

tions, and being given one or two later the queen was laying, warms, although they ed.

no clover in this section though covered with y secreted little nectar visited it. Perhaps it ld wave that struck us dandelion, honeysuckle, rod yielded profusely, d in bees and weight the latter flowers evi- siderable honey, though to the brood nest.

place in an extracting frames apart from stance? If there is, I can crush more bees than with loose hang- when it comes to the to put it mildly, they l I would rather crowd s a little and then lift tear out one comb and n) when properly pro-

Canadian and American more carbolic and less ig bees? It is possible out of supers with less ony than by any other sing the bee escape. I because the bees were amily were approaching and one or two callers warm reception from g made more increase intended, I ran short ll hives had from two ll, so I decided to ex- l the carbolic cloth for s, with great success. ploying this latter is as of cotton cloth of suit- d in a carbolic solution ic acid to a pint and a l squeezed out dry. The e removed from the hive

and the carbolic cloth is quickly laid across the frames. Immediately the bees will set up a roar and begin to vacate the super. In five minutes they will all be down, the clearance being more quickly effected if a wind is blowing. The breeze seems to send the fumes down lower, sometimes clearing two supers at once. Remove full super, put on super of empty combs, and go to next hive. Again put on cloth and leave it there whilst you go and extract the first one taken off. On returning with super of wet combs, you will find the next one ready, and so on all day. Where one is working alone, this is a very practical and satisfactory manner of working—less cross bees, less disturbance to colony, and less stings.

Green Ridge, Man.

#### THE CARE OF SPARE COMBS.

By Joseph Gray

A friend in Canada writes as follows:—"Can you tell me how to store combs away so as to be free from mice and moths until wanted again next season? In spring I am very busy, and have always some loss through mice and moths."

In a hot climate like that of California, moths and mice are foes to be reckoned with. In the working season I have seen combs ruined in about three weeks so that now I give all extra combs, if possible, into the care of the bees. In the busy world of to-day, the merchant does not stop to untie his parcel in order to save the string, his time being more valuable than string. But a good, well-built comb presents a different argument; the comb is worth 25 cents. Thus a super of nine standard combs represents \$2.25 in value, and one hundred such supers a net value of \$225.00, and, consequently, time spent in the preservation of your combs is so much saved of a valuable asset in apiculture.

The rapidity with which the larger moth—*Galleria mellonella*—works, leaves us no idle moments until our combs are safely stored away. The metamorphosis of the wax moth is "complete," the insect passing through the various stages of development, as egg, larva, pupa and imago. The eggs take about ten days to hatch, and the larvæ are thirty days feeding. They then enter the chrysalis stage, lasting a fortnight, at the expiration of which the perfect imago, or adult, issues forth a grey brown moth, ready to repeat the cycle of life.

The simplest and most inexpensive way of caring for our combs is to build a low platform, six inches high, on one side of our work or store room, as wide as the length of the supers, twenty inches. All combs should be sorted, those with pollen and those without. The latter are usually the newest and cleanest combs, and are stored away first, nine combs to a super. The supers, as they are placed on the platform, are treated in the following manner:—Take an oil can, shortening the stem to make an easy flow for the liquid, and fill the can with bi-sulphide of carbon. If your supers are fitted with tin rabbets, fill up the space formed by the latter with carbon bisulphide from the can. If your rabbets are short, it will be necessary to stop up the corners. When ordering new supers, get the rabbets a quarter of an inch longer than usual, so that they fit snug to the corners. Should your super, however, possess no recess under the frame, take a piece of cotton batting, and place it between the frames, and on it, pour your carbon. A strong sheet of brown paper, 15 by 20 inches, completes the work. Tier up your supers to the desired height, and on the top one above the paper place an excluder zinc. Your combs are now well protected against mice or moth, and at very little expense. After the pollenless combs come the pollen combs, so that they get used first in spring, for combs containing pollen form a favourite breeding place for wax moth,