

Some give aid by exchanging sealed brood, preferably hatching, for eggs. To do this, take a frame of sealed brood from the strong hive and shake off the bees, then carry it to the weak one and exchange it for a frame of eggs, as before shaking off the bees. In each case place the new frame in the centre of the cluster.

When the weak hive is fairly strong, say with bees on five or six frames, one need not hesitate to give it a frame of brood with adhering bees, provided it is not put next the frame on which the queen happens to be at the time.

To combine a queenless colony with another hive, in the evening, when flying has stopped, go to the latter and remove the cover and quilts and spread a sheet of newspaper above the frames, punching a hole with a pencil in the centre of it, so as to give communication. Then lift the queenless hive and set it on top. The bees will gradually remove the paper and intermingle without fighting. In about a week remove the frames that are unoccupied, so as to make a compact brood-nest.

As a general rule, when nectar is coming in freely, the bees of a hive will welcome additions to their strength, but in times of dearth they will eject or kill the intruders.