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The Cause and Control of Swarming in Bees

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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

WHEN, towards the end of last century, the straw skep was abandoned in favour of the moveable comb hive, the issue of a swarm ceased to be an occasion of rejoicing and has degenerated into a nuisance demanding vigilance lest the bees be lost. The modern beekeeper is able to increase the number of hives in his apiary by dividing his stocks at a time which suits his convenience and the necessities of the honey flow, rather than the whim of the bees and the weather.

Many systems have been put forward for the prevention and control of swarming. Some have proved successful in the hands of their advocates ; not all have shown themselves practical in respect of the time and labour involved ; while some appear to interfere with the gathering of the honey crop to a greater extent than even the issue of a swarm.

The object of this conference was to consider workable systems of management and the principles on which they are founded, and to put them on record for the convenience of beekeepers.