

## BAIT SECTIONS FINISHED FIRST.

This year I had some 250 of last years unfinished sections used as bait, one in a super; and after the general report that such sections were filled first and finished last, I was quite interested to notice how mine would come out. Invariably these bait sections were commenced first, just as reported. And almost as invariably these sections in the supers were the first ones to be finished. I think there were two or three of the 250 that were not first completed. Moreover, they are nice sections, but not quite so nice as the others. Now, why is it that the general agreement has been that these sections were last to be finished, and would better be thrown away? The only reason I can guess at is, that some honey, if only a little, that was granulated and dried, was left in the sections. When I first used bait sections I thought there must be some honey left in them and such sections, when finished, had a watery appearance especially after being taken off the hives for some time, when the honey was inclined to ooze through the cappings. I suspect the old honey, perhaps a little sour, acted somewhat as yeast. At any rate, I should not like to get along without bait sections; but they must have no honey in them, and must be cleaned out thoroughly by the bees.

## WRITING AN ENGLISH PLAN.

From the *Record* we take the following written by S. J., St. Buenos' College:

1. In the case of frame hives having their combs running parallel to the entrance, I have acted as follows:—1. Contract one stock towards the back, to half or more its frames, by means of the divider, fronted for the present by a dummy-board. This divider need be nothing more than a sheet of perforated zinc, bee-proof all round, and nailed to a strong thin lath the length of a top bar. The divider should be hung against the imprisoned bees, wood inwards, so that when the dummy is placed against it no space is left between up which bees can pass. 2. Until the bees have nearly all drawn in;—and keeping the hive cool will help to that end—let the divider and dummy be both kept up a little, so that the bees can pass in beneath. Where metal ends are used, the divider, wood inwards, may be hung on them. In the case of alternating distance-pins, I should extract one, if possible, for the present; or, if wooden shoulders, I should—well, I should manage somehow. 3. The bees having mostly gathered in, promptly but quietly let down the divider and remove the dummy, and now be very careful to secure the quilt against being pushed up by the bees, for they will try hard, especially next morning: drawing-pins are excellent for this purpose. 4. Place the hive on the stand of the other stock, and transfer to it from the latter and brood combs as a matter of course, and food combs by preference. Obviously, for ventilation's sake, the imprisoned bees should have a larger proportion of combs, number being about equal. 5. If there is to be a choice or not between the queens, one ought to be first found and caged over frames until the last-mentioned step, when she may be removed, to be killed, sold, or used for a queenless

stock as required. If she cannot be found the two may be left to fight it out a *l'outrance*, without much hazard. 6. Keep the prisoners cool, even at night, but not cold. 7. Next day to uniting move the hive midway between the former positions, with another remove the day after if desirable. 8. Thirty-six hours, at least, after incarceration unite the two lots by quietly withdrawing the divider. This will be all the more easily accomplished if two quilts have been used, meeting or overlapping each other at the divider.

II. Where frames run at right angles to the doorway the process is identical, except that the divider and dummy are set down at once to the floor-board, and that part of the doorway left open to the bees is closed tight towards evening with a rag or the like, if the doors, as is usual, are not made so as to do so.

III. Stocks driven from skeps or swarms are left on their stand until the frame hive is ready to receive them. If there is an insufficiency of drawn-out comb or full sheets of foundation at this season of the year, they should be supplied with their own combs mounted in frames—at no time, however, an easy task as regards their future security. They must on no account be supered over a stock, except between combs where top ventilation can easily be afforded them, and even in this case care must be taken to have air-space beneath the whole divider. By neglect of these precautions I killed a small lot of driven-bees supered in a box.

## WINTERING TWO COLONIES IN ONE HIVE.

The article referred to by Mr. Holtermann on page 292, this issue, is as follows:

I am not entirely sure that my way is the best way, but it is one way. I never feed—or, say, hardly ever. It is not that I have made any solemn resolution never to do such a thing, but I do have a decided inclination to get rid of it whenever I can: and I pretty much always can. I think I never fed a colony to winter them as the fraternity understand the term "feeding." My feeding is to set in combs of honey.

So the problem is to simmer things down in such a way that their scant supply, scattered through seven or ten combs—or twenty—less here and more there, sometimes less everywhere, will tide things over until flowers bloom again, without the unpleasant murdering of bees. The first natural principle we can catch hold of, to help us, is that, practically, honey is spent mostly in warming up their quarters, and that putting two colonies in the same quarters reduces the honey needed during the first half of the winter, by nearly one-half. After breeding gets well begun in February things are on a little different footing; but there is still a gain in the "double-house" tactics. I am not now talking of uniting—will talk of that by any by—but of putting two colonies with two queens in the same hive by means of an enamel cloth partition. The second natural principle we can tie to is that during the latter part of winter honey is spent largely in rearing brood: and that the advantage of winter brooding is rather problematical at best: and that they will raise much or little according as they have much or little honey in store. Don't let them have very much