

staring them in the face and as a consequence brooding almost ceases.

#### FEEDING FOR STORES.

When colonies are found in need of sufficient food to carry them through to fruit, bloom, additional stores may be given either by giving frames of sealed honey or by the use of a feeder either on top of frames or at entrance. I prefer the top feeders when much is required. There are various styles of feeders, many of them possessing great merit.

Honey may be fed if you have it, but should be thinned with water, making it so thin that the odor of the honey is largely dispersed. If used of too great consistency it is liable to incite robbing, or undue excitement causing an excessive consumption of stores. They do not brood as rapidly when thus excited, and are less devoted to their work.

Sugar syrup may be fed with good results and less danger from robbing, but great care should be taken to extract all remaining syrup from the combs at the beginning of the honey harvest. It is best fed by use of the feeder; in the absence of such raise the front of the hive a little and pour the syrup behind the division-board at the back of the hive, care being taken that the bottom is so tight that no leakage can possibly occur.

The quantity to be fed depends on the strength of the colony, and a little should be fed each week until the honey harvest commences, but only in quantity sufficient to keep up rapid brooding. This may be termed

#### STIMULATIVE FEEDING.

When it is desirable to have colonies brood more rapidly for the purpose of having them become strong, this feeding for stimulation may be resorted to. Where they have plenty of stores feeding is unnecessary, uncapping a portion of the honey every few days and reversing the combs will effect what is wished. When the colony is sufficiently strong to permit it the combs containing the least brood with the stores uncapped may be placed in the centre of the brood nest. The queen will soon fill the cells with eggs, the bees removing the honey to give her room. Should the cells be too long to raise

worker brood, it will increase the brood circle to shave the cells down to the necessary height when they will be occupied by the queen.

#### BUILDING UP WEAK COLONIES.

Weak colonies that are not queenless may be built up and strengthened by closing them up and keeping warm until later in the season. Doubling up a lot of weak colonies never appears to improve them very much and the plan of buying bees by the pound to add to such hives has never been a success with me. Pack the colony up closely to retain all the heat, take away all frames not covered by the bees and feed for stimulation.

The practice of taking a frame of brood and giving it to weak colonies is to be deprecated. A colony is never able to care for more brood than it has, and in giving a frame in this manner there is always a liability to chill. Robbing one colony to build up another is poor economy. When the weak colony has a choice queen which it is desirable to save I always give it young, just hatched bees. By selecting a comb with young bees enough may be picked off it and thrown in in a few minutes to strengthen the colony sufficiently to take care of the queen. Take the frame and jar the comb in order to make the older bees take wing and return to the old colony, before commencing to shake the young bees on to a cloth or paper spread in front of the hive they are intended for. Shake them a distance of four or six feet from the entrance as if shaken down close to the hive the few old bees that remain on the comb are liable to run in and cause the destruction of the queen. After they have remained on the paper a few minutes they may be swept towards the entrance with a feather or brush. This stirring will cause the old bees to take wing while while the young ones who have never marked the location pass into the weak colony. I once strengthened colonies containing only a queen and about two dozen workers in this manner so that in three days they were the strongest in the yard. But this cannot be done unless you have strong colonies to draw the bees from, and can spare them without injury.