

for extracted honey, using empty combs in the extracting cases—not foundation. This will hasten the swarming of the best colonies and retard the swarming of the poorer ones. When a colony swarms the old queen goes with the swarm, and if the parent colony after casting the swarm be examined, it will be found to contain a number of queen cells in different stages of advancement, and when any of these cells are capped, they can be removed and given to other colonies to re-queen them.

To re-queen a colony first remove or destroy its queen, if it contains one, and then exchange one of its combs of brood for a comb having on it a capped queen-cell taken from one of our best colonies which has swarmed and which we wish to breed from. In a few days this cell will hatch, the young queen therefrom mate and shortly after begin to lay.

Sometimes a colony thus treated will swarm when the queen-cell given them hatches, in which case the young queen from it will be with the swarm. This swarm can be hived on the stand of the parent colony and worked the same as any other swarm for honey, and the parent colony given another queen-cell as before to hatch, first being careful to destroy whatever other queen-cells there may be in it, or the bees remaining in the old hive can be shaken off of its combs in front of the hive containing the swarm and allowed to unite with it, and the brood be given to weak or other colonies as most desirable to mature and hatch.

It often happens that a number of queen-cells which we wish to use are built on the same comb. In order to utilize all such it will be necessary to provide ourselves with queen-cell

protectors. These cells can then be carefully removed from the comb on which they built with a pocket knife, placed in these protectors, and when thus caged they can be fastened between the combs of brood in any colony where desired and allowed to hatch. In thus protecting cells use only those which are nearly ready to hatch. In giving a queen-cell to any colony always be sure that there is no queen in the hive, or other queen cell which will hatch before the one you are giving it. Every colony which has not done satisfactory work and swarms should have its own queen-cells destroyed, and be given one of these protected cells taken from one of our best colonies, or else united with some other colony or swarm.

During July all colonies which it is not intended to winter should be united with those to be wintered. In selecting the colonies to be wintered, always select those containing the best queens regardless of their strength, and unite with them the colonies containing the poorer queens, always first destroying such. By thus uniting, the weaker colonies which contain good queens can be brought up at once to sufficient strength to winter.

If a careful selection in breeding and uniting as described be carried out during that season, there will be a marked difference in the honey-gathering qualities of the bees the season following, and if followed up year after year, a strain of bees hard to beat will soon be developed and especially so if in addition to the above a good Italian queen from some reliable breeder be obtained each year, and as many cells as possible developed from her and given to other colonies, and the drones from undesirable colonies destroyed.

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