

Work for September

First, eliminate all small colonies by combining them into a few good ones, or by using them to reinforce those already in fair population.

Second, supply every colony with a young queen of the best stock in your yard. This matter would better have been attended to early in August, though mid September is not too late.

Third, supply every colony with enough combs to contain all the stores the bees can possibly need before next season's "surplus flow" by which I mean to emphasize giving much more than enough to carry them merely to the time when they can get a bare living if the weather is favorable—which it often is not.

Fourth, giving sufficient stores to fill those combs and doing it at such a time as will enable the bees to properly prepare and place it, matters which the bees can accomplish far better than we.

Some localities enable the bees to supply their larder from natural sources early in August; others get their supply in September, and in other places the apiarist must either give combs that were filled early in the season or feed sugar syrup.

It has frequently been advised to delay feeding the bees as long as possible in the hope that they may secure more or less from fall flowers and so need less food. Simultaneously advice is given to add honey or acid to the syrup to prevent granulation, to feed the syrup as thick as possible and to feed quickly.

It will be found much better to, early in September, feed each colony all the food you think they will need

and to give the food thin and in several days about it. But here is an important feature: feed each colony all it can possibly take from the feeder in twenty-four hours, and by the doing you will so supply every empty cell with thin syrup that there will be little chance for the queen to enter the brood nest even should she be so inclined. If the weather is warm the bees will have, in another day, converted this syrup into thick and good food, i. e.; will have "inverted" it. Such stores are virtually proof against granulation, and are ready for use at any time without the labor of digestion, a matter of much consequence in the early spring when the old bees' race is most run and young bees are still scarce.

As soon as the bees have got their first lot well disposed of, give them another dose. If the colonies are properly strong, three doses will be sufficient and may be given at intervals of twenty-four hours. If a heavy flow of nectar is now yielded by the flowers let the bees pack every corner and then let them put their surplus in extracting supers.

This sounds like doing things backward first, I know, but I have proved it to be the safest and most profitable way, for the fall crop is so often a failure.

The fifth item, and an important one, is to make your final inspection of the bees as early as you can, and seldom later than September 30, and let the bees seal all tight places remain undisturbed and unopened until next spring.—Arthur C. Mason in American Bee-Keeper.

Keep up hope in bad times,
have the same sun and sky and
the same God and heaven and
the same duties and the same hope.
Hope thou in God—Goodell.