitable extracting, a quantity of empty comb should be in reserve.

We use a super, same size as brood chamber and interchangeable. We have found that when the queen has access to the supers that much brood is reared in it to the detriment of the honey crop. A trial of a queen-excluding honey-board on several hives proved to me that in a crop of 10,000 lbs. of honey, we lost at least 2,000 by not having the boards on every hive. Reason, the queen was kept in the brood chamber, and every comb in the supers was filled with honey, while, where no board was used, there would be three or four frames from half to two-thirds filled with brood. The swarming propensity may not be so easily controlled, but I think that depends upon the extent of contraction; too much may cause swarming. For extracting, a contraction to space equal to eight L. frames is sufficient. I prefer to extract each yield of honey separately; clover, linden and buckwheat, all in their season. Honey put in one-half barrels and tins is best to handle, and sells in the country to farmers best in five and ten pound pails. After the crop is secured take a load of these pails out among the farmers and see how soon they will be disposed of. These few remarks on the value of the extractor come from

THE RAMBLER.

Hartford, N.Y.

The editor then comments as follows:

Yes, the extractor is a great invention, and so are the thousands of machines that will do as much work in one day as twelve men. They have come to stay, but the man must go.

No, Mr. Rambler, I said nothing about making comb honey into sugar. That will not have

to be done until the market is as much glutted with honey in the comb as it has been with extracted honey. Then, if comb honey gets a reputation as bad as the extracted has, it will have to be worked up in some way, or it will never be sold at a profit to the producer.

City people do want honey, but not the liquid stuff. I know that hundreds of bee-keepers are obliged to dispose of their honey by peddling. This is a thing that but few would have to do if only comb honey was produced. In that case there would be less talk about impure honey.

Large amounts of honey have always been used for industrial purposes. Tell us, friend R., how it was obtained before the extractor "came to stay."

Comb-honey was used and the price per pound was nearly three times as much as now. There was less work and expense in producing it.

Produce less honey, do less work and double the profits is our advice. See the point.

"Rambler" makes good points in what he says regarding the use of the queen-excluding honey-board. The queen, if a prolific one, will certainly go into the upper hive and deposit eggs unless some device is used to exclude her.

Can anyone tell us where the point comes in as between the use of the extractor and the labor saving machines of the present day referred to in the first paragraph. The cases are not analogous.

The fourth paragraph contains a statement which cannot be borne out by the facts and, as such is not worthy of refutation.

He says, "produce less honey, do less work and double the profits." Yes, and he might have gone a little farther and added: Take the privilege of eating it out of the way of all but the rich, and leave it the luxury it was before the extractor came into use.

From our English Correspondent.

MEL CAPIT OMNIA.

LANGSTROTH REVISED.

I AM deeply, greatly flattered that the O. B. K. A. should pay British bee-keepers such a compliment through myself as they have by presenting me with a copy of "Langstroth Revised." There is a story of a man writing a book in odd moments while waiting for his breakfast. When the wife and myself have no opportunity to entertain I invariably read during meal times. This is rather hard on the lady but she does not complain. I am so reading