

SHORT-CUTS IN BEE-KEEPING.

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In practising the short-cuts in bee-keeping the first thing to commence upon is yourself. Don't go into the battle and find that you are out of information and ammunition; be prepared and then don't worry. It is a fact, perhaps, that no class of men worry so much about the weather as do bee-men. Who was it that said,

As a rule, man's a fool;
When it's hot, he wants it cool;
When it's cool he wants it hot;
Always wanting what is not,
So, as a rule, man's a fool.

Remember that the sun is everlasting, and that the clouds are only temporary, and that it is best to turn them wrong side out occasionally; so you can see the silver lining; and when you cannot count your profits, count your other blessings. That was the only way I could get any comfort this season when, I figured up that my sales had been \$400 and my expenses \$1,500.

In giving my ideas of the "Short-cuts in Bee-keeping," I shall give them from my own viewpoint, that of working for comb honey, not with a hundred colonies, but with more than one thousand, in a climate such as is found only in the arid west.

If you intend to keep bees on a large scale, establish a large home apiary and have ample shop and warehouse where all work is done and supplies kept for the out-yards. Don't build a lot of useless honey houses at each out-yard, but get the habit of loading your wagon with a good sheet, which is always bee-tight if properly secured.

Much valuable time is lost by taking all supplies from the wagon to a honey house, then out to the bees, and taking honey from the bees to a honey house, to be again moved in a short time to the wagon. Better take

your honey right to the wagon, keeping it perfectly bee-tight (if conditions require it), thus there is only one exposure to the bees. By this plan your load is ready to go home when you are.

If you intend to keep bees on a large scale, don't turn inventor and don't adopt every new-fangled hive that comes along. I know there are many inventors who claim that if their particular fussy plans were adopted universally bee-keeping would be revolutionized.

In my opinion, the poorest hives are of recent invention, and the best practical hive ever invented was that by Father Langstroth 50 years ago, and "Glory be to his name." Yes, the simple Langstroth hive, with Hoffman frames and the more modern supers are good enough. Whatever you use, have a complete uniformity of fixtures.

When it comes to the management of bees in all climates where they may be wintered out of doors, have your winter loss the previous autumn. This can be done by killing poor queens and doubling up until every hive has a vigorous queen, a hive full of young bees and full of honey. Then in the spring, if conditions are normal, the bees will lead you along at a merry clip to keep up with your work, instead of your continually fussing with them to get them ready for their work.

In supering the bees there are three in my crew. One wheels the supers from the wagon, another puts them on the hives and the third man follows with a spirit level and a grape basket full of little wedges (that have been previously prepared), and properly levels each hive.

In the care and management of swarming is where every bee-keeper is put to his wits' ends to be equal to all emergencies. No two seasons are exactly alike, and any system must be varied to meet contingencies.