Once the swarm has been secured it is carried to the new hive, in front of which a sheet has been spread or boards laid to form a runaway. A small lot of the bees is dumped out close to the entrance, the rest farther away, or they may be left in the basket, which is stood on edge leaning against the hive-front. In a few minutes some daring spirit will venture into the entrance and soon all will follow. In warm weather it is always wise to have the cover a little raised at the back, to provide plenty of ventilation; otherwise the lack of air may tempt the bees to make a second flight. In the case of a very large swarm it is well to have an empty hive-body under the one with frames to provide lots of clustering-room.

PREVENTION OF SWARMING.

The writer wants to emphasize the non-swarming idea, for here is the crux of successful honey production. We all know that if we eat something from stock, we as a direct consequence prevent the coming of the next generation. Thus, when we eat eggs or the hen, no chickens can follow; if we eat the cow, there can be no calf; and usually, when we want milk, we kill the offspring. The swarm is the next generation of a bee colony, hence if we want honey we must prevent its coming.

The prevention of swarming is to the bee-keeper in most parts of the world a regular will-o'-the-wisp. He wants surplus honey, but he knows by experience that he will get far more from a colony that does not swarm than he will get from one that does, even with the aid of all its offshoots. Therefore he tries hard to get rousing strong hives by the beginning of the honey-flow, and to hold the forces intact all through the season.

Thousands are wrestling seriously with the swarming problem every summer, striving to understand the immediate cause. It is not enough to say it is the bees' method of reproducing the species, for all strong colonies in an apiary do not throw off swarms in the season; often the majority do not. Again, it is not a problem of sex instinct, for the queen has no desires but to lay; in fact, the decision whether to divide or not to divide the colony is determined by the workers, who are free of the sex impulse.

Uneasiness, discomfort, practically sums up the conditions that develop the swarming impulse. It is caused:—

(1.) By the want of room in the combs, and this is the most important cause of all. There must be readily accessible cells for the queen in early May if the bees are to be contented, hence the importance of giving the colony a second chamber as soon as the bees are crowding the first. To put an extracting super over a brood-chamber, but with a queen-excluder between, is no preventive, for this is giving more room for honey when there is none, while it gives no additional room for egg-laying, which is what is wanted. Once the swarming fever has developed, the only cure is swarming, so that giving additional space at this stage is too late.

(2.) By the heat of the summer sun. This is not enough in itself, but it encourages the impulse.

(3.) By the presence of an army of drones in the hive, who crowd it and make it uncomfortable. Therefore keep down the amount of drone-comb.

(4.) By poor ventilation. It is simply impossible during hot weather for a small entrance to give sufficient circulation of air to satisfy the needs of, say, 50,000 bees and about as many in the baby stage. Therefore let the entrance after May 1st be at least an inch high and as wide as that part of the combs on which the bees are clustered. In most cases this will be the full width of the hive. In the hot-weather period the brood-chamber may be pulled back or pushed forward a couple of inches to clear the end of the bottom board and thus give a free current of air under the frames.

(5.) Colonies run for extracted are very much less liable to swarm than those run for comb honey. Since extracted honey is more profitable in this Province and is produced with less labour, the beginner is advised to devote his energy to securing his crop in this form.