

4. Don't open your hives except when it is absolutely necessary to do so.
5. Always have an eye on your bees but do not stand in their way.
6. Make perfectly sure that your hives are damp-proof and stable.
7. Always err on the side of giving too much rather than too little stores.
8. No autumn stimulation, and only in spring if desirable.
9. Never put on supers (especially sections) unless hive is crowded with bees.
10. Don't bother doctoring wasted bees, or saving a mere handful.
11. Handle bees confidently and quickly, but no longer than necessary.
12. With bee-goods as with clothing the best is the cheapest in the end.
13. Don't begin beekeeping in 1890, and give it up for good in 1891.
14. Don't expect to get a good thing for a 'mere song'; it's mere nonsense.
15. Don't be itching to send the editor 'specimens,' especially of foul brood.

In What do We Profit by the Importation of Queens.

THE subject which you have given me is one upon which there will be very many different opinions, but I believe that I have given the matter more study and have experimented more largely with it than any other beekeeper of the present day. Perhaps I may also say that I have spent more money on it than I shall ever be likely to do again. It is true that the importation of queens has done much to stimulate and improve apiculture, but I am not convinced that even at this date there are any better bees to be found in the world than those we at present have. The breeding of bees of a superior quality receives more attention in America, (when I say America I include Canada) than elsewhere. The varied climates, the abundance of flora of varied qualities, all tend to assist us in this land, because these play no small part in the production of the races. Of course, without care and skill on the part of the apiarist in his selections for breeding all these will avail but little. The friendly strife among beekeepers to produce bees of the best quality is sure to have a beneficial effect. The crossing of the various races has been of considerable importance in bringing our bees up to the present high standard. I am convinced, after extensive experiments, that no pure race of bees is, or has been imported, that has all the good qualities required and no fixed or

pure race possesses the same qualities and dispositions in every respect throughout. If their habits and dispositions are thoroughly studied and inquired into, we find them varying after the same manner as the human race. As there are no two persons alike, neither are there two colonies alike, and I may add there are no two queens alike. The fact that they may be of a certain color, or that they may possess a certain number of bands is no guarantee of their value in dollars and cents. Because a certain number of men are white it does not follow that they are equally intelligent, industrious and successful, as their dispositions and habits differ. So with the different colonies of bees, although they may all be of the same race. Therefore, because queens may duplicate themselves in color and markings in breeding this does not show their exact value. If we can have these peculiar markings and all the other good qualities as well, so much the better, but let us have above all things, quality first, as it is with the colonies I have just spoken of, so it is with the importation of queens. Their appearance may be just the same but the experienced importer who tests his queens thoroughly will always find some that are scarcely worth anything, while others produce colonies of great value. In and in breeding should be prevented as far as possible, and by selecting from our very best colonies we are liable to secure the best results. I do not mean to say that no benefit will be derived from the importation of queens, because there are many beekeepers in Europe and in the East who are thoroughly capable of testing the queens which they produce, and as they find that they have obtained superior queens, these will, of course, assist us. My principle opposition is to the importation of queens without regard to quality. The superior stock which we have at the present day has been produced by this careful method. Are beekeepers less intelligent than the breeders of other stock? Of course we have not the same opportunities of isolating and of selecting and it requires more skill and care in the breeding, but if we are careful to carry out all that does lay in our power in this direction we can in the near future become exporters instead of import-