

made a mistake, but just to uncap two or three in an evening in the bare time in order to supply them with unsealed stores and to feed the larvæ, in this way I get the honey used up rapidly and I increase in bees. A little later on I uncap more. Old bees will not uncap the old sealed honey fast enough, when they are caught suddenly, to keep pace with the amount of larvæ on hand; then it pays to look after uncapping or bruising. This year I went through the colonies three times between fruit bloom and clover, and with 95 colonies I had it so arranged that almost every frame was filled with brood clear up to the top bar and from end to end to the outside wall. Did it pay? Yes; I never did anything in my life that paid so well. I would not advise every one to do it; some might go on a morning of a spring day when there was not much required and uncap too much. You must use judgment.

Mr. J. B. Hall: Mr. Heise's paper is excellent; the only part I object to seriously is that which says he does not practise it himself. I differ with him a little in the crowding of the bees in the fall. Bees are like communities; sometimes in the community there are no deaths, and other times deaths are numerous; if you contract them in the fall they still want contracting in the spring. My practice is with bees several miles from home to leave them just as they are in the fall and give them sufficient to last until fruit bloom. Don't uncap your hives, don't clean them out, they will clean themselves out. The contraction, if any, should be done in the spring and not in the fall. Notwithstanding that Mr. McEvoy will differ from me.

Mr. McEvoy: Certainly on that point.

Mr. Hall: My experience is this,

the weak colonies winter better than the very strong colonies, the middle colonies are the ones that winter best; the very strong colony is dead, generally speaking, in the spring, or very weak, and that is the time they want contracting, do your contracting in the spring instead of the fall. The bees will contract themselves in the fall and get into a small compass. With regard to clipping queens, we never clip our queens like Mr. Heise has said, but we clip our queens of course; we cannot run after swarms. We hunt our queen and after finding her we simply set the frame outside the hive, then we get down on one knee to the business, get hold of the queen by the wing and with a very sharp knife take away the part we lay hold of.

Mr. Heise: Mr. Halls says a colony of bees will contract themselves in fall. We know that; why then not contract?

Mr. Hall: In the spring time when you examine your colonies during the fruit bloom you will have eight cards of brood with perhaps four or five pounds of honey on them. Then as far as taking weak bees and uniting them with others your are wasting your time. If they cannot pull through themselves your are better without them.

Mr. Heise: I would not attempt to equalize the bees by taking from the strong to the weak. Would it not be better to take the weak ones and put them together?

Mr. Hall: My experience of over twenty years is that if you take weak colonies and put them into three you will still have three weak colonies; if you shut them down and don't meddle with them at all there will sure to be some of them that will come up and be good colonies, and the others that are no good will die out, and if