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STORIES of New Jersey

cur, the fruits are often stunted. So important is this activity, that one large farm in New Jersey finds it profitable to keep 631 colonies of bees for pollinating.

By inspecting all the known colonies in the State twice each season and by eliminating infected hives, it has been possible to reduce the costly effects of bee diseases. But by no means have the plagues been entirely eliminated. Sacbrood and European and American foulbrood attack only the larvae. These diseases, which may easily kill a complete hive, can be controlled only by destroying the infected colony.

Adult bees are affected by two peculiar illnesses. One, known as "crawling," is characterized by the insects' scurrying away from the hive in all directions, settling on a stone or twig nearby and remaining there unwilling or unable to move. Paralysis or palsy carries off mainly the older working bees, who, when affected, tremble noticeably, their abdomens swollen and their wings extended at an unnatural angle. No effective cures are known for these diseases.

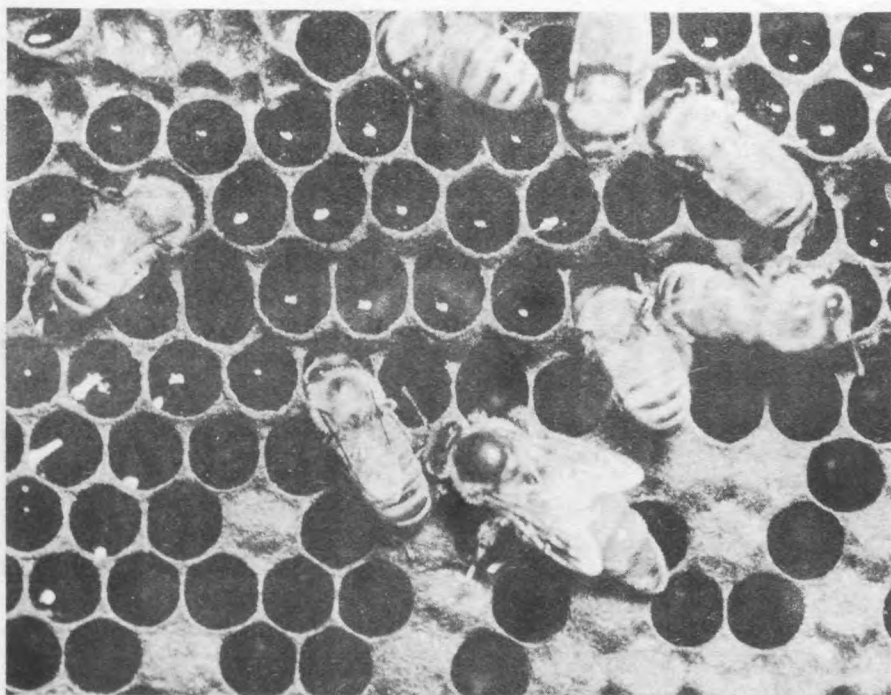
Recently certain New Jersey beekeepers have been transporting their colonies to warm climates so that they may keep strong and increase the number of workers during the cold winter months. Hives must be certified as disease-free before they are permitted to return to New Jersey.

Wild bees build their combs in hollow tree trunks or other cavities of any size or shape, and beekeepers have always taken advantage of this adaptability. The early colonists used to provide for the bees an inverted wicker basket, called a "skip." Hives today, however, are constructed so as to permit addition of new sections as the bee colony increases.

On a wooden base, called the "hive stand," is placed a series of boxes, open top and bottom. There is a double cover at the top to keep the hive weather-tight and help the bees maintain a suitable temperature. Fitting into each of the sections, like playing cards in a package, are ten removable frames filled with wax comb, rows of tiny chambers in which the bees store honey and lay eggs.

The 10-frame plan is always used by modern beekeepers for the bottom section, called the hive body or brood chamber. If, however, the beekeeper wishes to sell honey in the combs, as is often done, the sections above the hive body are composed of smaller, boxlike containers of honeycomb which can be removed when filled.

In the darkness of these plain wooden boxes the bees build their city, enforce their laws, live their extremely complicated lives. Each individual has her duties, varying from day to



Queen Bee and Nurses
Courtesy N. J. Dept. Agr.