

and natural pollen. When the above conditions are present the hives should be opened, and the strength and conditions of the colony ascertained. All hives should now be contracted to a capacity best suited to the size of the cluster, that is, in case such has not been attended to the fall previous. As the colonies of average strength will be found at this date with from two to four frames of brood in different stages of development these frames should be raised up sufficiently high so the honey along the top bars and in the corners can be uncapped. This will cause the bees to move it, and they will certainly store it in the cells that surround the brood, where it will be of most advantage. In the case of no honey being along the top bars of the frames which contain the brood, frames of honey (first having been uncapped) should be placed one on each outside of the brood nest proper. Uncapping in this way serves a twofold purpose: first, by providing the liquid honey for larvæ food, and of easy access, and secondly by clearing the coast for the queen to widen out her circle. All garbage and dead bees should be removed from the hive floors, at this time a very simple matter indeed if the bee-keeper has been so wise as to use only loose floors; unfortunately some of us are still hampered with permanent floors. All the foregoing having been attended to the operation will be completed by re-placing the clean quilt (if such is used) with a gum cloth, putting on top of this three or more thicknesses of paper, return the top packing, contract the entrance, and close the hive. While it takes some little time to outline the above manipulation yet in actual practice only a very few minutes are required for the whole operation. Any queenless colonies that are found at this time should be forced on not more

than three frames, and united with weak colonies at the very first favorable opportunity. In eight or ten days if the weather has been propitious, and the bees have been able to gather from the fields, moderately, more uncapping should be done, the brood chamber enlarged, if found necessary; frames containing honey should be placed of the division board "A la Sibbald," which is a positive prevention of starvation and an excellent stimulant for the extension of the brood nest. Do anything and everything that will not disorganize or endanger the colony, but that which will compel them to convert honey into brood because it is bees we must get at this time, if we can expect to have our supers rapidly filled when the main harvest arrives. From this time up to the fruit bloom frames should be added to the brood chamber, and frames of honey inserted as often as the condition of the colony and the amount gathered from outside may demand. Always selecting a fit and proper day for the operation. At the opening of fruit bloom is the time when all full winged queens should be clipped. Having recently noticed considerable discussion in the journals regarding this operation I am persuaded to mention the method I practise, and for which I am indebted to Mr. McEvoy. As the queen is heading for the top bar when the frame is held on an angle I catch her by the wings with the finger and thumb of the right hand, and then pass her over to the finger and thumb of the left hand, securing her by the two legs on her left side. When held in this position she cannot squirm, and the operator's right hand is at liberty to remove (with a pair of scissors) any portion of the wings desired. When completed, simply hold her close to the comb, relax the pressure suddenly and she is at liberty