

HOW TO PRODUCE EXTRACTED HONEY

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How to produce extracted honey by George W. Phillips

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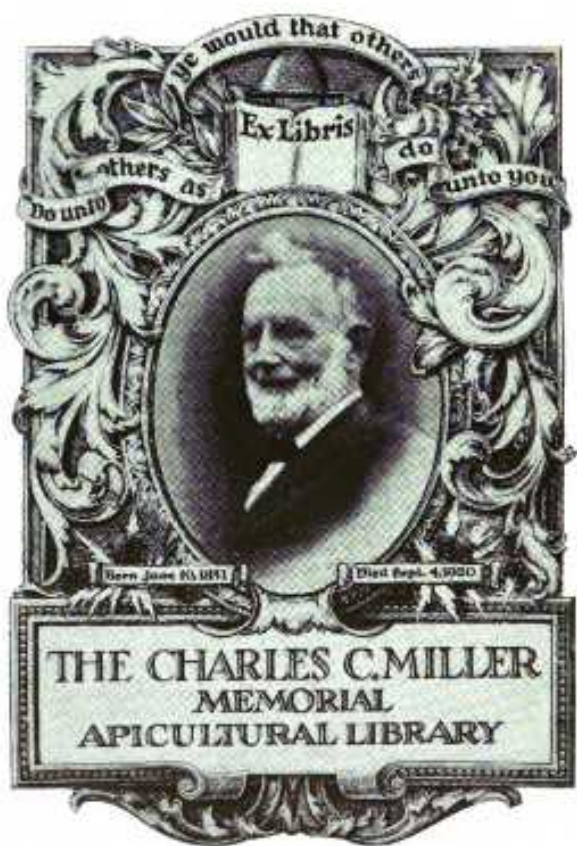
**HOW TO PRODUCE
EXTRACTED HONEY**

Root pamphlet

How to Produce Extracted Honey

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*Rare Books
Bee Collection*

HOW TO PRODUCE EXTRACTED HONEY.

Preparing Colonies for the Honey-flow.

To produce honey, one must have a big force of bees. The productiveness of an apiary can not be measured by the number of colonies it contains, but by the number of bees in the individual colonies. The only way to achieve the best results is to see that each colony is in good working order by the time the flow opens, and to do this it is necessary to examine each separately in order to ascertain its condition. Special attention must be given to each queen and every one that is in any way defective should be replaced with another that is young and vigorous. It will never do to retain a queen whose prolificness is doubtful, for the colony which she occupies will yield very little surplus, or, in all probability, none at all. It is far better to replace such queen even if another has to be bought. The next important thing to be careful about is the strength of each colony. If the honey-flow begins a month or six weeks ahead, and the weak colonies have young prolific queens, an effort may be made to build them up to full strength in time for it; but if the flow is near at hand, it is better to unite the weaklings.

In some localities, the main honey-flow is preceded by a light flow from some other source, while

in others there is a dearth until the opening of the harvest. Where the former is the case the bees will make good progress in brood-rearing and the colonies consequently will build up nicely; but where there is but one flow, the colonies are apt to be in the poorest kind of condition when it commences. To prevent this they may be fed for stimulation, thus bringing about the same condition as a natural honey-flow. However, if every colony in the fall preceding is strong and supplied with abundant stores, the bees are much more likely to be in good shape for the season than if there were scanty stores in the fall, so that feeding had to be done in the spring. The general opinion of the majority of large producers is that it is better to avoid spring feeding if possible. Of course, if any colonies are in a starving condition they must be fed; but the better way, as mentioned before, is to have strong colonies of young vigorous bees with an abundance of good stores in the fall to last until the main flow begins in the spring.

What Kind of Hive to Use for Producing Extracted Honey.

For most localities the best results will be secured in the long run with 10-frame hives of Langstroth dimensions. These may be either the double-walled pattern, or the regular dovetailed style shown herewith. Eight-frame hives are advocated by some, but they require much more attention and the average beginner, as well as expert, will get far better results with 10-frame hives, for colonies in such hives not only swarm much less, but they produce

more honey per hive. In certain instances the divisible-brood-chamber hive may be used with good results, but a special system of management is re-

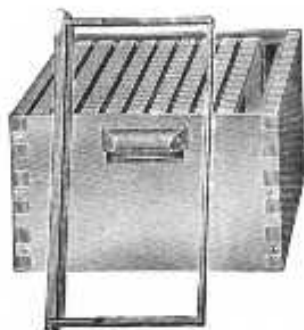


Fig. 1. Dovetailed Hive Body Holding 10 Hoffman Frames.

quired; and, taking it all in all, it is very doubtful whether the average person will get anywhere near as good results with such hives as with those having deeper frames, of the Langstroth dimensions.



Fig. 2. Shallow Extracting Super.

The supers that go above the brood-chamber to hold the surplus honey, may either be of the shallow

type, in which frames are used about half the depth of Langstroth frames, or, they may be similar in dimensions to the brood-chamber, the frames used being identical with the brood-frames. There are advantages and disadvantages in both, and it rests with the individual as to which kind is best. Briefly, we may say that the shallower supers are coming more and more into use. They are much easier handled; they do not provide more room at a time than a colony needs; there is no need of wiring the combs in the shallow frames to prevent breakage in the extractor and last but not least, the combs in the shallow frames are easier to uncap.

The advantages of the deep supers are as follows: The frames used are interchangeable with brood-frames, and, at times this, of course, is quite a convenience. Many have said that when it comes to extracting the honey, since there are only about half the number of frames to handle, as the deep frames are nearly twice the size of the shallow, the work is more quickly done.

In our own apiary we use the shallow supers, and, as we said before, we find an increasing number of producers are beginning to use them also. In either case it is best to space the frames further apart than they are spaced in the brood-chamber; that is, even though self-spacing frames are used, in extracting-supers it is best to remove two of the frames, so that the eight remaining ones can be spaced further apart. This will result in good fat combs that can be more easily uncapped than those that are spaced more closely together, so that the combs are thinner.

Putting on Supers.

We will assume that the colonies are in good shape for the honey-flow. The next thing is to put on supers. Many make the fatal mistake of waiting until the last minute before purchasing their supplies. It is folly to go to the expense and trouble of establishing an apiary and then when the time arrives to reap the reward of the labor, to lose it all simply because the goods have not come. Long before the harvest opens, the supers should be put together and painted, the frames nailed up, supplied with full sheets of foundation, etc. If the deep frames of Langstroth dimensions are used, they should be well wired to prevent comb breakage in the extractor; but with the shallow frames the wires are not necessary.

The supers should not be put on before the bees are ready for them, as nothing is gained and it is harder for the bees to keep up the necessary heat, especially in cold climates. On the other hand, the putting on of supers must not be delayed too long, for thus time would be wasted. As soon as there are indications of honey coming in from natural sources in such quantities that the tops of the combs in the brood-nest begin to whiten, it is time to put on the supers. The tendency of some Italian bees is to store the honey in the brood-nest to the exclusion of brood. We have seen colonies whose brood-nests were packed with honey almost to the total exclusion of brood, while little or no work was being done in the supers. In such cases it is advisable to keep swapping combs, that is, placing full combs of honey from the brood-nest in the super and then putting