

perform. However, I could help search for the queen without soiling my "fixins." This I did, and this both of us did—in vain. So I began to investigate the bees, which were partially in sight on the other side of a very high board fence. A moment's glance aroused the suspicion that they were clustering, so, saying that I would go and look after them, I made my way to the next house—a palatial residence—rang, stated the case, and asked permission to look after the swarm, which was promptly and courteously granted. On proceeding to the garden, there they were, sure enough, forming their cluster pretty well upon an apple tree. The best way of securing them was to saw off the branch, which I obtained leave to do. But it required two. However, my hostess was equal to the occasion. She bravely went up the ladder, undertaking to hold the branch while I sawed it off, and then hand it to me to carry home. She did her part capitably, preventing all jar at the critical moment when the branch parts company with the trunk, and handing the cluster to me "in good order and condition." It required some engineering to guide the branch and its pendant load through the gateways and passages, round by the front street and into my friend's yard, but it was safely accomplished. The bees were quickly hived, and once again, preparations were made for the retarded meal. The beef-steak and potatoes were somewhat overdone, and I was rather hurried in getting to my train, but we had lots of fun at my absent friend's expense, and as I could not see him before my departure, I told his dear "Mary" that I would immortalize him as a highly successful queen's wing clipper in the C. B. J., to which, of course, they subscribe. I cannot write a laugh, but that is what I indulge in whenever I think of this little episode.

Beemen, whene'er you undertake

To stop a queen-bee's flight,

"Assurance sure," take care to "make"


By doing the job right.

W. F. CLARKE,

Guelph, July 25, 1887.

From the American Bee Journal.

#### HIVING SWARMS.

 PUT into a light box or comb-carrier the number of frames I wish to have a swarm on, all started with strips of foundation, ready for the bees, and as soon as a swarm issues I step to the front of the hive and get the queen, with wing clipped, in a wire-cloth cage. Next I take the frames from the box and put them at the side of the hive, when I open the hive and take out the frames of brood with the few adhering


bees, placing them in the box. I now put in the started frames and rearrange the surplus arrangement, closing the hive. I then lay the caged queen close to the entrance, and take the box of brood and bees to an empty hive previously put where I wish the hive of a colony to stand, when the combs are put from the box into the hive, the same being closed.

By this time the swarm is returning to where it came from, when the queen is liberated, which immediately runs in and the swarm is hived. The next day a just-hatched virgin queen is dropped in honey and put into the hive having the frames of brood. Reader try it.

G. M. DOOLITTLE,

Borodino, N. Y.


#### How to Test Adulterated Wax.

 DENNLER, in the *British Bee Journal*, has an article on bees-wax and its conversion into money. In the article, he gives several tests for the detection of adulteration as follows:—(a) When wax is chewed there should be no unpleasant taste and it should not stick to the teeth. If wax is adulterated with other ingredients the taste can usually be recognised. It sticks fast to the teeth so that the existence of resin can be detected. (b) To separate pure bees-wax from adulterated is also determined by first, dumping quickly on a hot iron plate a small bit of bees-wax which is known to be pure. The smell which is given off is noticed. Then a piece of wax is burnt which is to be examined. If it contains ceresine there is given off a disagreeable, fatty, white smoke, which differs the more from the smell of wax the more ceresine there is mixed with the wax. This is a simple way of proving the purity of the bought artificial combs."

A plan which we find to very seldom fail is by simply rubbing a bit of bees-wax between the thumb and finger. By rubbing the wax this way for a few minutes if it is adulterated it becomes slippery and will give out the smell of tallow or whatever mixture is incorporated with the wax.

From The British Bee Journal.

#### HOW MAY I RE-QUEEN MY STOCKS?

 HIS is a chapter for small bee-keepers. The above question was put to me during the past week by the owner of seven stocks. He has kept bees for three years only, and as he has managed to prevent swarming, except in one instance last year, some of his queens are old, and consequently he has three