

## THE APIARY.

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### BREEDING.

NORMALLY, at this season of the year there are usually large patches of brood in the hives. A further examination may be carried out where the beekeeper was in doubt last month as to the hive being queenless or not. The absence of brood at this season will denote a poor queen or that the hive is queenless. In either case it is advisable to unite with another hive. This should be done immediately, as a queenless hive stands in great danger of being robbed by other bees in the apiary. A ready method of uniting is by placing the weak colony over a strong one on the stand of the latter, with a sheet of newspaper between the two hive-bodies. They may be examined after a couple of days to see if things are going well, and if the paper is not bitten through it should be torn in several places. In another day or two the united colonies will be working peaceably. In the case of the weaker colony it is wise to kill the queen before uniting. At this examination the beekeeper must keep a strict watch for symptoms of disease. If foul-brood is discovered in a mild form the colony should be marked for treatment later in the season. Should, however, the colony be badly affected it is advisable to sulphur the bees and destroy the combs. Care should be taken to remove the hive to a place of safety until it can be properly cleansed.

### APIARY REGISTER.

As mentioned in a previous note, a register for keeping records of individual hives will be found of great assistance. Where a number of colonies are kept such records are invaluable, as they enable work to be carried out expeditiously, and act as a guide to the beekeeper in laying out plans for the forthcoming season.

### OVERHAULING THE HIVES.

In August a great deal of the preliminary seasonal work of the apiary may be done. Each hive should receive a good coat of paint. This will help to preserve the timber, besides giving the hives a neat appearance. The bottom boards should be scraped clean. During the winter months there is usually an accumulation of cappings, pollen, and dead bees, and if left this becomes a harbour for woodlice, which are very objectionable. A simple plan is to provide a spare bottom board. Lift the hive on to