

First puff a few whiffs of smoke in at the entrance. This drives the guards into the hive. If you smoke the entrance too much you send the bees just where they are not wanted—at the top of the hive. Next, gently puff up the cover, and smoke in on top of the frames. This will drive the bees out of the way. If a quilt, lift one corner, and smoke across as you lift it off. Never puff smoke between the frames, but across the top, and if wind is blowing, always puff on the windward side—the wind will send the smoke across. Presently you will hear the bees set up a contented hum. Now take out a frame. In all your movements or jerks or jars be gentle. You will find it pays amongst bees, and you can work quicker. Lift the frame with both hands, and examine the side next to you. If you desire to examine the other side, lower the left hand, and swing the frame around as on a pivot; then lower the right hand, and you have the frame turned around only upside down to put it back reversed. If you turned a frame over heavy with honey and brood, the chances are you would have an accident, and the comb would part company with the frame; but by handling in this way, you can turn and examine both sides of the heaviest comb you will find in a hive without the slightest danger, and so proceed with every frame. It is well to see your smoker is well alight in the case of some of the bees becoming wild. A few puffs of smoke will always quieten them. The best smoker is the hot blast. Almost any make does good work. I never could get the cold blast to do satisfactory work.

Much handling may be avoided by carefully noting and studying

the habits of bees. An expert can, to a great extent, tell how his bees are getting on from outside appearance, i. e., the bees coming in and out briskly, with no loafing and fooling round, shows the hive is in full work, and everything O. K.

Then towards evening a large number of bees will be seen coming out, and flying about the hive. These are young bees, taking their first lessons in the use of their wings. Such a hive does not need examining more than once in eight days in the honey season, to see that no queen cells are started; at other times, not so often.

If the bees are observed to be very restless, it indicates swarming, and if on opening the hive queen cells are started, and young bees hatching in great numbers, it may certainly be expected.

If bees are observed hanging in clusters on the outside of hive, this shows they are loafing, or else the hive is too small or too hot, and by putting on an empty super they will be got to go to work at once.

If bees are observed flying straight in an straight out without stopping, robbers are at work. They are in a hurry to leave, and if bees are found struggling together about the hive, and flying about cracks or covers, it is certainly robbers. Bees never, when working naturally, fly straight out of hive, but come out on the alighting board, and seem to look round before going off. Do not confound robbers with young bees on their afternoon flight, as beginners are apt to do.

If bees are crawling all over the front of the hive here and there, seeming to be looking for something, some mishap has come to their queen; she is certain to be