

same outside dimensions, in order to permit thorough tiering, one above the other, and all painted alike in color if possible. Again I am painfully aware that but a short distance in location makes a very great difference in management, so that one must be thoroughly posted as to his immediate vicinity regarding flora, etc.

I will now proceed with the result of my experience, combined with the information received as already stated, and it may surprise some to learn that the method actually commences with the successful wintering and springing of the bees themselves; as good strong colonies, having prolific young queens are what is required for this purpose. Weak colonies are only a vexation and should be doubled up at the commencement of the honey flow proper, or assisted with hatching brood taken from colonies that have just swarmed, when little or no increase is desired this system will prove very satisfactory. The time for placing on supers is generally when the bees begin to whiten the tops of the brood with new wax; instead, however, of giving them a case of prepared sections, I prefer adding a half story of drawn comb, above a queen excluding honey board, and the giving of such a super is preferable for the following reasons:

1st The bees are less inclined to swarm, as they enter it more readily, thus relieving the pressure on the brood chamber by the depositing therein of honey from below, or that newly gathered from the fields.

2nd The centre sections are generally occupied first, especially if the honey comes in slowly, and consequently these sections are first filled and sealed, becoming travel-stained by the bees before any of the outer ones are ready for additional room, thus affecting the snow white appearance which all comb honey should possess if possible.

3rd. I have not been able to dispense with the use of separators when giving a crate of sections before the super of drawn combs referred to as the centre sections, are often, bulged (for the reasons given in No. 2.) to such an extent as to render crating them a great inconvenience. I have little or no trouble, however, in this line, provided the supers are well filled with bees throughout, and the honey is coming in rapidly.

4th. As soon as the half story is about two-thirds full of honey and capping has commenced, it is then raised up and a full case of sections containing either starters or full sheets of thin foundation, is inserted between it and the brood chamber.

5th. With me the first honey deposited in the surplus department is not as nice in color or flavor as that gathered after the flow is thoroughly established, therefore as soon as bees are nicely at work in the sections below, it can be removed, the honey extracted as a second class article, and again replaced on another colony to be filled with a first-class article of extracted honey.

Swarming is generally expected about this time, and as I practice the cutting of the queens wings, for reasons too numerous to mention at present, the swarm is treated as follows, viz: As soon as it commences to issue, the hive is approached and the queen secured in a small wire cloth cage, and while the swarm is still in the air the parent colony is removed and a new hive is substituted, containing five Langstroth frames, or their equivalent, filled with foundation, the balance of the hive being filled with dummies or division boards, or a still shallower brood chamber may be used, containing starters only, and the bees allowed to build their own combs. As soon as the swarm returns, and about one-third of the bees have entered the hive the queen is liberated, and allowed to run in with them. The surplus arrangement is now removed from the old colony, and replaced over the new one, having a queen-excluding honey board as before, when honey storing goes on apace as though no swarming had taken place. If little or no increase is desired the bees are all shaken from the combs of the parent colony in front of the new hive, and the brood placed above the queen excluding honey board, on other colonies that have not yet swarmed, and fast as the brood hatches from them they are filled with honey (for replacing in the brood chamber proper in the event of any being short of winter supplies.

If, however, increase is desired, the old colony may be left intact, in other words the bees are not to be shaken from its combs, but allowed to remain alongside the new one, its entrance being turned away at an angle of forty-five degrees, and gradually moved close to the new one so that at the seventh or eighth day the two hives sit side by side. Now at mid-day when most of the bees are flying the old colony is removed to a new location in the apiary, thus depriving it of nearly all the field bees, which go to replenish the new swarm and at the same time depopulating the old one to such an extent that no further swarming may be expected. This latter plan is termed the Heddon method of preventing after swarms, and has proved a success with me in every instance when properly carried out.