

WHAT TO DO.

To point out an evil or unpleasant fact is one thing; to indicate the remedy or point out the means by which the evil may be overcome, or partially overcome, is another. When the two can go together the mentor may save himself from hasty and unreasonable censure.

Under ordinary circumstances during a favorable season, August is not too early to begin to prepare for winter. Under such exceptional circumstances as this season presents, it is imperative that such preparation begin this month. If there is no honey coming in from the fields to keep up the brooding, it may be kept up by proper feeding. In the absence of honey, syrup from number one granulated sugar will answer every purpose. One quart of water to two and a half quarts of sugar brought to a boil will be about right. You can gauge the proportion of each by a trial or two, as the syrup, when cold, ought not to be quite as dense as ordinary cured extracted honey in the liquid state. For stimulating purposes a little of this, say half a pint, ought to be fed to each colony daily—in the evening—to prevent robbing. If the hives are "fast bottoms" and tight, the feed may be poured over the frames at the back part of the hive, where it will run to the bottom. By tipping the hive up a little at the front, the feed will settle in the back part of the hive on the bottom-board, whence the bees will soon carry it up where required. In the case of "loose-bottoms," and in the absence of "bee-feeders," the feed may be given at the top in the second storeys in shallow vessels, with floating sticks to prevent drowning. To feed bees in the "old box hives," when full of comb, so that the vessel can not be placed in below the comb on the bottom-board, they must be fed from the top. In almost all box-hives there is a hole or holes through the top of the hives to place a "cup" over, and this may be utilized for feeding. Open the hole or holes and place the feed in under the "cap" as above directed.

This regular feeding (which in apicultural parlance is called "artificial stimulation") will have the effect of keeping up the brooding during a honey dearth, provided, of course, there is a reasonable amount of food ahead in the hive. If there is not, give them 10 or 12 lbs. of the feed at once at the start to store away, and then keep up the small rations regularly.

The brooding ought to be kept up in the fall till the middle of September at least. Then with a stock of young bees to go into winter quarters, with abundance of stores, the risks of wintering will be greatly reduced. Amount of

winter stores per colony, quality, etc., will be dealt with in next issue, which will be in full time.

In favorable localities where there is a full flow of honey from buckwheat and other sources, the feeding is of course unnecessary. But under such circumstances the extractor is generally used a little too freely and too late in the season. And this is one of the causes of winter losses. Extracting from the brood-chamber (which ought to be discouraged) is still largely practised, and those who do practise it ought not to let their selfishness over-ride discretion in fall-extracting. A safe rule is always to leave 30 to 40 lbs. of honey in the brood chamber after the first of August. Extracting too closely in the fall with the intention of making up any shortage by feeding is unsafe and unwise.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

From the Eastern Farmer.

COMB HONEY.

AS the time is at hand for obtaining comb honey, a word about the methods to be employed may not be amiss.

No doubt shallow frames without comb tend to drive the bees in the sections; but at the same time the queen must be suppressed in her duty, namely, to keep the colony supplied with brood; for where there are ample vacant cells the queen is sure to increase even beyond one's expectations. I believe that I first gave the origin of my own plan in the *Lewiston Journal*, a number of years ago, which is in full harmony with the instinct of the bees.

As the queen will only use comb seven-eighths of an inch thick, it must be shaved down to that depth. Now where there is much honey in the comb, it is to be extracted. But the comb must be left, as it generally is, say $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or so apart. They are to be closed up to at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, and by using strips of wood $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$, with a large-headed tack driven in the edge $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch from the top (the strip is half the length of the end-bar of the frame); these are now hung on the tin rest, and the frames crowded against them, one at each end of the frame next to the side of the hive, and so on. At last they are hung between the division-board and the last frame, and all crowded up close. Thus the frames are all spaced alike, and we can move the hives, and yet all is secure. Thus close, the bees cannot bulge much of the comb, and the queen is sure to use the natural thickness, which she has plenty of, and the bees are glad to enter the sections.

I am sure, too, that we need less comb in this