

especially where one of the queens is inferior and ought to be weeded out; but this continual depletion of strong colonies in the Spring to build up weak ones is often a very unprofitable business. The manipulator is not, however, likely to see the unwisdom of the plan especially when by its means he has succeeded in getting all of his colonies through to the honey flow in a fairly prosperous condition. If the whole of them could, by the equalization plan, be brought up to the number one condition by the time the honey flow comes, all right; but if not, all wrong, for one first-rate colony at honey harvest is as good as three middling ones. Our endeavor in the Spring should be to get as many as possible in first-rate, number one, order for the honey flow; but not to come out with all in uniform and fair order and none first-rate. In many cases it is much better to take these weak colonies which have been set out and, after seeing that they have plenty of stores and room, set them back in the cellar in good comfortable shape and leave them there till fruit-bloom or towards the end of May. It may be necessary with these to put a wet sponge on top of the frames in one corner under the quilt and renew it occasionally.

It sometimes happens that the old bees in a prosperous colony after being set out "shuffle off" and disappear at an alarmingly rapid rate. In such cases especially in the early Spring the lone brood must be promptly distributed (that is all that cannot be cared for at home) to other stronger colonies or it inevitably perishes. Last Spring I had a very remarkable case of this rapid mortality in one colony in my apiary. The colony was prosperous, brooding extensively, with abundance of old bees when set out, but in a very few days the old bees had nearly all disappeared, and there was a lot of brood left with but few caretakers in the hive. I found them just in time to save them. I would say watch your bees in the Spring no less than in the swarming season. Do not open them often, but watch them. The observant bee-keeper knows almost intuitively when anything is wrong without opening the hive at all, or doing more than looking at the entrance and peeping in at the top. The price of success in bee-keeping, in Spring, in Summer, in Autumn or Winter is "eternal vigilance," and let no bee-keeper forget it.

The essentials of Spring Management may be summed up briefly thus: Set them out at the proper times as above directed; clean them out thoroughly the same day they are put out if possible—if not then next day or next suitable day; be sure and make them comfortable—keep the heat in the hive by some means, for this is a very important part of Spring management; if

they have not plenty of stores supply them for they will not brood freely on a scant larder when the fields are not yielding; give them pollen in the open air before the natural pollen appears; give them more room and more frames of comb from time to time as they may require. Do not, however, go too fast in this matter of "spreading out" for if you do you will pay dearly "for the whistle." In adding room or brood always keep in view the fact of the rapid diminution of the old stock of bees in the Spring. In adding a frame of comb containing honey, uncap *only one side* and do not put it right in the middle of the brood nest as generally recommended (unless indeed the colony is very strong and the weather settled) but put it at one side of the nest with the uncapped side next the brood. Finally, time your management and manipulation so that you will have a splendid force of young workers in as many colonies as possible when the honey flow begins, and when that time arrives if there is any old honey or inferior spring feed in the hives extract it without delay from all extracting frames, and your Spring Management is over.

Hoping your Convention may prove pleasant and profitable to you all.

I am Yours Fraternally,

ALLEN PRINGLE.

P. S.—Let no member present hesitate to criticise any point in my paper merely because I am not present to defend it. If any position advanced will not bear criticism and discussion the sooner it goes to the wall the better, and no one will regret its departure less than myself.

A. P.

You are right; do not be in a hurry about setting them out. You had better make a mistake and leave them in a little *too* long than set them out too soon. We set ours out when the pollen is plentiful on the willow; have set some out after others had been gathering pollen over two weeks and we found that the ones set out last were in the best condition when the honey harvest commenced. We do not return any to their winter quarters, unless weak ones that need a little attention. These we sometimes carry to a warm place at night returning them to their original stands every morning when the weather is suitable; but in any other case we leave them in for days only putting them on their summer stands when the weather is suitable. Thus many light colonies may be kept without loss until young bees are hatched in sufficient