

Questions and Answers

[Questions to be answered in these columns should be sent to us not later than the 15th of each month in order to insure their answer appearing in the following issue. We wish to make this department as useful to our readers as possible and a reliable source of information. For the present at least, the replies will be procured from various sources.]

Managing an Apiary for Extracted Honey.

Question.—I have ten colonies of bees in eight frame Langstroth hives from which I wish to produce extracted honey. It being contended by some that the eight frame hive alone is too small to produce the best results I have decided for the coming season to proceed as follows :—I will add a super with eight frames of comb to each hive without an excluder between as soon as the bees seem crowded for room, either for storing honey or brood raising, thus giving a sixteen frame brood chamber. At the commencement of clover bloom I will extract all honey, if any, in the super and put an excluder over the brood nest to keep the queen below, allowing all brood in the super to hatch out when the super can then be filled with honey. Should they swarm, I will put the swarm on the stand of the parent colony and remove the old hive to a new location after putting the super on the swarm with an excluder over the swarm. Is that as good a plan as could be adopted, or, if there is a better, I think it would be interesting to the readers of the C.B.J. to know the best method to adopt.

R. C. B.

Eglington, Ont.

ANSWER.—R. C. B. after giving the

system that he had decided on for the coming season, asks if that is as good a plan as could be adopted. I cannot say that I would care to have the surplus combs used for a brood nest at any season of the year. If run on the above plan I would expect a genuine case of swarming about the 20th of June. For best results and to keep down swarming the 8 frame Langstroth, in my estimation, is not large enough. For best results in producing extracted honey I would leave one top storey on for brooding, as suggested, and put one above it with a queen excluder between, and after basswood commenced yielding I would place the queen excluder between the brood nest and lower top story. I think the above system would give best results in extracted honey and keep down the swarming impulse, which is a great factor in producing any kind of honey.

C. W. Post.

Trenton, Ont.

Another having seen the above question suggests the following :

Do not use two chambers for brood alone. Unless very strong the bees are always inclined to make primary use of the upper story and if any portion of the two chambers should in a measure be deserted it will be the lower story, spoiling all the combs, to a certain extent at least, for white surplus honey. Put the queen excluder on the body of the hive, raise full combs of capped, or nearly capped brood, as room is required below, placing them in the super, giving empty combs or putting full sheets of foundation below. In this way the bees will brood in fewer combs, the brood chamber will be fully occupied and the bees can store surplus honey in the remaining combs.

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