

## The Apiary.

### IMPORTANCE OF GOOD QUEENS.

BY J. W. ROUSE.

I wonder if even one-half of the beekeepers realize the importance of good queens, as upon the queen more than any other one thing depends a successful crop of honey. I have never seen a season in my beekeeping experience but what some colonies could at least make a living, but I have seen some colonies that made a poor living even in a fair season. As bees do not make honey but gather it, of course they can do nothing when there is nothing to do on or with. If the queen is a good breeder, that does her work at the right time, in the right way, her bees are most sure to get something.

It is hard to convince some that there is as much difference in queen bees as there is in milch cows, or any other kind of stock. While some cows are good milkers, others are not worth keeping. So it is with queen bees. Some colonies are kept from year to year, and nothing is ever obtained from them. When the old queen gives out, another is reared by the bees from her stock, and so this worthless breed is continued.

Remedy—Replace these worthless queens with good ones that will produce bees in quantities sufficient and with energy enough to get a hustle on themselves.

If queens are to be bought, this is often neglected on account of the expense, but as has been said before, "If one does not wish to go to any expense, he had better let the bee business alone." I do not know of any business that will bring in as good returns for the time and money as do bees if given the right attention. I have never failed to get some good honey since keeping bees, except one season—that of 1894. That year by drawing on my best colonies, I kept some others from starving to death. This proved to me that it does not pay to keep poor queens. Better let them starve rather than to keep them on that way. But by weeding out poor queens, the beekeeper can very materially help his honey crop.

Again, many let their bees rear a large lot of useless drones that consume the stores the workers do get. This can be avoided by taking out all drone-comb from the brood-comb. This is another expense, but one that pays well for the investment.

By careful watching and proper manipulations one can have the bees build extra combs, by building a few at a time, but if one can stand the expense at the time, it is cheapest to have combs drawn from full sheets of foundation. This insures straight combs and all workers-cells, besides saving much honey building the combs.—Progressive Bee-Keeper.

### BUZZINGS.

BY MRS. CHAS. LEE.

The cool and windy weather of the past three weeks is proving very detrimental to the apiculturist.

We received a shipment of queens last week from B. J. Cole, of Latona, Wash. They are fine looking queens.

In Germany they have a pet colony of bees that have lived in the open air since 1864; but they blanket in in the winter.—Gleanings, 185.

The weather for the past month proving so disastrous to the bee business, we have concluded to double-up our weaker, second swarm, using all surplus young queens to replace old ones.

Alcohol test—one part honey to three parts alcohol. Stir very thoroughly and allow to stand fifteen minutes. If pure it will be nearly clear; if it contains glucose it will look milky.—Gleanings, 193.

Comb honey is an aid to the digestion of warm bread and biscuit. It tends to prevent "packing" in the stomach, and, melting away, leaves passages for the gastric juice to enter the mass of food. The unpleasant symptoms some suffer after eating honey may be removed by drinking a little milk.

Clipping queens' wings is a delicate operation. The queen should be held gently between the thumb and finger of the left hand, and with a pair of small scissors that will cut at the extreme points, insert carefully under the wing and snip off about half the wing. It is preferable to attend to this business in the fall or early spring.

Honey and Tar Cough Cure.—Put into boiling water a shallow tin dish containing tar. When the tar is hot add a pint of extracted honey and stir well for half an hour, adding a level teaspoonful of powdered borax. Keep in a bottle well corked. Dose—a teaspoonful every 1, 2 or 3 hours, according to severity of cough.—A. B. J.

### BEE NOTES.

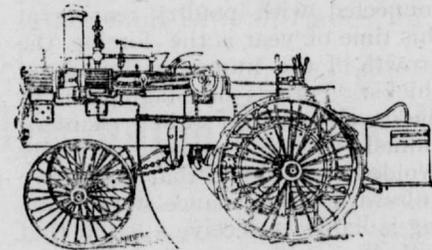
Never allow a swarm of bees to remain long after settling; hive them as soon as possible.

It is not good policy to allow a colony of bees to swarm more than once. Second swarms are not profitable, and they cripple the old parent stock so that it will do but little all summer.

In Germany, where people are more careful about little things, the beekeepers save the rubbish that contains much wax that gathers on the bottom of the hives in spring by drying it, removing the dead bees by sifting, and kneading the remainder to a ball in warm water. It is thus in handy shape for storing away until melting time.

Hard wood split into small pieces will burn all right in a good smoker, but it burns the smoker out much more quickly than is the case with a fire from shavings, which smolders and gives more smoke but less heat than the solid wood.

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