

## The Month's Work

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With June comes a decided change in the arrangements of our colonies. During the spring months and up until June before the opening of the clover, the colonies have been worked to their utmost for brood to have them of sufficient strength to gather the harvest, but after the beginning of the honey harvest to continue to push them unduly for brood is misdirecting them in their work, they should now be directed strongly into honey gathering instead. The honey harvest begins about the 10th of June with the opening of the clover bloom and lasts on an average about one month and not all summer as many suppose.

The first work to be done in summer management is to arrange the colonies for gathering. This is simply arranging their hives, so that their brood chambers will be as nearly as possible filled with brood and devoid of honey, with the surplus cases immediately above the brood and as near to it as possible. To do this, the hives should be all gone over just before the clover bloom opens, and any combs found in the brood chambers which do not contain brood remove, and the space which they occupied closed up with fillers (sometimes called "dummies.") If the queens have been normally prolific, the colony wintered well, and been properly managed during the spring, there should be but few combs to be thus removed unless the brood-chambers of their hives are unreasonably large. As soon as the hives are thus arranged, those colonies

which have no surplus cases already on them should now be given one each, placing at the same time a slatted queen-excluder between their brood-chamber and the case just given them. This queen-excluder and the fillers will keep the queen out of all surplus cases, and prevent her unduly spreading the brood, which now would be at the expense of honey to any more combs than are already occupied with it. It will also have a tendency to make the queen keep these remaining brood combs filled with brood, and so devoid of honey, thus during the honey flow bringing the brood near to the surplus cases, and also forcing the bees to store their honey in them. It is a decidedly mistaken idea to have the brood-chamber filled with honey now in order that the bees may have sufficient to winter on. Their brood chambers should be solidly filled with brood, and devoid of honey if our colonies are to do their best and most work in the surplus cases.

Any colonies which by the first week in June are found to be too weak to work, should then be united with other weak colonies until one of sufficient strength be obtained to do profitable work: it can then be arranged for gathering the same as the others.

Besides being arranged for gathering as directed, every colony should, if not done sooner, now be given an entrance the full width of the hive in front, and from one-half to one inch deep, and if the hive is not already standing in the shade it should be shaded. If the hive has a flat cover, this can be done by cleating together of thin cheap lumber, two feet wide by three feet long and placing it on top the hive in such a position as to protect it from the direct rays of the sun. No hive should now be any