

make fewer mistakes than you are likely to make, no matter how careful and wise you may be. If you think I am wrong in this matter, set apart a certain number of colonies to try each way, and a term of years will tell you which will pay you better."

"You spoke of an exception in this matter. What did you mean by that?"

"I find that more queens are superseded during the month of August than at any other time of the year: and so by a little forethought, and a little work, I fix it so that the bees will attend to this matter, if the queen is failing, and at the same time accept queens from my very best stock to do it with, instead of supplanting their queen with inferior stock, as they would do if left to themselves providing their mother was not of the best breed obtainable."

"How can you accomplish such a thing as that?"

"It is very simple. Just before the close of the white-honey harvest, at a time when the bees will rear as good queens as at any time during the season, I start queen-cells in proportion to the number I consider I wish, starting them from brood from the queen which has given me the best results during the past; and if I have chosen the right time these cells will be 'ripe' at just the time the bees will be most likely to start cells for supersedure."

"How do you know the colonies which are starting supersedure cell?"

"I do not know this, nor do I think it worth the trouble to find out. I judge from outside appearances, and the amount of white honey stored, which colonies may be liable to supersede their queens, and those I would desire to have do so; and when I have decided this matter, I give one of these ripe cells to each of such colonies."

"How do you give these ripe cells?"

"Always by putting them in queen cell protectors. You know what they are?"

Yes, but that was not what I meant. Tell me how you put them in the hive.

"That part is very simple. Having the ripe cells all in cell protectors, I go to the hives designed for them; and if the bees are still in the sections, I put one of these protected cells in any section where I think the bees will be likely to care for it till the queen emerges. If no sections are on, or the bees have left the sections, then I lift the cover, spread the frames a little, sufficient to allow the cell protector to go just below the top-bar of the frames, when the frames are brought back in place again, which crowds the protector into the comb so that it is held in place as in a vise."

"Any certain place between the frames where you put them?"

"I have had the best results where the cells were placed the furthest away from the the brood, consistent with the bees' caring for them, which is generally near the back upper corners where the most sealed honey is allowed."

"What about the protector? Do you take that out as soon as the young queen has come out?"

"No. The simplicity of this matter is the little work required in accordance with the results obtained. I pay no attention further than what I have told you, not opening the brood-chamber to the hive again till the next season arrives, when the cage is found and taken out, usually when clipping the queen's wings during fruit-bloom."

"Oh! I begin to see. You can tell the number you succeed with by the cage between the combs, and the queens not having their wings clipped."

"Exactly."