

violently, new combs when being extracted for the first time or two require a little care in this way, being more tender are easily broken. When the one side of the combs are extracted lift them out and turn them, (that is if your extractor is not automatic) reverse the motion of the comb baskets by turning the handle in the opposite direction and continue the operation until the combs are emptied. Unless you have your extractor fastened down to the bench or box on which it rests you will find it best not to run off all the honey just as you extract it, having a quantity in the bottom of the can will keep it from shifting.

You should have a very fine wire strainer and strain your honey as it passes from the extractor, it is then warm and so much more easily strained than after standing for a time. A piece of cheese cloth serves the purpose very well. When through extracting and have drained off all the honey, wash out your extractor and leave it in a position to dry. Some are very careless about this, and so their can and baskets get tarnished and rusted, not only injuring the machine but tainting the flavor and effecting the color of the honey at next extracting.

I have gone quite a bit outside of the question in the above answer to our friend not knowing his experience in this line of work, and these are a few of the things in connection that I have found it well to observe.

Brantford.

[The above is in reply to a question asked by a subscriber.—ED.]

May Notes From The Central Ontario Apiaries.

C. W. Post.

During the month of May the principal part of the work in the apiary is to force brood rearing to its full capacity.

I use the Langstroth hive 18½ inches wide inside measure. I winter in nine frames and the first stimulant towards brood rearing is to space the frames a little closer together just enough to admit the tenth frame. This brings the sealed honey quite close together and the bees begin at once to cut through the passages and at the same time stimulates the queen greatly. If a colony is found weak I slip in a division board and space the frames that the bees are on, one fourth of an inch apart. My top bars are one inch square,

that gives a space of three eighths of an inch between the brood combs, which I think is the nearest right for rapid brood rearing. The hives are then closed and left until the fruit trees are in bloom when I go through them again. This is the most thorough overhauling they get during the season and its the first that the frames are lifted from the hives (unless in a case of queenlessness). I begin at the side of the hive and the first frame lifted out is set in a top storey so robbers cannot get at it. The next frame is taken out and any honey in it is uncapped. As a rule all sealed honey in the hives at this season of the year is in the back ends of the frames and as the honey is uncapped, I end for end each alternate frame; this places the honey between the brood. The first frame taken out is placed in the opposite side of the hive taken from. The queens are clipped at this time and the bees not disturbed again for two weeks, when they will be found packed solid full of brood. Of course some hives at this time will be found short of stores; for those I have frames filled with buckwheat honey that were taken from the brood nest the previous August when the frames were reduced to nine. They are spaced ¼ inch apart in top stories and filled for spring feeding. I know that some argue that bees that are left entirely alone are the first to swarm and that the above manipulations retards swarming. I will say right here that I agree with them in that, I am not working for early swarms, I am working for a hive packed solid with bees and brood, with all the old honey in the hives converted into young bees ready for the harvest when it comes. I have frequently had my neighbours bees swarm in May and I would take a run over and look at them and find that they had swarmed from an 8 frame Langstroth hive and the two outside frames were filled solid with old honey. I claim that with proper manipulating those colonies would have been stronger in bees, less inclined to swarm and of more profit to their owner.

In going over my bees I find those in the double walled hives the strongest and have the most honey. I have them top packed in various ways but my preference is for those packed as follows: place enamel cloth over brood nest, then place a 3 inch rim on the cloth and fill in solid full with old cast off wollen clothing and set a sun cap over this with a sheet iron cover painted red, this converts your hive into a perfect little hot house. I shall add largely to them another year, for heat is the main factor in breeding strong healthy vigorous bees.

Trenton, Ont.