

CAPPINGS.

CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

Just How to Extract.

HERE is a good deal in knowing how to extract, and this thought has been brought forcibly to mind by reading the following paragraph from Gleanings :

I know that we lose honey when we interrupt the bees ; for whenever we used to extract our colonies that were kept on the scales, there would be a loss. Sometimes the bees that were shaken from the combs would cluster in a body on the outside of the hive, and very often would not get to work until the next day ; and this very often resulted in making the yield next to nothing, from a hive that had been bringing in from 5 to 10 pounds of honey per day right along. Some colonies will go to work at once after being extracted from, I am well aware, but others will not. In working for comb honey it would be a much simpler matter to put a new crate, or a partly finished one, under the one that is ready to come off.

It is quite true as friend Root says, that some colonies will go to work at once after being extracted from, but others will not, but if the work of extracting be done properly, this will be reduced to a minimum. If the combs are all removed from the hive at one time, and the bees shaken off roughly, either into or in front of the hive, a great deal of their honey will be shaken off amongst them, dampening their wings and bodies. This is the way that some bee-keepers do and they will tell you they never need a feather or brush of any kind—a good vigorous shake will do it all. If on the contrary but a few combs are removed at a time, at first the bees are smoked then brushed gently from the combs, there will be but little daubing, the bees will be less disturbed and will continue to work right along. When extracting from the second story most of the bees can be smoked down into the brood-chamber, and what few remain can be brushed off gently. Do you not see that when the combs are shaken in front of the hive, bees, honey and all will be shaken off, and the former will naturally cluster about the entrance until they get cleaned up, and this will often take a whole day. There is therefore not only a waste of time—which means honey—but also of honey, which might as well be in the store

cans as on the bees and around the ground.

DESTROYING SURPLUS BEES.

A correspondent in the American Bee Journal, writes on this subject and gives his method of getting rid of the surplus bees :

"I first shake and brush the bees from their combs, and remove the combs and honey to safe quarters, and allow the bees to cluster in the empty hive. This I do in the afternoon or towards evening. If the hive has a stationary bottom-board (as most of mine have), I remove the honey-board and allow them to cluster in the cap. Early the next morning they are disposed of. I take a box 14 to 16 inches square, with one side hinged for a door, to be opened for the reception of a hot lid from the stove to be placed on a flat stone on the bottom of the box, to prevent burning. The top of the box should be a little larger than the largest hive or cap to be placed thereon, and a hole 6 or 8 inches square, covered with wire cloth, for the admission of the fumes of burning sulphur. The hot stove lid is placed bottom up (to avoid unpleasant smell when returned to the stove), and a good teaspoonful of sulphur thrown on, and the door closed. As soon as "killed" the bees should be buried, as they would revive in the air and warmth."

A DOUBLE TOP-BAR TO DO AWAY WITH BRACE COMBS.

On page 14 of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL for April, we referred to a double top bar for the above purpose. We showed at the Toronto exhibition, nearly ten years ago, a frame got up on the same principle, but reversible. We also used reversible section-frames similarly constructed, with a bee space under the stationary top-bar. Our object was not to prevent brace-combs, nor yet to provide a passage way over the combs, but was simply an experiment in reversing. We found, however that there was no burr comb built between the two top-bars, so far as we remember. We had no need of experimenting in the direction of reducing brace combs, because with our top bars $\frac{7}{8}$ inch deep they were no serious bother to us. A serious objection to top-bars wider than thickness of ordinary worker comb is that, in extracting, they will prevent the combs lying tight up against the wire cloth of the extractor, causing them to spring, and in the case of weak combs, to break. If this device will work as well with top-bars $\frac{7}{8}$ in. wide, and we can see no object in having them wider, it might be worth while for those having $\frac{3}{8}$ top-bars, to put in a