

them, from which a swarm had tried to decamp. I find that they will have two small pieces of comb built, one on each side of the frame of brood given, while queen-cells have been built upon the frame of brood in which the queen has deposited eggs; thus showing that they consider the conditions the same, or nearly so, as they were in the parent hive from which they had issued the day previous.

In these cases of desertion there are nearly bees enough left to protect the brood in the frame, which also shows that they swarm under nearly the same impulse which was upon them when they first left their parental roof. This being the case, when is brood ever a preventive to swarms absconding? Swarms, having virgin queens issue from a plurality of queens in the hive, and not because the hive is becoming over populous; besides, such swarms never leave any unsealed brood behind, without the interference of man. If now they have unsealed brood given them, it secures to them the means of rearing another queen, and as such swarms are always smaller than prime swarms, and the queen will not get to laying in nearly a week, this brood is to them a means of safeguard against accident when the queen goes out to be fertilized.

For the above reason it is always best to help such small colonies along a little whenever they are hived, for it not only prevents their leaving a positive means of getting a queen (should the one they have be lost before she gets to laying), but the brood so given helps them to get to be a self-supporting colony much sooner than they otherwise would be: for the few thousand bees which will hatch out of this comb thus given, are a great help, coming as they do in a time when they are most needed.

In the above we have the true secret of giving brood to swarms when hived, always giving such as have virgin queens, brood, and withholding it from those which have the old or laying queen. This lack of discrimination on the part of those who have recommended the plan, is what has caused much of the trouble in the past.—G. M. DOOLITTLE in Rural Home.

AMELIA JANE BROWN.—April 18th we set out our bees, 22 swarms in all, and they wintered over three feet of water and were in good order except three swarms we had to feed for a little time. But they are doing well now; one swarm came out the 10th of this month and another on the 12th. We have section boxes on all; some are nearly full. How soon should the boxes be put on new swarms. We think the addition of the poultry business quite an improvement to the JOURNAL. Instead of me being Miss Brown I am old Grandmother Brown.

Centre Augusta, June 13.

Buckwheat for Bee-Keepers.

THE cultivation of buckwheat has fallen into disuse in many parts of the country where once large areas of it were raised, and there is quite a prejudice against it as an undesirable crop. Buckwheat cakes for breakfast have been largely superseded by oatmeal porridge, and the change, has no doubt, been advantageous to public health. It was thought, in olden days, that a soil which would raise no other grain was good enough for buckwheat, and being usually grown on poverty-stricken land, the product was often hardly worth the trouble of harvesting. It is not a good grain for any kind of stock but chickens, and few farmers keep a sufficiently large stock of fowls, or think enough of them, to devote a field, however small, to their exclusive use and benefit. One way and another, it has come about that very little buckwheat is raised in these days.

Every farm, to be fully equipped, should have a few stands of bees upon it. The farm is the proper place for an apiary. It is so considered in the old world, and in Britain no farm is thought completely stocked unless there are bees on it. This view will, doubtless, in time, come to be the prevailing one in this country. There are objections to keeping bees on a large scale in towns and cities, and bee-keeping, as a specialty, has been knocked endwise by a succession of bad seasons, which has nearly ruined those who had only the honey crop to depend upon. The tendency now is to make bee-keeping an adjunct to some other business, and general farming, to which it by right belongs, is the avocation with which bee-keeping is most readily and naturally associated.

I will venture then to lay down the proposition that farmers should keep both fowls and bees. If they do this it will pay them to cultivate a patch of buckwheat, from which the bees can gather honey, and the fowls can be supplied with grain for winter use. During the past three years, which have been unfavorable for honey production, wherever the bees had access to a field of buckwheat they obtained a sufficiency of winter stores, while in the absence of this source of supply the bee-keeper had either to feed sugar-syrup, or lose his bees. I know one bee-keeper who lost 30 stocks of bees out of 50 last winter. A field of buckwheat would have carried them through and would have been worth \$150 to him, for his 30 colonies would have readily sold at \$5 apiece this spring. Buckwheat bloom does not make a good quality of honey for the market, but it does well for winter stores for the bees, and when it can be depended