

the day, in this way, but if they have been hatched long, it is better to leave it until evening, and if it is so nearly dusk that the bees are not inclined to fly out at all, so much the better. Where the colony is very strong, and between every comb packed with bees, we just let the queen run right in among the bees, but if there is a place which the bees do not occupy, we have allowed them to run in there, and crawl gradually over the cluster, after the quilt was down. The nearer dark the operation was performed, the more successfully it was. In first testing this matter, there were some queens lost, but after a while we came to the conclusion that if the condition of the colony was thoroughly understood, and the work properly done, that none, or very few, losses would occur. Not being present on all occasions, while these experiments were going on, we have written the party who was then engaged in the work, and to whom the credit is largely due for making it a success, to give us any further particulars and points that he thinks may be of interest. We see no reason, why all queens, either fertile or unfertile might not be introduced in this way. We slipped in 6 the other evening, after it got dusk, and do not think we were any more than 4 or 5 minutes introducing the six, that is after we had taken them from the nursery. We were so certain that they were all right, that we never bothered looking at them for 4 or 5 days, and they were doing nicely when examined.

CAPPINGS.

CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS

A Young Queen.

IN a very kind private letter from our esteemed friend, Chalmers, of Poole, we find the following:—

"P. S.—A little queen arrived at our house, last Friday morning, at 3 o'clock. She is doing very nicely, as is also the mother."

Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers will accept our congratulations, and trust that it may not be the last of the kind. This is not the kind of queens we raise in our apiary.

DOOLITTLE CUPS.—CHAPMAN HONEY PLANT, ETC.

Prof. Cook in *Gleanings* discourses on various little matters as follows:—

Please ask Dr. Miller to wait a little before he comes to take lessons on the rearing of queens in the Doolittle cups. Our last gives eighteen good capped cells and eight destroyed. In some cases all, or nearly all, were destroyed. Our students are now trying the Doolittle method. They have some success.

The Chapman honey plant is a fraud. Our plants, self-sown two years ago, are weak and of little account. We have two fine fields of rape and three of sweet clover. Our Rooky Mountain bee-plant has failed again. This plant will never pay to plant except to throw about in waste places. This should be done in August or September to secure the best results.

I am not a chemist, but have no doubt that beeswax can be distinguished from either ceresin or paraffine. Not only is the composition somewhat different, but the texture and strength are not the same. We shall soon have these matters (purity of honey and wax) worked out by our Experiment Station. We are only getting a good ready. I wish some Wisconsin bee-keeper or other would furnish me some bass-wood honey, say two pounds, where the honey was gathered very rapidly—say 15 or 10 pounds per colony in a day. I have special use for it.

Our reversible frames are not working well. The bees are filling in on the sides below with honey. They never did this before. "One swallow does not make a summer."

The honey-dew is coming from several trees. Lice are very common, and the secretion equally so. Bee-Keepers must look out.

I should expect no harm from eating poisonous animals like centipedes. Even the venom of the rattlesnake or copperhead is harmless if taken into the stomach, though deadly if injected directly into the blood.

We, too, are among the fortunate ones, for Rambler is spending the Fourth with us. As he comes from so many bee-keepers, it is like a visit from the whole fraternity.

A. J. COOK.

Agricultural College, Mich., July 4.

In every rich soil the Chapman plant produces honey in moderate quantities, but unless the ground is rich the yield seems to be poor. Although we have saved a large quantity of seed, we have quit sowing it; but if we were living in a locality where there was plenty of wild land, we think it might do to raise some, as it is very hardy. To raise it on valuable land exclusively for honey is certainly a fraud.

A NEW TOP BAR.

C. C. Miller in *Gleanings* writes:

"Thick top-bars for me, if for no other reason than to keep them straight. I used to say that my top-bars didn't sag, but that was because I didn't look close, and didn't realize how exacting the bees are about spacing."