

placing it there; then by changing the paper twice a day, flowers may be pressed quite nicely. The pressure should be as great as possible. (1) By letting them swarm naturally you will probably succeed best, as a novice is almost sure to blunder if he attempts artificial swarming. (2) It depends on whether separators are used  $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ , the object should not be so much to get a section that would hold exactly a pound as to get one in which the bees will place the most honey and do it in the best shape and in a manner to stand shipment best long distances.

#### SHIPPING BEES IN SPRING.

EMILE GARON.—(1.) What would be the best time to have my bees shipped down here?

It is not wise to ship bees too early in the spring. A sudden change in temperature might cause the brood to chill, or the combs to become brittle and break down; besides it is well to let them get to brooding and hatching, if possible, before shipping. The weather should always be fine and warm.

#### STRENGTHENING COLONIES.

(2.) At what time of the day do you strengthen a colony by adding bees when one intends to work for queen rearing?

You may do it any time, but in the warm part of the day they can be handled and managed much more easily in early spring, but in mid-summer it may be done morning and evening.

#### WHEN TO BEGIN EXTRACTING.

(3.) At what time of the day do you commence extracting the honey, and how late can you keep extracting in the afternoon?

We commence in the morning as soon as they are gathering honey, say, 8 o'clock, sometimes earlier, sometimes later, everything depending on the weather.

#### MAKING NUCLEI.

(4.) At what time of the day is the best to make nuclei?

If the weather is warm enough we make them at all times in the day. In the mornings and evenings are cold we do it in the middle of the day. Those made in the evening are less liable to become depopulated from bees returning to the old stand.

#### LIBERATING QUEENS.

(5.) For queen fertilizing, as soon as a queen is fertilized, we remove her and liberate another,

and so on. Is it necessary that the colony be queenless during 48 hours before having the other one liberated, or can we liberate her immediately after the fertilized one is removed?

We have frequently liberated them after the removal of the fertile one, but when the honey is scarce and none coming in and you do not feed them liberally, it is a dangerous operation. Liberal feeding and smoking, especially if fed before the removal of the fertile queen, will remove all the difficulty.

#### CHLOROFORMING.

(6.) Do you use the chloroform in introducing young queens in order to get them fertilized?

(7.) Do you use the chloroform when you give a fertilized or a virgin queen to a nuclei?

When we have a difficult case we use chloroform. Smoking and feeding in the ordinary way is generally sufficient for introducing, and when they are first hatched they run in without any trouble.

(8.) How many puffs of chloroform do you give to a colony when you introduce a queen? I ask you that because last fall I tried to smother a colony with chloroform and I did not succeed. I have been obliged to use the smoke to kill them. The colony was about two thousand bees strong. It cost me \$8. I got neither swarms nor honey from it.

We merely give them enough chloroform to stupefy them. The number of puffs would depend entirely on the quantity of chloroform and size of smoker. There is little or no danger of smothering them with chloroform.

#### FRAMES FROM DEAD COLONIES.

(9.) I tried to winter one colony of bees outdoors; they got along first rate until the 16th of February, and I found them smothered on the 19th. There were three frames left full, and the remainder are about two-thirds. Will I keep the full one to feed nuclei or extract them?

You may use them all for feeding purposes if you require them, otherwise extract them.

#### CHAFF CUSHIONS.

(10.) What is the thickness of the chaff cushions that you put on your hives?

Two to four inches, prefer the latter, but instead of chaff we use very fine sawdust, cedar, if obtainable.

(11.) When do you take off the cushions in the spring and when do you put them on in the fall?

Not until the weather becomes warm. As soon as the nights begin to get cold.