

DROPS OF NECTAR Cleaned from Many Yards

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Please permit a poor pilgrim to plead for light in the following lines:

1. Have built a house some eighty rods from the old one, and want to move our bees. What time of year is best?
2. A correspondent in the June C.B.J. recommends planting a certain willow as a honey plant. What is its name, and where can it be obtained?
3. Experts say in C.B.J., shake lazy colonies. How is it done? Please be explicit.
4. A lady apiarist wishes J. J. t. describe a good moth or miller trap.
5. We housed two light swarms in the same hive. Each swarm clustered in an end by itself and went at work. What will probably be the result?
6. Is there an American basswood (*Tilia Americana*) that blooms a couple of weeks earlier than ours (*Tilia Canadensis*)? If so, what are its habits, where can it be procured, and would it pay for cultivation as a honey plant?
7. The writer has great difficulty in finding the queen bee. How can he best overcome this trouble?

AMI 2 R.

1. Better leave them where they are now until you prepare for winter. If you winter outside you may put your cases on the new location. If you winter in the cellar, put them in their new place when you bring them out next spring.
2. Willow is a genus of trees and shrubs (*salix*) of the order *Salicaceæ*. The species, of which more than 150 have been described, are natives mostly of the north temperate zone, but a few are indigenous in the tropics and in the south temperate zone, and some are found close to the limit of perpetual snow in the Arctic zone and upon lofty mountains, where they are reduced very greatly in stature. In general, the species are best adapted to wet ground, and for improving the sanitary conditions around cesspools. Like the Austrian gum-trees (*Eucalyptus*),

which are similarly used, they transpire immense quantities of water. Among the American species the yellow willow (*S. vitellina*), which is common in the east, is probably the best known. The black willow (*S. nigra*) is also indigenous in the east. It grows about 35 feet tall, and is noted for its rapid distribution along streams, into which its brittle twigs fall as they are broken off by every strong wind, and carried far away by the current before they lodge and take root. Other species exhibit this trait more or less also. The pussy willow (*S. discolor*) is also an eastern species, well known because of its silky, downy catkins, which appear in early spring before the leaves. Possibly this would be the best honey-yielder. It is usually a shrub, but sometimes becomes a short boled tree, fifteen or twenty feet high. Its twigs are often gathered in late winter, placed in water in a warm room or greenhouse, and the catkins thus forced into bloom. Other well-known American species are *S. lucida*, which grows about twelve feet tall, and the heart-leaved willow (*S. cordata*), which grows about twice as large. Some species are popularly called "sallow" in Great Britain. Of these the best known are the long-leaved willow (*S. grandiflora*), gray willow (*S. cinerea*), round-eared willow (*S. aurita*), and round-leaved willow (*S. caprea*). The weeping, or Napoleon's willow (*S. babylonica*), is a native of the Caucasus, whence it has been taken to most civilized countries throughout the world, in many of which it has become a favorite tree in cemeteries. It has a large number of varieties. The Egyptian willow (*S. ægyptica*) is noted for the perfumed water distilled from its flowers in India. Consult Bailey, "Cyclopædia of American Horticulture," New York; see also Mr. Byer's note in this issue.

3. First lay a board in front of your hive leading up to a level with the entrance. This is for a runway for the bees to travel upon. Open your hive and pick up the frames and shake them on the runway you have prepared. Shake them all off and let them all crawl back again. Some more experienced men do not go to the trouble of preparing the runway, but we think it is best. There is less danger of losing the queen. This shaking-up causes the bees to go through practically the same experience as in swarming, and it is thought that the psychological effect is about the same.

4. We do not know, unless it may be the good lady herself. It will depend