

quickest work. Concentrated on, say, six frames of starters, heat is generated with the waste of less caloric, a larger relative force is freed from constructive duties to forage abroad for fresh stores, while a further contingent can devote its attention to necessary attendance on eggs and larvae. There is, in a word, a better division of labor at less cost of heat and tissue. A large swarm should at first receive the full complement of frames, and in 24 hours all not well covered with bees should be temporarily withdrawn. There is here a saving of foundation, with, I think, at times, an acceleration of work.

Third.—So many novices, and others, insert half or quarter sheets of foundation so carelessly that combs are badly built, while with some only of these inserted the added weight of bees hanging from them causes even good foundation to sag and stretch, resulting in badly-shaped cells, frequently almost oval in form. Starters in such a case prove not only true economy, but a distinct gain, as far more regular combs are obtained, which prove a valuable asset in the future history of the colony.

Fourth.—But these quarter, half or three-quarter sheets may frequently give way, causing not only a nasty breakdown, but a distinct loss of foundation and honey, and a very considerable consumption of valuable time. Nothing is more aggravating than discovering, after two or three days of hard and indefatigable work on the part of the bees, that all their toilsome labors have ended in naught, and that it has to be all tediously gone over again. If badly inserted, full sheets are even worse.

These are only a few sample cases, which could be very largely added to by every bee-keeper who hives a large

number of swarms. The restricted area of, say, six frames, gives comb-building for about ten days after hiving, and during that time it seems to me to be an almost universal rule that bees construct only their worker-cells. So here we have, with starters only, the best possible comb built, with no drone cells. But, as I have noted above, a further benefit follows. With a good heavy flow on, many workers are set at liberty to forage, and part of this material, if stored, would block the brood-body, so almost from the first a rack of sections should be given above to supply room for this overplus. At—or about—the end of ten days, more frames may be added, but these should, in general, be furnished with full sheets of foundation. In using starters one sheet provides five frames, which means a considerable saving.

The chief dread with many is that when only starters are provided bees build too much drone-comb. That is so when the whole set of frames are given to even a strong swarm. But when about four of a ten-frame hive are withdrawn a day after hiving the restricted room enables the queen's egg-laying and the workers' comb-building to keep pace, while the super-room above hinders any thought of hurrying on large cells for storage or drone-rearing. Those who find this being done might try close spacing, which very effectually prohibits the building of drone-comb. If every alternate frame has its W.B.C. ends drawn back, so that only every second frame has its metal ends acting as spacers, the bees build only worker-cells. Of course, these should be replaced in their true position, giving a regular double bee-space between each comb.

Second swarms, or first swarms headed by young unfertilized queens, can be trusted to build only worker-