

in the hive, scarcely a pound of section honey would be obtained."

"Does this include all that is necessary in order to secure a good crop of comb honey?"

"By no means. But it is one of the very important factors in the matter."

"Well, what of the other factors?"

"All know that bees gather honey or nectar, instead of producing it, and that the eggs laid by the queen produce bees; consequently the more eggs the queen lays at the proper time the more bees we have on the stage of action at the commencement of the honey harvest, and the more bees we have at that time the more honey they gather."

"That sounds very pretty."

"Yes. But it is a matter of fact as well, that the queen is really the producer of the honey; for without her no honey could come about, from lack of bees. Therefore, if we wish good returns from our bees we must see to it that we have good queens—queens that can be so worked that they will give us combs full of brood before the honey season commences, so that when the honey harvest comes, these solid combs of brood, together with the boards taking the place of any combs not containing brood, will compel the bees to place the honey in the sections, as there will be nowhere else for them to store it."

"Very good. But how shall we secure combs full of brood and plenty of bees to do all the necessary labor, to secure the best results by the time our honey harvest begins?"

"As soon as spring opens, our bees should all be examined by lifting the frames in each hive; and any colonies which are weak in bees are to be put to one side of the hive by means of one of the division-boards spoken of before, so as to economise the heat of the cluster of bees so far as possible, confining the bees to as few

combs as have brood in them."

"But suppose there is not honey enough for food in the combs they are shut on?"

"In case there is not, I leave a comb of honey next to the side of the hive, and between that and the first comb of brood; and if a part of the cappings to the cells are broken a little on the side next the brood, it will help on the brood-rearing so much the more."

"How long do you keep them confined to these few combs?"

"Till the queen has filled them solid full of brood, and the bees begin to be crowded out beyond the division-board."

"What then do you do?"

"As soon as the queen has filled these combs and the bees begin to be crowded on them, they are spread apart, and a comb of honey having the capping somewhat broken is set in the centre of the brood-nest, or between those occupied with brood, and in a few day's time the queen will fill this also, and thus we are to keep on till all the combs the hive will hold are filled, or the honey harvest arrives, when, as spoken of before, the queen is now limited to as many combs as are filled with brood on the arrival of the honey harvest."

"Why do you put these combs of honey in the centre of the brood rather than on the outside?"

"Because the centre of the brood-nest is the warmest part of the hive or colony; and this, with the removal of the honey, which the bees never allow (at this time of the year) in the centre of the brood-nest, stimulates the queen to greater activity at egg-laying than otherwise would be, so that we are rushing on with mighty strides toward the army of workers which are to gather our nectar during the harvest time. To this one idea of securing workers in time for the