

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

BUILDING WORKER COMB.

I HAVE been edified by the friendly discussion of the above subject in your valued JOURNAL, and propose to add my experience, together with my views as deduced from said experience.

I have always been troubled and vexed at my disappointment in endeavoring to get worker comb built in a new hive. I tried hard to get it done again this season, after reading all the technicalities to be observed, and following the latest teachers, and still I am compelled to pronounce the endeavor a failure in my locality, and with my field of operations. I found a single colony out of some forty new swarms, that built *all* worker comb, nice and straight, and I attribute this to the fact that in hiving the swarm, they got mixed somewhat with another swarm, and thus were reduced in numbers to such an extent, that they at once gave up any idea of making preparations for future swarming. It seems if I have a large swarm, they do not lose their swarming fever for some days, and in the meantime, comb-building being actively carried on, they naturally start a large lot of drone, and even after the swarming fever seems to have left them, they continue the work thus begun, to a large extent, though they gradually change sometimes to worker comb, the mischief is done, and the sooner you cut out the drone comb, and give them another trial at it, the less labor will be lost. I generally give a large colony seven Gallup frames, put four wide frames to fill body of hive and immediately transfer super from old hive to the new, and if well filled add an empty one, and I have found it necessary to look after it in two or three days, and take away from one to three frames of partly finished drone comb, give them full sheets of foundation in their places, or cut out to the starter and give them another trial. If at time of swarming I gave the new swarm a comb from the old hive, that had eggs in it, they were almost sure to start queen cells at once, and swarm in from five to eight days. In several instances where only full sheets were given, they utilized the first eggs laid by their queen, by starting queen cells around them, and swarmed in from three to five days, before even the egg had commenced to hatch. Mr. Hutchinson on page 327 gives a very plausible *theory* on the case, but he has not got all the reasons down fine, why bees build so much drone comb. Full sheets of worker foundation, well fastened on wired frames seems my only way of getting satisfactory worker combs built; of course I give them

a chance on one comb out of the lot to build about one-fourth of it as they please.

ABEL GRESH.

Weedville, Elk Co. Pa. July 26th 1886.

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APPLE BLOSSOM VS. WHITE CLOVER.

THE statements of your correspondents on page 333 as to the *quality* of apple bloom honey, are, as a rule, certainly not correct; Prof. Cook is correct. I have had no difficulty in getting a large quantity this season of thick, elegantly flavored, delicious apple blossom honey. It is true it is not as light colored as white clover, but was pronounced the "best" by every one who saw it when fresh. Like cherry blossom honey, which also is a delicious honey with a delightful perfume when new, it loses to a great extent the high flavor and perfume, which exalts it over every other honey, when it has been exposed two or three months, and then has the "quince-like" taste mentioned by Prof. Cook. The bitter taste referred to "apple" is surely due to honey, or its admixture with pollen gathered from other source than apple, for we never have it here. Our honey is never impregnated with bitterness in this locality, except in rare seasons, from chesnut blossom, when white clover ceases to bloom early; our bees then gather considerable quantity of very dark quinine-like honey, and spoil everything left in the hive, for market.

S. W. MORRISON.

Oxford, Chester Co., Pa.

P. S.—I send you a sample of apple blossom honey by this mail. Please say "it is the most delicious honey you have ever seen." It has lost a great deal of its perfume.

We have not as yet received the sample of honey you mention as sending us, so cannot render this court's decision.

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THE CALIFORNIA YUCCA BRUSH.

THESE brushes are the nicest thing that has yet been found for brushing bees off the combs. The species of yucca (*yucca bacatti*) is found on the foot-hills and mountains of southern California. The yucca somewhat resembles the century plant, but the leaves are narrower, being about one inch in width and two feet in length; tapering to a point where they are armed with a sharp thorn, for which reason they are often called Spanish Bayonets. The yucca, like the century plant, dies when it blooms. After the plant has bloom-