

April, 1912

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EE-ESCAPES

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you do or not. So if I am not getting too far from my text, I would say if any reference is made, quote enough so that the reader will possibly be able to recall what it is. A good thing will stand repeating especially in a condensed form. Well, this writer, Adrian Getaz, in the Review, has no end of trouble, bees clustering under the escape and blocking the exit, honey leaking, producing same results and attracting robbers, etc. Then to remedy this trouble, he puts on an empty brood-nest, only to find them building comb and blocking the exit in that way. Finally he puts on a super of sections and gives the bees an hour to clean up before putting on the bee-escape. Dear me! Before I would use bee-escapes with all this trouble I would make kindling wood of all I had. He does not tell us how he empties these sections of bees, nor what one is to do who has not any, which is more probable. You know that Holtermann, for one, has no use for them, and after reading Getaz' experience will be more confirmed in his ideas than ever. Until two years ago, like Holtermann, I never bothered with them, but after using them I would not like to "keep house" without them. For comb honey they are unexcelled. For extracted honey, at times, they are very helpful. When used in cool weather and supers allowed to remain long in the hive, it may be necessary to warm up the honey before extracting, but this can be avoided. With bee-escapes one can extract, no matter how bad robbers may be. The way we did some was to put these under as many supers as we could extract that day. To do quick work, one to lift the super and another to put in the escape, are necessary, and it can be done very quickly, nearly as fast as you can walk along. Now in an hour's time we can begin extracting. Of course, the bees will not be all away, but the few remaining ones are easily

got rid of, and if robbers are about they alight on the extracting combs and do not interfere with the bees in the hive below the escape. Nor can the bees below interfere with the taking away of the honey—only those that are still on the combs—and all fight seems to have left them. Without the escape, the bees below could only be subdued by much smoke, which leaves them much more susceptible to attack and very cross as well. Some of us know how cross bees can be with no honey in the fields and robber bees helping themselves. Well, with the escape, there is no trouble, and, used this way, the honey does not have time to cool, as it certainly would if this was done the day previous. This is one way, and a good one, too, of using a bee-escape, but not always necessary.

When more than one super are on the hives, I find it an advantage to take off one at a time from each. McEvoy has recommended disturbing a comb or two, as the bees will then more quickly take their departure. I find that the usual bee-space between the escape and the frames below furnishes ample room, as the outgoing bees will quickly congregate in the front of the hives. So much leaking of honey, as friend Getaz speaks about, would indicate poor workmanship somewhere. Before using on strong colonies make sure that the escape is working properly, otherwise there may be many dead bees and a loss of honey.

Another use of a bee-escape is in the cure of foul brood—but that is another story.

Brussels, Ont.

TO PUNCH THE HOLES

Mr. H. S. told us about a good feeder but omitted to inform us how to make the holes. Well, break the eye off a common sewing needle, and push the needle through a cork from an ale bottle, lengthways, till the point just comes through. You can punch as much tin as you like with it and a light hammer. Good morning.

A. BUCKINDALE.

Jarratt, Ont.