

the names of plants would kindly remember that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to determine accurately any plant with which one is not familiar, by the flower alone. Root, stem, leaves and flowers are needed, and the whole plant should be sent, when not too large, between two pieces of card board, by sample post.

C. MACPHERSON,

Prescott, Aug. 25th, 1889.

SWARMING.

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH BEES IN SWARMING TIME.

"**M**RS. Harrison, why do you put that little tea strainer in your pocket?"
O! this is not a tea strainer, but a queen cage, and it is very handy just now. Yesterday I caught four queens out of six swarms, and it saved a deal of work. I put this little cage over a queen and set it down on the top of a hive, anywhere, until I was ready for it. I then moved the hive from which the swarm issued and put the new hive in its place, with the caged queen at the entrance.

As soon as she is missed the bees return and when they are quiet I release her. Once I released her too soon and she flew away, the bees following her. Again, as I released her she flew, but immediately returned. Perhaps if the swarm had not been placed upon the old stand she might not have returned. I had four queens caged at one time the other day. I take no further care of a swarm when I have the queen caged and a hive prepared for their return.

One time I "got left," as the children say. I caged a queen and moved the old hive, placing a new one on its old stand, with the queen at its entrance. There was another swarm in the air at the same time and they united. They often do this, when the queen accompanies them, and one will be destroyed. I then returned the old hive to the old stand, and gave the queen to them.

Bees will accept any queen when they swarm, but I noticed lately one balked, where two colonies had united. I had one of the queens caged, and when I saw this one balked I put her in a cage, and left her in front of the hive among the bees for several hours. As the bees remained and united peacefully, I smoked them and let the queen run in at the entrance, when she was well received.

Sometimes united swarms will leave the hive after remaining together over night, and return to their old home. Two swarms recently clustered together on a peach tree; the weight of the peaches and bees was too much for the

limb, and down it came. I had placed a hive under where they clustered, and one remained and entered the hive, while the other returned home in disgust.

One swarm came out and returned for three consecutive days, and, as this was getting to be rather monotonous, after they returned the third time, I took the swarming business into my own hands. I removed the old hive and placed a new one in its place. Then I removed a frame from the old hive, containing a mature queen-cell, to the new hive. All the field-bees returned to the old stand, and I shook the bees from the combs of the old hive in front of the new one. I did not see the queen, and do not know which hive had her, but it makes little difference, as both had mature queen-cells.

One day last week two swarms issued at the same time and united. Before they were fairly hived out came a third. I moved the hive immediately to where it was to stand, and spread my apron over the entrance. On came the third swarm and clustered upon the sides and back of the hive, until they were two inches deep; how to get them off and not have them mix with the first swarms, as their hive was full to overflowing, was the question.—Mrs. L. Harrison, in American Farmer.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from every one. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

Cost of Moving Bees.

QUERY No. 246.—I have no horse and have to hire. Now will it pay me to hire my bees (30 colonies) moved to fall pasturage six miles distant? What would you estimate the total cost of getting them ready to move, with wire cloth to buy, and all labor to be paid for?

R. McKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—It will depend on circumstances.

WM. McEVoy, WOODBURN, ONT.—1st, No. 2nd, I don't know what the cost would be.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—Doubtful. Should estimate the cost at 50c per colony.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—1st I doubt it. 2nd, More than your increased profits would amount to in nine cases out of ten.