

travelling toward the hive with fapping wings. Had I shaken the first frame eight feet away from the hives, and all of the rest likewise, the bees would have flown to the hive and I failed to accomplish my object. As soon as the last frame was shaken and placed in the hive, and the hive closed, I got the swarm and shook it down, scattering it as evenly as possible with the bees already running into the hive, and I had no more trouble with bees being killed. And right here I wish to say, that two or more colonies of bees can be united in this way at any time with no danger of bees being killed. Having learned this part in the matter, I now went on with the plan, and as that season proved to be a rather poor one I had no trouble with any further swarming, and at the end found that the colonies treated gave me at least one-third more honey than did those treated in the old way. This, of course elated me, and I concluded that the extra work of shaking the bees off the frames, was more than made up in the extra yield of honey. So I prepared to serve the whole apiary that way the next season. But this season proved to be an extra good one, or one in which the honey yield was long drawn out, and for this reason eight out of ten of the colonies concluded to swarm again, about two weeks after they had been treated as is suggested by our correspondent. When I began the process over again. A few of the colonies did not wait so long, but nursed the queen cells left when the former swarm issued, instead of destroying them, as they usually did, and with these I had swarming within a week, and in some cases sooner; which taking the whole together, gave me more labor, with very little if any better results, than by the old swarming plan, and the doubling up of the extra colonies which I did not wish, in the spring; using the weaker colonies when thus doubling. Since then I have practiced the plan more or less in my apiary, and have this to say in that matter: In a short and rather poorish honey season, I think there is a gain made in using it over any of the plans where the swarms are to be put in new hives, but in good seasons, and especially those where the honey yield covers a period of from three to five weeks, I can see no gain in it over the usual way of treating swarms.

G. M. DOOLITTLE,
Borodina, N. Y.

If the hearts are to be comforted and deeds of mercy performed, it cannot be done to-morrow, but must be done to-day.

How to Use a Honey Extractor,

—W. J. CRAIG.

You probably have one of these machines on hand or at least have seen one, so that it is not necessary for me to describe it. Though there are a great many of them in the supply trade at present, the principle is the same in all, viz. that of throwing out the honey from the comb by centrifugal force. For use in our yard we prefer the four frame reversible; it does its work quickly and well, saving the time and trouble of lifting out and turning the combs necessary in the ordinary extractor.

However the two or four frame ordinary are very good and will extract the honey quite as well. But what you want to know is not about extractors, but "how to use" one. First see that it is in good working order, and that the basket and can are perfectly clean. Place your machine on a solid bench or box just high enough to admit the can or vessel that you intend running your honey off into being set under the tap. Have an "uncapping can" with strainer or a vessel of some sort thus arranged to hold the cappings and drippings. A good sharp honey knife to uncap the combs with, and a dish of warm water to dip it, also to wash the honey from your hands when they get daubed. All this in order in your honey house you go out to your bee yard, taking with you a comb bucket or a super or an other suitable receptacle for carrying in the combs of honey, also empty combs to replace the full one to be taken out. Having your smoker going full blast give the colony to be operated on a few puffs of smoke from the entrance of the hive, this will quiet and prepare them for handling, then open, using your smoke gently, loosen the frames and remove them carefully one by one shaking off in front as many of the adhering bees as possible, the balance brush off gently with a wing or bunch of feathers. When you have made space in the super rather shake and brush the bees into it than in front, they will settle down more quickly. Place your empty combs and carry the full ones into the honey house. When removing the capping don't cut any deeper than necessary by dipping your knife occasionally into the dish of water as above suggested will prevent it getting clogged and tearing the comb. When uncapped place it in the extracting basket and so another until you have the required number. Turn the handle quickly but not