

CAPPINGS.**CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS****Hatching Bees in Incubators.**

Amongst queries and replies in *British Bee Journal* for July 16, we find the following under the above heading :—

1. Has honey stored in combs previously occupied by brood an unpleasant or different flavor from that stored in new combs? 2. Is the young worker-bee always fourteen days after leaving the cell before she flies to gather honey? 3. In the spring I took some frames of sealed brood from hives, and placed them in warmth. The bees came forth in due course. Meantime young brood was produced in hives in added frames. Has this kind of artificial incubation ever been tried on a large scale? Would it not be an easy means of increasing stock, as the bees usually clustered to give warmth to sealed brood "might", during the fortnight the brood is sealed, bring on two sets of combs from the egg to sealing? 4. To make sure of swarms, why not clip the queen, and place an empty hive or one with foundation on the ground opposite the hive from which a swarm is expected?

N. SMITH.

REPLY. 1. Honey is not so good when stored in old combs as when extracted from clean, virgin combs, never occupied by brood or pollen. No. 2. No; much depends on the weather, though the young bee does do a certain amount of nurse work while gaining strength of body to enable it to undertake the harder labor of foraging. 3. Yes. Experiments have been tried in that direction, not with any encouraging amount of success, we fear; we shall be glad to have the results when you have given your plan a trial. 4. This also has been tried, though with what success we cannot call to mind. An American writer reports being able to secure "clipped queens" and swarms by placing a bough of a tree in front, up which she climbs.

We have taken as fine honey from combs that had had brood in them for years as we ever took from virgin combs. When bees clean out cells, if there has been brood in them, before the queen lays in them, they coat the cocoons all over with a thin coating of wax, and we fail to see how the dark combs can make dark honey, as the fresh coating of wax that the cell receives, and the cleaning the bee gives it makes it as suitable a receptacle for honey as a new comb, and we do not think that the old combs are altogether to blame for the difference in the quality.

A GLUTTED MARKET.

In a private note from G. W. Demarea, Christianburg, Ky., he says :—

"We have a fair yield of surplus, but our markets are jammed full, and no quick sale can be made. I shall hold until later. Our honey

market is much slower than usual. I guess cheap sugar, and a big honey crop is what is doing the mischief."

Why, friend Demarea, that is just what in the end will do good. A little cheap honey once in a while, although, perhaps, hard on beginners for one season, only opens the way for larger sales, and as you cannot expect an extra heavy flow every year, you may reasonably suppose that it will be higher whenever the honey is scarcer.

WHEN THE QUEEN FLIES AWAY.

C. C. Miller says :—

"When a queen flies away we are told just to let her alone and she will come back, sometimes she does with me, but often she does not."

Now friend Miller, if the queen is a young one and it is the first time she has flown out of the hive, leave the top open and get away from the hive as quickly as possible, and stand in front of the others, and watch the entrance for from five to fifteen minutes, but if she is a queen that mated in the hive, and you want to clip her wings; after she becomes fertile, when she goes away from you, don't stand there and have all the surroundings changed materially from what they were when she took her bridal trip, but close in the hive, and even if you have combs sitting out against the side of the hive, clap the lid on quickly, stand back and watch. If she lights down at the entrance of any other hive, you will notice the commotion and go and get her before she is injured. If the appearance of her location is changed, she is liable to take a hive that she believes to be the right one, and thus many queens are destroyed.

Many of the bee-keepers of the United States seem to be working their States for grants, which is likely to be successful. We hope, when we go to the exhibition, to find that they have outstripped the world in the honey show although Canada thus far has taken the lead in that respect.

The best thing to do with unfinished sections, is to keep moving them around where they will be filled, and then if there are a few left, sell them at their value, while you are exhibiting at fairs.

Mr. Frank Benton claims that a yellow tinge about the Carinolan indicates they are Hybrids, mixed with Italians, or some other yellow blood.