



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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EDITORIAL.

QUEEN INTRODUCTION.

EARLY in the summer we promised to give the Hallamshire law of queen introduction a trial, and one of the yard foremen was instructed to test it thoroughly. Pressed for time he did not follow it up sufficiently, but will be at it again next season. The queens introduced by this plan have all been accepted and none lost. This "law" is to deprive bees of all brood and eggs for 48 hours, and even fertile workers will accept a queen readily and without much difficulty under such conditions. But where one has thousands of queens to introduce, as we had this season, we find the following the simplest and surest method of direct introduction yet tried. As orders came in very numerous in many colonies would be queenless in the evening. Just hatched queens were taken from the nursery, a puff of smoke sent in the entrance of the hive, one corner of the lid and quilt raised up and the young queen allowed to run in. Another puff sent after her and all is done. The apiarist filled his pocket with nursery cages and has introduced from 20 to 40 queens in from ten to fifteen minutes, without a loss of one per cent. The queen from a strong colony has been removed and a young or an old laying queen introduced the

same day. The operation is usually done at dusk and we have yet to lose the initial one. We pay no attention to brood or eggs—they are scarcely ever without them. We have found no better results were to be obtained by taking away the brood for 48 hours than by simple introduction after removing the old queen. The ancient mode of caging will soon be done away with, and direct introduction by either of the above systems will give good satisfaction. Doing the work after dusk may be one of the causes of success. Instead of leaving the bees queenless for 48 hours we think it does not matter if they have not been so for 48 minutes, and the advantage we have in immediate introduction is that the queen is often fertilised the following day if old enough, and two days at least are saved in time. Years ago when we knew less about queens, we learned by experience that in the absence of brood, eggs and larvæ the bees would more readily accept a queen under the caging system. But we have also learned by removing all combs during the day, leaving the bees to cluster in the hive, they became thoroughly discouraged, and if, in the evening, after a preliminary shake, a queen was dropped among them and another shaking given, combs being withheld until next morning, the queen was invariably enthroned without loss. If nothing is done to excite bees to anger at the time of introducing a queen and the hour selected is after the day's