

May. Then, if you can, get out and spend the summer and fall with some man who has a lot of bees, and is making them pay. By the end of the season you will have theory and practice so blended together that you will almost forget which is which, will most likely have had most of the "get-rich-quick" notions that you started out with stung and worked out of you, and will be in fair condition to make a success of it yourself in a small way next year. If you have to stay at home, stay. Get a colony of bees—just one. When you have them used up it will be time enough to get more, and you will have a better idea how to handle them and how to let them alone. And, when it comes to the fine thing, the latter is much harder to learn than the former.

Fenelon Falls, Ont.

UNITING BEES.

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Dear Sir,—I read in the C. B. J. different methods of uniting bees and of introducing queens. Although I am only a new beginner, I will give you my plan; it might be of some benefit or lead to something better. I use a screen made from screen door material. It is cut the same size as the hive with strips of wood around the same as a queen excluder. In doubling up, all I have to do is to lift the cover of one hive, put on the screen, then lift the other hive body with the lid on and place it on the screen; if the weather is very warm, I go in 24 hours, raise the upper hive, take out the screen, and put back the hive and everything is all right. It is simple and easy and never fails; in cool weather it takes from 2 to 3 days to get acquainted with each other before it is safe to remove the screen. It seems to me that there is not the strong perfume in the hive in cool weather and it takes longer

for the upper colony to take on the scent of the lower one. If the colonies have at all been bothered with robbers they are more suspicious of each other.

During the swarming season if a good honey-gathering colony swarms I divide her frames up into little nucleus with one capped queen cell in each, by the time those young queens get to laying or by the end of the honey flow, it is easy to find the least profitable colonies. I kill the queen and introduce a nucleus as above.

Fall Feeding.

In feeding bees in the fall I use a square open box, in fact, most of them are horse shoe nail boxes, and I make a float to fit the inside; it is made by strips 3-8 by 1 inch, put two cross pieces, one near each end, cut so they will slide up or down easy, then tack on the pieces lengthwise, leaving the outside ones 3-8 of an inch from the sides and the same distance apart. I have had strong colonies empty one of those nail boxes in one night. I never feed in the morning because it puts the bees in an uproar all day, when fed in the evening the bees get most of the food is stored away by morning and all is quiet. The boxes are placed in an empty super on top of the frames. I nail small pieces of wood on each corner of the box for feed projecting 3-8 of an inch below the box, so it can be set down at any time without crushing any bees. First thing I nail the nail box all round then run hot bees wax round the edges inside then I soon have a feed trough. I am wintering 70 colonies.

T. BALMER.

Burlington, Ont.

P. S. In the August number of C. B. J., page 179, Mr. Alexander Taylor asks for information concerning his bees crawling about on the grass during the month of June as though they were poisoned. I had a similar experience during June but with me it was only one colony, it lasted about a week, they acted as though they could not die and did not want to live; on lifting the cover there would be a few acting the same way on the frames. Still the colony was strong and worked away; had it been poison surely some of the other colonies would have been affected. I went around them all but could not find any others affected in the least.