

complete suspension of the manifestations of life, and the reversal of this when placed under a hen after many months in the cold stores. Should the temperature fall below 32 degrees, and the eggs freeze, all vitality will then be destroyed; but if over 32 degrees, and under 40 degrees, eggs five months old have been known to hatch; and how long this vitality can be held in such suspense has not yet been determined.

Preserving eggs has of late been receiving much attention in some of the daily papers, stress being laid on the statement that infertile eggs are the best to preserve. This is certainly correct; but as the majority of breeders keep male birds with their flocks, the recommendations are of little effect. (1)

So far as "Jaynes' pickle," the "dry salt," and the "cool chamber" methods are concerned, eggs to be fresh is the only essential. I should also say that there are chemical compounds of various kinds patented for preserving eggs, which are effective enough in preventing decay; but consumers have an aversion to any foods known to be treated with preservatives. Before leaving this subject I should observe that the possibilities of the egg trade, through the instrumentality of cold storage, are very great; and I look forward to the time when huge quantities will be stored in this way during the cheap season, and kept until the scarce time, which would do much to restore an equilibrium in the summer and winter prices, and still further assist in making poultry-breeding as valuable an adjunct to the farm as it should be.

The Apiary.

BEE-KEEPING.

Transferring Bees.

Many people imagine it is a difficult job to transfer bees from box-hives to the improved frame hives, but it is a very simple and easy matter to do. Remove the old box-hive from its stand, placing the new hive in its place. With a good bee smoker, smoke the bees a little, invert the hive, place a box four or five inches deep and the same size as the hive at the top of it, drum gently at the sides of the old hive for a few minutes, and nearly all the bees will go up and cluster in the box. Set this one side pry off one or two sides of your box-hive, cut out the combs, saving all the straight combs and those containing brood and fit them neatly into the frames of your new hive fastening them there for a few days with strings round the frames or small sticks a trifle longer than the frames are deep, fastened at each end with a piece of wire, one on each side of the frame. Two or three pairs of the sticks may be ended to a comb, but the bees will soon round everything up nicely and the sticks may be removed in 3 or 4 days. If the combs of the old hive do not fill the new hive, the spare space may be filled with comb foundation, or the bees will themselves build comb in time and complete it.

Do not try to transfer except when the bees are gathering honey, the last of May, or the early part of June is the best time, transferring may be done at other times, but it requires more care. The advantages of transferring are many: the frames may be, handle to extract from, the condition of the colour ascertained at any time; feeding if necessary, is easily done, etc.

F. W. JONES.

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(1) This is, of course, a "counsel of perfection," though of course, as Mr. A. G. Gilbert says, the flavour of an infertile egg is very fine. Ed.