

consists of a given number of colonies, separate and distinct from each other, and each colony has its own needs and conditional necessities.

A vigorous, prolific queen may sometimes by her large family, bring the colony to want—often starvation—in the near approach of the honey harvest, while an inferior queen with a weaker working force will pass the danger point and reap the harvest with an inferior force, with little profit to the apiarist. It is the business of the wide-awake apiarist to know

an extra good honey season, my comparatively large apiary, located in the rich blue grass regions of Kentucky, attracted so much attention, that people came from far and near to see the novel enterprise of a modern apiary with its modern equipment, and its queen rearing department attached, its shop for making hives and other implements used in the apiary, etc., etc. So many visitors wanted to see the "queen"—the "King" of the dim past—to save time and labor, I prepared a strong colony of gentle Italian bees, so that it



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APIARY OF GOOLD, SHAPLEY & MUIR CO., LIMITED, AT THE HOME OF
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the condition of every colony in his yard, if he wants to make his business profitable, and this cannot be done without "handling the bees."

Is it injurious to bees to handle them often? is a question frequently asked now days, and it appears to me that the dread of 'much work,' is usually behind it.

Judging from my own experience of more than twenty years of observations in the apiary, and practical work with bees, it is not detrimental to them to manipulate the hives and the bees as often as there are causes for such operations, and thousands of valuable colonies of bees are saved by watchful care over their internal condition. Some years ago, during

was rapidly manipulated in showing her majesty to all curiosity seekers, and another colony was kept at queen cell building, to show this phase of bee economy. These prepared colonies were opened up daily, and sometimes a number of times during the day, for weeks, or during a long honey season.

Some people may want to doubt it, when I say that these much handled bees prospered right along, gathered honey, increased in strength, and came through the season in as good a condition as other colonies that had only been manipulated as often as was necessary to supply room, take off honey, etc.

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