

First Prize Essay.  
An Essay on Apiculture, by George E. Bailey, Mill Creek.  
Written for the District Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, 1912.

**SHOE FACTORY**  
DEPARTMENT  
99, East Temple Street,  
SIGN OF THE  
**Big Boot.**

I recommend every bee-keeper to keep a journal or record, also to number the hives, that they may be known, also the age of queen when divided, how much honey will be a sure reference at any time, and save the apiarian much unnecessary trouble. You may regulate the raising of drones by removing the frame containing drone comb to the outside frame of the hive, to be filled with honey, or place in an Italian bee, to raise pure Italian drones to mate with your virgin queens. This plan will improve your stock of bees instead of allowing them to be bred by the drones, by mating with a dark colored drone, for I consider that the male or drone bee has more to do with keeping the Italian stock purer than the female of drone. There are too many drones raised to be of profit to the apiarian. In an apiary of from twenty to one hundred hives, the drones raised in two or three colonies are all that are needed. Therefore it is a waste of honey to raise and fatten a lot of drones to be destroyed by the bees in the fall, for the worker bees will not let them board with them all winter to eat up their stores, as they have done through the summer. Drones, in honey gathering time, are treated as privileged characters, for they will enter and be received kindly in any hive throughout the apiary. If you have too much drone comb cut it out of the frames in the brood chamber and place it in the surplus honey boxes or frames to entice the bees to work and store their surplus honey instead of being around the entrance idle, for sometimes it is difficult to get them to work in top or side honey boxes.

**GENTS' BOOTS,**  
**LADIES' BOOTS,**  
**CHILDREN'S BOOTS,**  
**Gents' Shoes, Ladies' Shoes,**  
**Children's Shoes.**  
**GENTS' SLIPPERS, LADIES' SLIPPERS,**  
**Children's Slippers.**  
For Fine Weather or Stormy Weather, for Walking, Dancing, Working, Sporting, Climbing, Riding, Fishing, Mining, Etc., Etc.

Another item in favor of the movable comb hive is that if a colony is weak you can strengthen it by giving it one, two, or three combs of brood, bee bread, or honey, whichever it needs, from a strong colony, and thus equalize your bees.  
Artificial swarming or dividing can be accomplished, and much needless waste of time be saved in watching and waiting for the bees to swarm naturally, if you use a fumigator, fill it with dry catnip or peppermint, light one end of it, and blow two or three puffs of the smoke into the entrance of the hive (a roll of mags or a dry chunk of rotten wood will answer the same as the fumigator), to subdue the bees. Then take your new hive, of the same size as the hives you bees are in, for instance, if you have a four frame hive with bees in them, take one or two frames from the center of the hive No. 1, and place them in the new hive with all the bees remaining on or adhering to the comb, sprinkle them with a little honey water and the essence of peppermint or nutmegs, to prevent them from fighting, place frames of empty comb or empty frames No. 1, 2, and 3, and close it. Open No. 2 and serve it the same, also No. 3 and 4. Thus you have from six to eight combs of bees mixed with those of your new hive, and have not weakened your hives to their detriment. Most of the old bees on their first flight will return to their own hives from which they were taken, and leave a swarm of young bees in the new hive to raise themselves a queen. If you have a queen cell or a surplus queen by giving it to the new hive, you will have a queen in much time and have the new swarm in one week as good as any hive or colony in your apiary. You may repeat this operation in some seasons they will fill these frames in less than one week, if honey is plenty out of doors. To divide your bees in the middle of the season, do as I have recommended above, only as you take out the frames brush off all the bees from the frames into their own hives, place the combs into the new hive, and remove your strongest colony away one rod, place your new hive in its stead, and all the returning bees from the field will enter the new hive and carry on the work of raising the brood, raising the queen, etc. In all of your operations be sure not to remove your queen from her own home. But if you want surplus honey, keep your colony or colonies very strong in numbers. Do not let them store too much honey in the brood chamber to camp on, and if the queen is in her dominions, for if young bees are not raised inside of the hive, to take the place of those that die and are lost in the field, your hive will dwindle and become useless for gathering surplus honey, hence the necessity of using the honey extractor to remove the honey stored in the combs in the brood chamber, and by returning these extracted combs to the hive the queen will fill most of those combs with eggs before the workers have time to fill them with honey, thus keeping up the strength of your colonies. The honey extractor is a machine invented by Major Von Hügel, to empty the combs of honey without breakage, so that the comb can be used repeatedly to be refilled with honey or brood, which is a great saving of labor to the bee and result to the apiarian, producing a superior quality of honey, free from the mixture of the melted old comb and the bitter bee bread and very often dead bees. There are several styles of small or honey extractors, all made on the centrifugal force principle. I have used the one made by the machine of Messrs. Gray & Winder, and have extracted three thousand five hundred and fifty pounds for myself and neighbors, and I can say that it has been a great benefit to the apiarian, because a profit in honey to the bee keepers.

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AND INSURE SATISFACTION.

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