

At the end of the season he declared he would only feed three of his ten skeps, so I bumped the other seven for him, and he got about six pounds of honey from the lot—certainly less than one pound per skep. I gave the three skeps, which it was decided to keep, and which had five pounds of stores, ten pounds of soft candy pushed between their combs, as it was too late in the season to give syrup. The owner may get about two pounds of wax from the combs taken from the skeps which were bumped. I also found light cases of foul brood among his stocks.

No. 2 apiary is nearly close to No. 1. The owner had in the spring but one frame hive (no skep), and the bees being affected with foul brood, died out about Michaelmas time.

No. 3 apiary is about one mile away from me, and his bees are only separated from the twenty acres of sainfoin by the road. He is also a skeppist, and started the year with four skeps, from which he had five swarms. At the proper time I bumped five skeps for him, all healthy lots. I estimated his honey at seven pounds per skep. He has gone into winter quarters with four stocks.

No. 4 began with three frame hives, and during the season took twenty one-pound sections of comb honey (no extracted); had to feed thirty pounds of sugar, got two swarms, and has five stocks for winter.

No. 5. One frame hive (no skeps); no honey taken; had one swarm; fed ten pounds of sugar, and is wintering two stocks.

No. 6 began with one frame hive; took twenty-one one-pound sections of honey; no swarms, no feeding and no increase.

No. 7. One frame hive; no honey taken; one swarm; fed thirty pounds sugar, and has two stocks for winter.

No. 8 began with two stocks in frame hives; twenty-one one-pound sections taken; no swarms; fed twenty pounds of sugar; no increase.

No. 9 apiary, spring count, six frame hives; took fifteen one-pound sections; no swarms; no feeding; lost one stock through foul brood; five stocks.

No. 10 had in the spring three frame hives; twelve one pound sections taken; some feeding required; winters three stocks.

No. 11 began with two frame hives; no honey taken; feeding required; no increase.

It will be seen that twelve skeps had been "taken up" for honey, and that they produced among them forty-one pounds, an average of nearly 3½ pounds each, but ten pounds of sugar has been given to the skeps now in stock, an average or 1½ pounds each. I have also dealt with twenty frame hives,

all single-queened stocks, from which eighty-nine pounds of surplus honey has been taken, being an average of nearly 1½ pounds per hive. But ninety pounds of sugar had to be given as food for the bees, an average of 4½ pounds per hive, or a trifle above the amount of honey taken. Much more food will also be required to keep them alive until the honey-flow commences next year.

There are several more apiaries near me, but the information obtainable is not very reliable, no account having been kept. But I have good reasons to believe that they have done no better than their neighbors. I am also sorry to say that in one of these apiaries—with four stocks in frame hives—the bees were drowned in the recent floods. There are also reasons to fear that many of the above are affected with foul brood. The above account of my neighbors' doings may be considered very brief, but it is sufficient for a comparison between the different ways of working bees, both in skeps and in frame hives, with but one queen in each of them, and those in frame hives with two queens in each hive. I have received many letters from beekeepers, in which they state that the difference between their single and their double queened stocks is greater than those shown here, though I have no authority to make them public. But if the writers would report direct to The Bee Journal, I, for one, should be very pleased to see it in print. I have purposely omitted names, etc., of owners of the apiaries enumerated above, but in case any of your readers would care to test the fairness or accuracy of the statements made, I will be very pleased to furnish names, etc., on being told the number of the case they would like to inquire into.

I must not omit to say that I have also had to give my bees 192 pounds of sugar to make them safe till spring, the cost of which is, of course, included in my year's expenditure. I think the above account gives another proof that a hive with two queens in it, if properly managed, will pay much better than either skeps or frame hives with but one queen in each.

Now, Mr. Editor, I will add no more at present, further than just to say that should the above short account of my bee doings cause a discussion in your Bee Journal, respecting the different methods of working bees, I shall be glad to advance anything as far as I have worked it out in practice.

With the season's best wishes to all beekeepers and hopes for a successful 1895,

G. WELLS.

Aylesford, Kent, Dec. 10, 1894.