

The Introduction of Queens

ARMAND GAILLE IN REVUE INTERNATIONALE.

(Translated).

Without wishing to give the following method as infallible, I can guarantee it as the easiest of all methods which have yet been proposed.

Twenty-four hours before you wish to change a queen that is too old or not sufficiently prolific, for a new one, make the following preparations, at the same time choosing a fine day. Lift up from your hive (which I will designate by the letter A), the two racks of sealed brood, and place them together with the bees that cover them in an empty hive, B, while taking great care that the rack which contains the old queen remains in the hive A. The next day the greater part of the old bees will have returned to A, and the young bees remaining, finding themselves orphans, will easily accept the new queen, which you will introduce in the following manner:—Sprinkle all the racks and the bees with a solution of sweetened peppermint water: do the same with the new queen, and leave the latter on a rack loaded with bees. Then enclose the hive, B, and close up its ingress. The next day make sure that your queen has been accepted; and then, AND THEN ONLY, abolish the old queen of hive A. Twenty four hours later reunite your two hives after the customary sprinkling of the above solution and the operation will be finished to your entire satisfaction. It may be said in passing that there is an inconvenience in using syrup in place of the sweetened water for to sprinkle bees which frequently remain in great numbers stuck together by their wings at the bottom of the hive. For this same reason the sprinkling should be done lightly, and with a weak solution.

HONEY IN SIAM.

We had honey in the comb and I remarked, by the way, that there was a large comb of honey among the things that were sent on board the steam launch for our journey to Ayutthia. I asked his majesty why it was that the bees of Siam laid up stores of honey in a country where the flowers bloom every day in the year; he frankly replied that it was a conundrum he could not answer.

DOES BEE-KEEPING PAY?

PETER BUSSEY.

The question at the head of this article may be simply and truly answered by the monosyllable, yes; that is to put the matter in its briefest form. To prove the truth of this statement, and to tell how bee-keeping may be made profitable, would require an article of considerable length. The inexperienced bee-keeper should not begin by keeping too many colonies, for bee-keeping is not run by guess work, and I would strongly advise the novice to begin with one or two hives. I would prefer to have them in old box hives and then transfer them into the best movable frame hives that can be purchased. Purchase two good Italian queens to replace the blacks, buy in the spring and make your transfer during the season of apple blossoms.

When the white clover is in bloom, place above the hive supers, filled with sections, each section provided with a starter, and as soon as the bees have nicely started to work raise them off the brood nest and put on empty supers, placing the partly filled one above the empty one, keeping this up in this order as long as the honey flow lasts, always keeping the empty section next the brood chamber, and the nearest filled on top. In order to make a success of bee-keeping the swarming fever must be kept down. The failure to do this is the cause of failure in this industry, compelling the apiarist to purchase new hives and giving them no honey for the market. In my next letter I will give you the results of my experiments in the "Prevention of Swarming." To conclude I will give a few rules for guidance which, coupled with the above, can scarcely fail in a good season to make bee-keeping profitable:

1. Keep nothing but young queens, they will lay so much better.
2. Allow little or no drone comb in your hives.
3. Keep all colonies strong.
4. Pack well in winter; dry chaff or sawdust is preferable for winter packing.
5. Put your honey up in attractive cases.
6. Grade your honey and sell accordingly.
7. Gain the confidence of consumers by fair, square dealing.

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