

agement. We must take care of the bees in the fall, the winter, the spring and summer in order to take a good crop and have good honey. The method Mr. Smith just spoke of is a pretty good one generally, but I think to raise a super on a small colony it would not get sufficiently ripened. What I mean is, if a colony were a little weak, and we were to raise the super up and put another one under, the top one would not get ripened very well.

Now, as to the importance of queens mentioned in the paper, it is very important to have a queen all the time. If you have a hive that is queenless through the summer time, it will not be a good colony through the winter; and if it is queenless, or has a poor queen in the spring, it will not be any use for the honey harvest.

As to the locality, of course, a good many of us have to keep bees where we live or move them. We do not like to move, and we have got to make the best we can out of the locality. It is a very good thing to study your locality and get your bees strong for the main flow of honey. That is a good paper of Mr. Pettit's, and I do not think it needs very much discussion. It covered all the ground, and I don't know of very many points in it that I would want to object to, but I would not like to see you all get twelve-frame hives.

Mr. Pettit—In connection with the point that Mr. Sibbald brought out about not putting two supers in a weak stock. In my paper I advocated the two supers, as Mr. Smith emphasized, but where you have not enough supers, or where the stock is rather weak, and you have only one super, a good plan would be to extract a third or half of the best-capped combs from the middle of the super and then crowd the remaining combs to one side and put the empties at the other side. The next time coming around to extract, you will find that the bees have been storing in the empties and finishing

the ones you left at the first extracting; this is the next best thing to having two supers.

Mr. McEvoy—Mr. Pettit, do you consider you can get as good a quality of honey from 36 frames—that is, a 12-frame brood chamber and two supers above—with a medium swarm as you could from an eight?

Mr. Byer—There is one point I believe that has not been brought out in this paper or the discussion which it is not well to overlook. There seems to be a prevailing opinion, not only among beginners, but older bee-keepers, that by extracting sooner we get a whole lot more honey. I think Mr. Alexander of New York, in *The Bee-keepers' Review*, claimed that by extracting before the combs were capped over he would get about one-third more honey. Again, no doubt a number of you have read the article in *The American Bee-keeper* by Mr. Poppleton, where he claims that there is nothing gained by extracting honey before it is ripened. If that is the case, it is something we should acquaint ourselves with. It is a very important question.

Mr. Holtermann—The gain is not in the increased amount of honey, but in giving your bees room.

Mr. Armstrong—Reference was made to extracting from a weak colony or adding another story before it was completely capped over. My method is as soon as I find a case of that kind, and it is not quite ready for extracting, I take the combs from that colony, shake the bees off, and place them over one of my strongest colonies, replacing them with empty combs.

Mr. Byer—Mr. Poppleton claimed that there was no appreciable loss in the weight after the first night; that perhaps in the morning there would be three or four pounds less than in the evening, and if that was a quiet day, and the bees did not get out to gather more nectar, there would be no further loss.

Mr. Pettit—I will answer Mr. Mc-