

## The Month's Work

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The honey harvest in most localities ends with the close of the basswood bloom about the fifteenth of this month. From the first of the month, therefore, until this date, except when drought or other causes interfere with the honey-flow, the management of the bee is simply a continuation of that described in C. B. J. for last month, namely: caring for swarms, continued addition of surplus cases from time to time as required and the removal of honey from the hives when completed. All surplus honey both comb and extracted on the hives at the close of the honey flow should be removed as soon after as completed by the bees.

If the swarms were hived in contracted brood-chambers as directed last month, they will be found at the close of the honey flow to contain little or no honey in their brood-chambers. These should now at the close of the honey flow have their brood-chambers enlarged to their full capacity by removing the fillers and inserting frames of combs containing honey, should, however, these combs not contain any honey, then the surplus honey should not all be removed from the hive, or the colony will be left in a starving condition and injured thereby.

In the monthly articles thus far contributed I have described for the spring and summer, what for want of a better term we will call the "management of our colonies," supposing that they came through the winter all right. I wish now to state, that I consider all this but one half of successful

honey production, the other, and if anything the more important half, is queen rearing. This is not a notionate fancy of the fastidious ones in bee-keeping, but an essential part of modern, financially, successful honey production. It will often be noticed in two colonies which have wintered equally well, and have had the same chance, that one will gather double the amount of honey the other will, or there may be one or two colonies in the yard which will far outstrip any of the others in the amount of honey they gather, and if a record of such a colony or colonies be kept it will be found that their record is much the same year after year, and further, a colony which is offspring of such a one will itself also be a good honey gatherer.

These differences in the records of different colonies in the same yard and under the same conditions are wholly due to their queens, and if the bees themselves do not inherit from their queen and the drone she mates with (these are their mother and father) good honey gathering qualities, no system of management no matter how perfect or well carried out will make up for such a lack; the management of our apiaries is not to impart honey gathering qualities to our bees, but simply to make the most of those that they already possess, and it is the height of folly to tolerate anything but the best working strain of bees in our apiaries.

Space will not allow us to describe all about how to raise good queens, it would take a whole C. B. J. to do that. However, the following plan if carried out will soon improve the quality of the bees in any apiary.

Work all colonies of the best honey gathering and other good qualities for comb honey, and the poorer ones