

his shop on one side of the yard and his dwelling on the other, and he was always passing through the yard and up and down the rows and he easily took notice of every colony that was flying, and as soon as he found one that the entrance showed that they were not doing as they should he could tell what was going on inside—by how they were hanging around the door; in such case he made a note, and examined that hive the same day, if possible; in the first place he gave his bees abundance of honey in the fall, and he was satisfied that not one in fifty was going to be short of stores, so it was not necessary for him to examine them; he just examined the ones that were not doing what they should do. He said it was a mistake to keep tinkering with the bees in the spring when they did not need it; he did not care whether it was the best colony in the yard, if you keep tinkering with it from day to day you will soon have no colony there to amount to anything. He never took them out of packing till he was sure of steady warm weather—about the latter part of May or the beginning of June. He had had them swarm before he took them out of the packing. His first examination was when the temperature was about 70. He removed the second quilt he put on in the fall and put on a gum quilt. That was not done until it was safe to open the hive. If any cushions became wet they were exchanged. Mr. Atkinson spoke about 25 lbs of honey for winter stores; he would not be satisfied with much less than double that amount.

Mr. Armstrong—Just as soon as I could see the bees flying I wanted to look into them a couple of times a day; I wanted to get them out early; but I have quit that altogether, and do not now take them out until the weather becomes real warm.

If Bees are Short of Stores, What is the Best Method of Supplying them when Combs of Honey are in Stock, and when not in Stock?

Mr. Shaver thought if the bee-keeper had no combs of honey, he should have them filled. He thought it was far ahead of feeding, and that the combs were easily filled; put them on the slant and pour one side full, and likewise the other. If the queen is laying, or has a strong brood, he said he would uncup it.

Mr. Craig wished to know if that system of filling the comb was generally understood.

Mr. Shaver—Have it nice and warm,

and start at the top, slant it, and you can fill them up pretty well.

The Chairman—Won't it run right over the cells?

Mr. Shaver—Not if you hold it right; hold it too high, and it will run too fast. A good idea is to fill two at a time, and let one lay while you are filling the other; a coffee pot is a good thing to use.

Mr. Holtermann—Take a perforated can, and let a fine stream go into the cells.

Mr. Robinson wanted to know what they called short stores. The chairman replied, if a hive has only one or two pounds; you might think they have enough, but they have not; if they have very little they won't brood.

Mr. Miller—Very often I would find a colony that wanted feeding when I could not open it up before the syrup came, when I would lift one corner of the cushion and fill from the feeder. I find that a weak colony will take this up well. When I find a colony that wants it, I put a quilt and also a cushion on. The cushion goes right down and laps over, and I lift back the cushion and run the funnel down and have a slide on the feeder and pour in what I want; in that way no heat escapes.

Mr. Fleming—If you keep what honey you have on combs equalized up, and will feed it, by the time the honey flow commences, it will just about keep you going. You will find the strongest colonies are the shortest of stores. I use a ten-frame Langstroth.

Mr. Taylor—As soon as I find a colony short of stores, I take one of my feeders—my feeders do not cover the whole top of the hive—I put on four or five pounds of honey or sugar and cover it up and leave it there, and find it works all right.

Mr. Heise—What little feeding I have done the last two or three years has been simply giving them combs I kept over. One time in January I poured about a quart of warm syrup over the colony of bees (it was the best in the yard and I was anxious to save it) I think I made a bungle of it, but they came through all right, and turned out to be the best colony I had the next spring.

Mr. Mitchner—If necessary, we take honey and thicken it with sugar and run it on top of the comb.

Mr. Holtermann—We cut a little hole in the solid quilt. I think the longer I live the less use I have for feeders in any shape or form; I would use honey, full combs, and if I did not have that I would feed sugar syrup put in as Mr.