

ful not to put too many hives in one place at the start; put a few at one corner of the yard, then the opposite corner, and so on, until all have been placed, then take four or five sheets of newspaper—previously saved for this purpose—and cover the tops of the hives, taking care that no heat can escape; then when the bees are done flying for the day, contract all the entrances as much as possible, this to keep the cold wind and robbers out; if the hives on the summer stand have not had paper put under the cushions, it should be done now.

In an average season, this work should be finished from the 12th, to about the 20th of April, then we may expect the first fruit bloom about the same dates in May, and, knowing the bees have plenty of stores, it is a good plan to leave them alone, except to look out for robbing on a day when weather is suitable for the job. About the time the first flowers come out a start should be made to examine the hives, clip the queens, spread or reverse the brood frames, break a portion of the capping on the honey, making the bees think they are in clover. When this is being done, the bee-keeper should have a book and note the condition of every hive. A record of this kind saves lots of unnecessary opening of hives. When we have 100 colonies we will probably find 80 per cent. will be ready for the honey season, 15 per cent. a little light, 2 per cent. without queens and 3 per cent. dead, dead ones should have been found before the examination; the eighty should be watched closely, making sure that there is always enough of unsealed honey in the hive, and that the queen has lots of room for breeding. A good plan is to treat the 15 that are light, that is to select say, 7 or 8—according to their strength—of the best of them, take out all empty frames; then go to the lighter ones and take out brood frames and

bees, and fill out the 7 or 8, making sure you leave the queens in their own hives; the few that are left light can be used to shake swarms on, or anything else the bee-keeper can do with them to the best advantage.

We will suppose this work is finished say, May 20th, in less than a month the clover season will be on, and on the care given the bees for the next few weeks, largely depends the amount of surplus the bee-keeper will get for his work. Some seasons the bees may fill the hives so full of honey in a few days, that the queen is crowded out of them; another season the bees will be confined in their hive the most of the time, and run short of stores, and the queen will stop laying; to avoid either extreme the bee-keeper must be on hand every day, know what is going on and apply the remedy."

This paper was read by Mr. J. L. Byer in the absence through illness of Mr. Storer.

#### Question Drawer on Spring Management—R. H. Smith in Charge.

Q. Is it best to give, say, 40 pounds feed in the fall, or, say, 25 pounds, and then feed the balance in the spring?

A. I should say it would be safer to feed the 40 in the fall; you might have unfavorable weather in the spring.

Mr. Hershisier—I would like to ask if it would not be an advantage to give the difference between the 25 and 40 in the spring?

A. I do not think it would be sufficient to have only 25 pounds in the hive in the fall of the year. I should advise giving the whole of the store in the fall.

Mr. Laing—What would you consider would be sufficient?

Mr. Smith—Not less than 35 pounds.

Mr. Laing—Outside or inside?

Mr. Smith—Either.

Mr. Dickinson—I think more than 35 pounds is needed for outside wintering.

Do you not think there is a difference between

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