

melting if they all crowd into the hive. When there is honey to be gathered in the fields, they fly off in search of it, but when there is none, they cluster. Before bees swarm, occasionally the young bees congregate in the portico, or on the outside of their hive and remain so. We say "they are fattening," and by this we mean they are fed by the field workers in order to secrete wax with which to build their combs when they swarm.

BEES SWARM WITHOUT CLUSTERING,

or building queen cells. Those bees which have clustered for days secreting wax are good natured when they swarm, and can be handled with impunity. The bottom of the hive will be strown with little white wax scales. Bees are made richer in wax during a continuous honey flow than during a season like the present one, when there is only an occasional day, or part of one, in which honey is plentiful. I apprehend no danger of bees swarming themselves to death this season. The swarms which have issued from our apiary thus far are, with few exceptions, all first swarms. Casting swarms occur in very populous colonies, and during changeable weather. When the young queen issued from the cell there might have been no honey in the fields, or it was raining, and the bees gave up swarming and allowed the first queen out to destroy all her rivals.

There are various ways to prevent bees from after swarming. If all queen cells but one are removed, there will be no more swarming. Some bee-keepers hive the after-swarm and place it on top of the one from which it issued, allowing it to remain 48 hours, when it is returned. The young queen will destroy all her rivals, and further swarming will be prevented. Other apiarists use the following plan: The hive containing the new swarm is placed beside the old hive, but with the entrance in the opposite direction. Daily the new stand is turned a little until the entrances of both are on the same side. On the eighth day the old stand is removed. If any bees are working on the old sections remove them to the new hive. The bees working in the field will go to the new swarm of their own accord, and if the season is good much honey will be stored. When the young queen issues there will be so few bees in the old hive that further swarming will be impossible.

There have been showers nearly every day or night for a week, and vegetation is green and luxuriant. There is an abundance of white clover, and when the sun shines hot for a few hours, honey is secreted, and bees work with great alacrity. When there is nothing to be

gathered in the field, bees cluster on the outside of their hives to avoid the heat.

SECRETION OF HONEY.

The conditions necessary for the secretion of honey are peculiar and not well understood. There have been days of late, when I thought everything was just right, yet the bees were idle. The nights have been hot, followed by hot days and a moist balmy atmosphere, with plenty of bloom in the fields, yet there was no honey gathered. The *why* is a mystery to me. There must have been some element wanting, or nectar would have been secreted. And how do bees know when it is secreted? They may be at home one day, with very few bees leaving the hive for water or any other purpose, yet the following day by day break they are leaving on the double quick, and all is hurry and activity. Who told them there was honey? Do they scent it in the air?—Mrs. L. HARRISON, in Orange Judd Farmer.

OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A Visit to Stratford.

ASTRAY STRAWS.

I GAVE a run up to Stratford, where I visited the apiary of F. A. Gemmell. Mr. Gemmell has his apiary in very good condition. He winters on summer stands, and keeps the outside cases less the packing, on the hives all summer. The outside cases act very nicely as shade boards. Mr. Gemmell uses the T super with apparatus, and extracts largely from a super half the depth of the brood chamber. He likes that method, and there is perhaps a good deal to be said in favor of it, although I should feel more enthusiastic over it if we had been using a full-depth chamber for comb honey, and we were about to change to the half-depth for comb. Mr. Gemmell has quite a novel idea in naming each hive after some bee-keeper. For instance, he has the Langstroth, Jones, Pringle, McKnight, Root (L. C. and A. T.) etc. The wires in frames are all run from top to bottom; he has not found horizontal wiring a success. Foul brood has given him a great deal of trouble, especially last year; but he thinks he has the disease entirely cured now. Before concluding, I should like to take those who are with me on the wired frame question into my confidence. When I reached Mr. Gemmell's house I found he had with him his wife, one son and one daughter old enough to wire frames, also his mother, his mother-in-law and his sister-in-law; he has also a hired girl in the house. Now, any one who has met Mr. Gemmell cannot fail to note the twinkle in