

winter. These colonies should not be reduced to less than two stories, and on no account should their stores be less than 30 lb. to 40 lb. It must be borne in mind that all the brood in the hive will hatch and must be fed, and that in addition the queen will continue laying for some months to come, while in some districts breeding may continue throughout the winter. To ensure the colony coming out strong in the spring it must be left with ample stores to carry it through the months of dearth. Unless there is ample evidence of an abundant autumn flow the beekeeper would be wise to leave his hives oversupplied rather than undersupplied.

#### USE OF BEE-ESCAPES.

For the comb-honey producer the Porter bee-escape is an invaluable aid in the removal of his crop. Removal of comb-honey by the ordinary method of brushing, &c., is apt to result in the piercing of many cell-cappings, with consequent leakage; but by the use of this simple little appliance, fitted in a board the size of a super, comb-honey can be removed without any disturbance of the colony. The super or supers should be prised up from the brood-chamber, two or three puffs of smoke driven into the hive, and the board gently slipped into place with the round hole of the escape uppermost. If this is done in the afternoon, by morning the super will be empty of bees.

For extracted honey the use of the escape is a more doubtful matter. In the first place, it is of absolutely no avail where there is brood in the super. The bees will not leave the brood, and the morning will find the combs still covered with bees. It might almost be said that the bee-escape is of no use for extracting combs unless the hives have been previously provided with excluders. In addition, especially in Southern districts, the use of the escape-board tends to allow the honey to cool considerably before morning, thereby making the work of extracting a much more difficult proposition. If there is a tendency to rob, the use of the bee-escape will materially assist in removing the honey late in the season, and whether their use is invariably advocated or not it is as well to have a few on hand.

#### PREVENTION OF ROBBING.

The taking of the last of the honey is the time when the beekeeper must display endless caution to prevent robbing. A bad attack of autumn robbing is—next to disease—about the worst thing a beekeeper can experience. Before starting the day's work he should have all appliances handy, have formed a plan of how the work is to be carried out, and should, if satisfactory, adhere to that plan throughout the day. A light barrow fitted with a tray to catch honey-drips, and two or three cloths of a size to cover the whole of a super, and moistened with a very weak solution of carbolic acid, are some of the things which will obviate much trouble. As the combs are removed from the supers they should be brushed and shaken as free of bees as possible, placed in an empty super on the barrow, and covered with a damp cloth. Close every hive as soon as it is finished with, and remove the combs to the honey-house, which should be bee-proof. At the close of the day the wet combs should be returned to the hives as expeditiously as possible, and by morning the apiary will