If, when looking through the hives, you do not discover a queen or eggs, it is necessary either to introduce a fertilized queen or unite this colony with some weak one having a laying queen. This can be done by placing the queenless colony on one having a queen with only a single sheet of newspaper between the hive bodies. In twenty-four hours the bees will have opened communications and in a day or two you may remove the balance of the paper, and shake or otherwise transfer the top story laces to the lower, returning the queenless body to the storehouse.

Uncapping the Cells.

If the bees have plenty of sealed stores it is a good plan to break the capping of some of the combs as this gives the bees unsealed honey; this incites the queen to lay a large number of eggs.

Some light hives will be found to contain very little honey and combs of honey can easily be spared from heavy hives, to help out the weak ones by taking from the strong. If this is not possible, stimulative feeding becomes necessary.

SPRING FEEDING

A syrup sufficiently thick for early spring feeding can be made of equal parts granulated sugar and water. The water should be poured on the sugar boiling hot and the mixture stirred until the sugar is all dissolved.

EMPTY COMBS USED AS A FEEDER

Fill the cells of empty combs with syrup and hang them in the brood chamber next the brood. Outside feeding is practised by some, but is rather a dangerous practise, as it is liable to start the bees robbing from each other. Do not feed unless it is necessary and unless you are an experienced beekeeper.

Spring care is very important and the idea of the beekeeper is to have the bees hatch as many young as possible during the early part of the season so as to have a large force of workers to gather the honey crop during the nectar flow in midsummer. This can be accomplished by conserving the heat of the hive in the early spring, by having good queens and by practising stimulative feeding, if necessary.

SUMMER CARE

Excessive swarming must be prevented if a large honey crop is wished. As the strength of the colony increases and the weather becomes warmer enlarge the entrance gradually until about June the first or tenth, according to the season, when all except weak colonies should be given an entrance, measuring the full width of the hive and an inch and a quarter deep.