

cheese-cloth bag, which is laid in on the sticks, enough of which are used to prevent the bag from touching the bottom of boiler. The water surrounds the bag of wax; and in order to prevent it from floating, stones or other weights may be placed on the bag. Fill the boiler with water to about two inches above the weight, and boiling it for a long time will melt the wax. As it passes out of the bag it will rise to the top of the water, where it may be skimmed off, or allowed to cool and then be lifted out in cakes when it may be remelted and caked in a more suitable form for market. Water should always be kept in a vessel when melting, and also under the wax in a dish when it is being caked. This will cause the sediment to go to the bottom of the cake in the water; it should also be kept warm and not allowed to cool for from six to twelve hours when caking the last time, in order that *all* the sediment may have ample time to settle to the bottom of the wax so that it can easily be removed.

INTRODUCING VIRGIN QUEENS.

GEO. P. KIME, EVANSBURGH, O.—If it is not asking too much I would like you to inform me through the C. B. J. how I can introduce virgin queens without loss? I wish to introduce some brown queens to Italian colonies. I have become convinced that in my locality, at least the brown bees are ahead of the Italians for raising comb honey.

We find no more trouble in introducing virgin queens than we do in introducing fertile ones. We simply cage them on combs for about twenty-four hours and then liberate them. Sometimes they have to be re-caged, but very seldom; much depends on the way the bees are handled, but if they are just hatched they may be introduced without being caged. We have sometimes introduced those which have been hatched several days by taking two combs with hatching brood, plenty of young bees on them, and by making the

bees fill themselves well with honey, then standing the two combs close together on the lid of the hive or some other place, parting the combs gently at the top, introducing the queen between the combs, and as the bees move about and do not attempt to interfere with her we close the combs gently together much the same as they would hang in the hive except that the bottoms of the combs are close together. We then quietly open the combs again at the top, and look down to see how the bees are behaving; if they are running *too* fast, or attempting to interfere we can close them together so tightly that they have only room to run between the combs, there being no space left for them to get on the queen to ball her; by opening and closing in this way for a few minutes, and watching their movements we can usually determine whether they will accept her or not; it seldom fails to succeed. When we think she has been accepted, or that she is likely to be, we hold the fore finger of each hand between the ends of the frames, with the thumb and other fingers press the frames against the fingers between them, in this way the two combs may be put back at the same moment into the hive with the queen between them, where she usually remains. If it is done quietly, all goes well, but if she is jarred, she is liable to become excited and run. This is a much better way than placing them on *one* comb, because putting her down amongst the bees is apt to excite her. Hatching cells may be placed in the colony at any time. We introduce thousands of virgin queens every year and never have any difficulty in making it a success.

DR. O. M. BLANTON, GREENVILLE, MISS.—

This year I commenced my bee-keeping with 395 colonies, very few strong ones, and divided them into three apiaries, (77 at "Refuge Apiary," 50 at "Swift Water Apiary," 258 at "Blanton's Apiary,") one seven miles and one twelve miles as the "crow flies" from my "Blanton's Apiary."