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OUR OWN APIARY.

TRYING TO RAISE QUEENS FROM DRONE EGGS.

Our "Law" bee-farm this week, as we were going over the hives, making artificial swarms and building up nuclei, we found in one hive where the bees had attempted to raise queens from drone eggs, and on one comb, two cells containing drones; one cell was nearly two inches in length, and contained a living drone almost ready to gnaw out. There was no cocoon spun at the point of the cell by the drone, as there usually is when they are hatched in the ordinary way. There was also about one-quarter of an inch deep of royal jelly, partially dried, in the bottom of the cell, showing that it had been very liberally fed. The drone appeared perfect in every way, excepting the wings, which were only small stubs. It also appeared to have a partial cocoon around its body, instead of on the point of the cell. It seemed to be too far from the point of the cell to reach it, which we suppose accounted, in a measure, for the partial web around its body. The other cell on the same comb contained two drones, one fully developed in every way; it had its head in the bottom of the cell. The other was fully developed, excepting the wings, which were deficient. Its head was at the top of the cell. Thus, the two drones lay with the points of their abdomens together, so if one had gnawed out the other might have backed out of the cell.

BEES CONFINING THE QUEEN.

A swarm issued at our home apiary. The foreman removed all the queen cells except three, and no other queen cells remained in the hive, nor were there any more started. About fifteen

days afterwards another swarm issued. On examining the hive we found that the bees had actually kept those queens confined six or seven days after they should have gnawed out. One queen had been allowed to hatch, she leading out the second swarm, while the other two queens were in the cells, and, strange to say, the bees had seemingly continued to put wax on the outside of the cells until they were an enormous size. We cut open the other two cells and liberated the other two queens. They were fine, and could fly as well as queens hatched several days. The wax was more than six times as thick as is usual on ordinary queen cells. We do not know how to account for this strange freak of the bees; in fact it is hard to account for some of the things bees do.

BASSWOOD.

The basswood trees planted in and around our village commenced to bloom about the 10th or 12th of July, while the basswood in the forests has not commenced to bloom yet, unless it is an occasional tree standing at the edge of the wood or in a favored locality. Even then very few blossoms can be found, this 17th day of July. This shows that the basswood planted in favored localities will yield honey at least a week before those growing in the forests, and this should be quite an item for bee-keepers, who can extend their basswood harvest even a week.

NUCLEI SWARMING OUT.

One of our men was making nucleus the other day, and he found a queen just gnawing out of the cell. He took the comb with the adhering bees and placed it in a new hive, then shook down a lot of bees, sufficient to complete the nuclei. In about one hour a small swarm was seen issuing from the hive, and on examination it was found that the queen had hatched, and they had swarmed out leaving nothing but the