our honey room, or fill a comb with syrup, and hang in the centre of the cluster of bees, when we know positively they are all right. Then on our examination we find a colony as above, while the next one has much more than is needed. With the frame hive we can exchange an empty comb for a full one, and thus both colonies are benefitted and we are saved the trouble of feeding at all. A little later in the season we wish to know that each hive has a good prolific queen, so that workers may be produced in time for the honey harvest, and if they have not such a queen procure one for them by raising or otherwise. Here we are almost entirely baffled with the box hive, while we can know to a certainty about the queen being good or poor if we use a frame hive, and if poor the matter can be easily remedied. At this time we also wish to get all surplus drone comb out of the hive, if this has not already been done, for if the bees are allowed to build more or less drone comb, said comb will soon be filled with drones, which, when hatched, will consume large quantities of honey, which would otherwise be stored as surplus. This keeping the drone comb out of the hive is no small item, for I have known so much drone comb to be built by a swarm having an old and failing queen that the next season the drones produced from that comb consumed nearly all of the honey, as fast as the few workers reared could gather it. With the box hive we can do little or nothing by way of getting rid of this drone comb, while with the frame hive it is easily taken out and worker comb or worker foundation fitted in its place. Then I am a believer that a colony of bees can be increased much faster by a proper manipulation of the combs, thus getting the bees ready much quicker for an early honey harvest, then they would be if left to themselves, which thing, (manipulation of the combs) is an utter impossibility with the box hive. Again, as it approaches the honey harvest, we find that some of our colonies are extra strong, while others are weak. This we wish to remedy by taking bees and brood from the stronger and giving them to the weak. Of course bees can be drummed out from the box hives and given to others, but how much easier it is to take a frame of brood and bees from a frame hive and set it into another hive, than by any plan we could use were we to adopt box hives. Many more reasons could be given, but the above are quite sufficient it seems to me, to convince any one of the superiority of frame hives. Notwithstanding all of the above let me say, that the value of the frame hive consists wholly in the use of the frames, and if any one is so careless or lacking in energy that they never handle the frames, or make use of them to promote the welfare of the colony, then the box hive is as good for them as any.

Borodino, N. Y.

The Taylor Swarm-Catcher.

—H. ROWSOME

Beekeepers have continually exercised all their ingenuity in discovering almost countless methods of reducing the apiarist's dirty work, i. e. Swarming. But putting aside the various self-hivers, queen-catchers, and different systems of dividing, only one method of controlling swarms has come into vogue viz. clipping the queen's wings. But there is a device that is little used and ought to come into more general practice. I mean the Taylor Swarm-Catcher which cages not only the queen but the swarm as well.

If the beekeeper can watch the hive entrance for the queen, he can just as easily and in a third of the time, clap a catcher to the entrance and then look round for other swarms which may be issuing, taking care of three or four in the time he spends looking for the queen. And besides this he avoids the labor of clipping his queen's wings.

The catcher should not be left on the hive longer than the swarm is issuing as there is a tendency for it to return. When the cloth is tied over the entrance the catcher should be stood up entrance downward, so that the swarm will not cluster on the cloth, making it more awkward to be taken off. Of course the merest tyro understands that the queen must be inside the cage or all will go wrong. The catcher should be left standing near at hand for those bees that have escaped to cluster upon, but it must not rest against a hive because the roar of the swarm might cause another to issue.

The swarm must not be dumped at once but the bees ought to be allowed time to cluster and to get rid of the flying fever. Otherwise the swarm will fly up and cluster upon a tree. A fussy man may put his swarms on ice or under the pump. The writer has left a late swarm out all night. Then when the cluster is thoroughly cool it may be dumped in almost a solid mass with no flying at all.