

under the cluster, place the hive on the cloth with the front as near as possible to the cluster, remove the entrance blocks, with a sudden jerk dislodge the bees onto the cloth in front of the hive, which they will quickly enter.

10. If a branch on which the bees have clustered is small and not valuable, cut it off, taking care to avoid all jarring, lay the branch down in front of the hive, give the bees a few puffs with the smoker, when they will commence to march into the hive at once.

12. If the bees have clustered on the branch of a tree too valuable or too thick to cut off, shake them first into a hiving basket, hold the basket in one hand under the swarm and with the other give the branch a sudden shake so as to let the bees fall into it, throw a cover over the basket, carry the swarm to the hive and with a sudden jerk throw the bees down on the cloth close to the front of the hive.

12. If they alight on the trunk of a tree, brush them gently into a hive, or if possible place its edge near the under part of the cluster, brush them down to the hive with a turkey wing, or you may use the smoker.

13. If a swarm should settle on the ground the hive should be set close to them and with a wing gently place a few of them near the entrance; the hum of these will entice others to follow, and in a short time all will be into their new home.

14. The new hived swarm should be taken to the stand which they are to occupy as soon as possible after they have hived. The hive should be well ventilated and shaded for a day or so from the heat of the sun.

15. Great care should also be taken in moving these hives when the swarms are in them, and they should be carried very steadily and held level. Face your hives south-east.

16. Keep down all grass weeds or thistles. Nothing looks more disgusting to the eye than to have your hives buried over head with thistles, grass and weeds.

A. FYFE.

Wellington Apiary, Feb. 19th, 1889.

From the American Bee Journal.

### MANIPULATION

IN THE APIARY DURING THE PAST SEASON.

**M**Y report for 1888 is not very flattering. The first part was very poor, so poor that a number of colonies were in almost a starving condition right in the height of white clover bloom.

Bees built up rather slowly early in the season but finally they became strong and commenced swarming, a portion of which I hived on the

old stands in contracted brood-chambers, and thereby succeeded in getting a few crates of comb honey. At the time of swarming the brood-nests were almost destitute of honey, but a nice start had been made in the boxes, and where the crates were removed from the old stand to the swarm, and none put under them they were fairly finished; those that were raised, and an empty one put under them, were not so well finished, and but a very little honey was put into the new one, though the foundation was nicely drawn, leaving them in good shape for the fall flow.

The crates left on the hives of the colonies that had swarmed, were cleaned out and left "as dry as a chip," and the honey carried below, where it was badly needed.

The colonies from which the crates were taken and hives removed to new stand after swarming, suffered severely—lots of brood was carried out.

On occasional evenings all along up to Aug. 10th the contented hum of the busy workers could be heard; but oftener there was the "growl of the opossum" (or the moaning of the drones for mercy).

Although the drones were being killed off all the season, brood rearing was kept up fairly well until Aug. 15; from then until the last was the most trying time on bees that I ever saw.

September I found the colonies reasonably strong in field workers, but destitute of brood or honey. About this time honey began to come in freely, and the result was a nice surplus of combs, honey, and a blocked brood-nest.

The queens seemed slow to lay, or the eggs were destroyed, and after the loss of the old bees the colonies were mere nuclei.

I thought a good deal of uniting, but I could not get the full consent of my mind to do so. I had superseded all the queens that I wished to destroy with swarm cell queens.

At present I have 48 colonies (or nuclei) packed on the summer stands, with a great plenty of honey.

The fall flow of honey to the north and west of here, was better and earlier than here—it was some better only three miles distant, and considerably so 15 and 20 miles away. On the south and east it was poorer, which I think is not usually the case.

H. BRAMLET.

Raleigh, Ills.

HE WAS OUT OF REACH.

Bobbie—Say papa, a bee hums, doesn't he?

Father—Yes, my boy; but run away and don't bother me.

Bobbie—Well, pa, if that's so, ain't a bee a humbug?—*New York Sun*.