

not need feeding if there is plenty of nectar in the field; but it should be plentiful. If there is only a small flow, the building up of the colony will be greatly accelerated by moderate feeding.

The new colonies should be fed plentifully, at least until they have a sufficient field force. Granulated sugar should be used, as it has but little odor, and, therefore, does not incite robbing. I have fed some flour on two occasions, and, I think, with profit, to colonies just made. I put the flour in dry combs and hung the combs in the colonies.

#### IN WHAT PROPORTION THE BROOD SHOULD BE DIVIDED.

The old colonies with the field-forces can pull through easily, even when deprived of all their brood; but such a course is not best. By the time the new brood would begin to emerge, the strength of the colony would be too much reduced for the best work. They should keep at least one-fourth of their brood.

The new colonies should be made with at least six combs. In very warm weather, with no probability of robbing, four, and perhaps three, would do. But I would not advise it.

Queens should be furnished ready to lay; or, at least ready to mate, to each new colony, to avoid loss of time.

#### SECURING MODERATE INCREASE.

Here comes the question of allowing swarming, hiving the swarm on the old stand, or preventing swarming, or, at least, preventing increase.

That depends on the locality, and I will not enter into this subject now. I take it for granted that only a small increase is wanted, and the old colonies are kept as strong in bees and brood as possible in order to get a surplus. In such a case, take a comb of brood, honey, and bees out of each colony, and form the new colonies

with them, complying with the conditions enumerated above. In the place of every comb taken out put in a frame of foundation. As soon as the foundation is drawn the queen will fill it with eggs; and if the operation is repeated every week, enough room will be furnished for the brood, so as to prevent swarming unless some adverse conditions obtain, such, for instance as a failure of the queen. A built comb will not answer, as the bees would fill it with honey. It would not do to take out more than one comb at a time, otherwise some would be filled with honey before the queen could take possession.

#### RAPID INCREASE.

Taking two or three combs of brood and bees, or, perhaps only one out of each colony, and forming as many new full ones as the number of combs will allow, is probably the best way. The operation can be repeated every few days. The trouble is that it is too much work.

#### HOW A COLONY OUGHT TO BE DIVIDED

After trying all the processes advised, I simply divide each colony in two, putting two-thirds or three-fourths of the brood in the new one, and leaving the rest on the old stand. Both hives are completed with empty combs or foundation. Three days later, I look for the queen. Only the new colonies need be examined, and it takes but little time, since they are not strong in bees. Queens are then introduced where needed, and the cells cut out, if there are any.

Laying queens can be introduced anywhere, but the virgins, ready to mate, should be introduced only to the new colonies; otherwise there might be trouble. If necessary, take the old queen out of the new colony and put her back in the old one, and give the virgin to the new colony. A. GETAZ, in Bee-keepers' Review.

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