

scatter about the apiary to other hives, as they sometimes will if they do not readily find her. As they return they will commence to run into the new hive with fanning wings, when the queen is liberated and goes in with them."

"Well, now, if it will work like that, no wonder that you like it. How long have you used this plan?"

"I have followed this plan for nearly a third of a century and know it to be a good one, as good yields of honey will testify—no climbing of trees, cutting off limbs or lugging a cumbersome basket or swarming-box about. It is straight forward. Let me briefly state it again: Remove the old hive to a new stand, put the new hive in its place and the returning swarms live themselves with little or no trouble, save the releasing of the queen."

"That is nice, surely; but is that all the reason you have for clipping queens' wings?"

"I have several besides this, one of which is I clip the larger part of the wings off, say two-thirds of all four of the wings, so that I may the more readily see her, now that my eyes are growing dim. In making nuclei, changing frames of brood and bees, extracting, making swarms by shaking, etc., if you find the queen you can always know that she is just where she belongs and not in some place where she ought not to be. And by having her wings cut short you can see her abdomen as soon as your eyes strike the side of the comb she is on."

"That is a good thought also, and one that would help me much, for I have often hunted half an hour or more for a queen and finally gave up in disgust because I could not find her. Tell me more of these reasons. They explain the situation better than I thought it possible."

"Of course you have heard of the old and main reason for clipping the wings of queens, namely, there is no loss of bees from their going to the woods."

"No. I am only a beginner and neighbor Brown gave no hint of this."

"That bees do go to the woods, or for parts unknown, all can assure themselves by reading the reports given in our various bee-papers from time to time, if they do not know the same from actual experience. The bees may try for the woods, and they often do; but as soon as they miss their queen, back they came, for they realize that swarming is of no purpose to them unless they have a queen with them to repopulate their home after the bees composing the swarm die of old age. Many a time have I had a swarm start for the woods or some unknown place and be gone from sight and hearing for some little time; but as soon as they really missed their mother, back they would come, setting up a joyful hum when they found her."

"That is the best of all you have told me and I am convinced that the clipping side has the best of the argument. But tell me how to find a queen and how to clip her after being found."

"The time of the year in which we undertake this matter has much to do with the pleasure of the work. If we wait till just as swarming time is upon us, and attempt to hunt up a queen in a hive that is overflowing with bees and especially one that will probably swarm in a day or two when the queen has ceased her laying pretty much, so that a burden of eggs need not hinder her from flying with the swarm and thus cause her to become no larger that she was when unfertile, we might well speak of the matter as a "bother," as did your