

SELECTIONS.

Catching Swarms.

CHEAP WATCHING.—Instead of keeping some one watching for swarms, here's the way the *Review* reports Mr. West's plan: Clip the queen. Clear away rubbish, and a few inches in front of the hive stick in the ground, not upright, but leaning away from the hive, a branch of an apple tree perhaps an inch in diameter and a few feet long, with a few twigs at top, twigs cut back to 4 or 6 inches. Swarm issues, queen climbs stick, returning swarm clusters with her, and stays till hived.

We have frequently had queens running up sticks and little bushes set in front of hives in that way; and if the swarm is issuing, sometimes they stayed on the stick, but if the swarm got fairly into the air, and there were few or no bees flying around, they would run up the stick and try to fly off and then flutter to the ground again. If the bush stuck down is sufficiently high, with plenty of twigs on it, some of the bees will climb it with the queen, and others if they wish to rest after flying, will light on it, so that the queen will soon have an escort, and in that way will remain on the bush. We do not like the short stick principle, but the bushes may be from 3 to 6 feet high, and will stand from 3 to 5 feet in front of the hive. A narrow strip of thin board running from each corner of the hive to the butt of the tree is an improvement, as it guides the queen directly to the bush where she climbs.

WHAT THE FORCE PUMP IS GOOD FOR.

AARON SHANTZ.—DEAR SIR,—I notice in the *BEE JOURNAL* that you have a force pump for sale. I would like to know what it is used for. Is it good for spraying fruit trees, how is it used, and what is the cost of it? I put 15 hives in champs last fall, and when I took them out this spring there were 4 dead. I have one that is dying. When I opened first time they seemed to be all right—had brood in the combs—they have no queen, but the brood is hatching out. The bees seemed to be bloated when they were dying. Bees are doing well at present.

Haysville, May 26, 1891.

Our force pumps are used for various purposes. They are very valuable in time of fire, and one of these pumps will do more effective work than ten men with pails, and will throw water from a considerable height. They are good for spraying fruit trees. You can just put your material in a pail, set in the pump and spray the trees thoroughly in a very short time. If your bees swarm and are likely to go away, just spray them a lit-

tle, and it will stop them. You can put down straw at the entrance of the hive, covering it up and then spraying the robber bees as they go in, which wets their wings and causes them to desist. The same thing may be said of bees robbing other colonies. If they have to go out through wet straw, hay, bushes, or any material that will allow the air to get into the entrance of the hive, the cold wet material seems to dampen their robbing propensities. We recollect on one occasion taking a piece of tin, and bending in the four sides about half an inch high; we made it the same length as the entrance of the hive, and slipped it in on the bottom board, putting in about one-eighth inches of water. The bees refused to wade through this water to get in to rob, but would light on the front part of the hive, and run down crawling in over the water on the top side of the entrance. By stretching a little wire cloth across the entrance with the points of the wire reaching down within one-fourth of an inch from the water they could not get in without wading, and this effectually prevented them from further depredations. However, we did not admire the plan, on account of the trouble and accuracy necessary to make it a success; and after using the straw or hay we found it as well, if not better. The colder the water is put on the better. We have frequently stopped bad cases of robbing in less than five minutes, that is, we stop them from going in; for as soon as they would light on the wet material, and attempt to work their way through, they got wet and would retreat to their hive. They would sometimes pitch on to the next colony, and it then would have to be served likewise. Now here is where the force pump serves an excellent purpose. Just set it in a pail of cold water, and as soon as the bees begin to fly thickly about start your pump, which casts a spray for ten feet around the hive, so that scarcely a bee can go out without becoming more or less wet. In a few minutes the wet bees begin to think there is a very cold shower in that neighborhood, and conclude they would rather hunt for honey. In regard to the bees, we think they probably have dysentery, caused by gorging themselves with poor stores, their bodies becoming distended and bloated.