

alone on bees and honey, but probably in every other line. At least so the bee-keeper thinks, and it makes him receive with extreme caution anything in print. To put anything in the press upon the subject of bees and honey is always noted with pleasure by bee-keepers and we know of instances where this class encourages and supports papers for no other reason. Articles should, however, be written by competent men and women, not persons who have not the least knowledge of the subject, as is only too manifest in the above article. The article referred to has evidently been written and set up in plate for any paper willing to take it, and the Free Press will only be one of many inserting it.—Ed. C. B. J.]

How May One Secure Swarms of Equal Strength.

Translated from the Munchener
Bienen Zeitung.

In earlier days, when we knew nothing of rational bee-keeping the bee-keeper who was considered the "Bee-King" was the one who secured the first or earliest swarm, and he pointed to himself with triumph as a particularly competent bee-keeper. He was honored and envied by the less lucky of the fraternity. Today a change has taken place. At the present time no one asks "When did you receive your first swarm?" but "When did you receive your first and your last swarm, and how long did the swarming period last?" In case where a swarm issues extraordinarily early, say by the middle of April and the last swarm by the end of June or even in July, in such a case one can rest assured that the bee-keeper does not understand his business. The bee-keeper shows his skill not in extraordinarily early swarming, but by having all his swarms in the beginning of the heavy flow, and in the shortest possible time, say during a period covering not more than eight to ten days.

In Germany it is general to look upon June as the ideal month for swarming, and it is a mistake to consider it a triumph

in bee keeping to receive a swarm in April. That is, if individual swarms are received and the other swarms are not ripe for swarming, it is then only an evidence of the extraordinary goodness of the one colony that it should of its own strength bring itself to this pitch, but with a competent bee-keeper this does not take place whether he works with the movable frame hive or otherwise. His motto must be: Neither extraordinarily early or extraordinarily late swarms and if possible a short swarming season.

How tedious a long and spun out swarming season is. What is to become of that swarm, what of that colony, when the former does not appear until the end of the honey flow? The bee-keeper is managing poorly when he has individual colonies which reach the swarming impulse early when others are still weak; where he, for instance quietly looks on allowing one colony to well fill fourteen to sixteen frames and others cover only six to eight frames. How then is the bee-keeper to arrive at the goal of having his swarms at the right time and to bring them out within a short swarming period.

The skill lies in his keeping back those swarms which early arrive at the necessary swarming strength and with the material taken from them strengthen those which are weaker.

Let us now turn our attention to those colonies which by their own exertions arrive at a condition which would lead to premature swarming. These it is necessary most energetically to keep back. This must be accomplished by allowing them only to spread over from eight or nine frames, if the room for brooding be more increased late swarming might unfortunately be brought about. Should the aforesaid colony, later, show signs of too early swarming it must be prevented from doing so by taking from it brood frames and giving in their place artificial comb or wax. The latter however when even only a moderate season is expected, because they would otherwise not be filled. The brood taken from this swarm must be given to weaker swarms being careful never to give any colony more than they can well cover. Bees may also be removed from strong swarms and given to those which are weak. So much for the preventing of swarming by taking away brood and bees; it is to be remembered, however, that only ripe brood, that is brood ready to hatch, should be removed.

By this method of keeping back strong colonies the material for building up