

old bees all return to their hives, then by taking a turkey or goose feather some of the young bees may be moved along towards the entrance and as soon as these start to run in the rest will follow. In a short time we have the hive so crowded with bees that they have little room and consequently make preparations for swarming. As soon as they begin to build queen cells we lift out the combs on which we wish the queen cells built and with a pair of sharp-pointed scissors, such as may be used for clipping queens' wings, we clip out little strips of comb here and there cutting almost down to the septum. Each clipping should be about the size of a twenty-five cent piece and should be cut on a slant on the lower side of about 45° . A sharp knife will answer if scissors are not convenient, or by taking your finger and crushing down the cells in a similar manner. Where eggs are just hatching the same result is obtained and queen cells will be started in nearly all these places. Another way is to cut out strips leaving about an inch of solid comb between the cuts, the openings being one-half or three-quarters of an inch wide so that queen cells may be built on the combs hanging down in the openings. The combs on the underside over the openings should have the cells shortened by cutting from the septum towards the edge on an angle of 45° thus facilitating the work of cell-building. Thus an immense number of cells may be constructed. The cuts should always be made where there are eggs just hatching or larvæ only a few hours old. We carefully watch the time of capping these cells and the day before the bees cap them the queen should be removed and placed in a hive at the side of the parent colony, which hive should contain sufficient bees and combs from the other colonies to allow of the bees continuing to lay profusely. If perchance a swarm issues before we remove the queen we re-hive it, retaining the queen and disposing of her as above. We now have an immense colony, with bees enough for from four to six hives, having the swarming fever but without a queen wherewith to swarm. The inmates of the hive use all their energies in nursing the queen cells, giving them more attention and producing superior cells. Weak or ordinary colonies will allow the

first queen that hatches to destroy the others, while this mammoth colony waiting to swarm will not permit the queen to hatch and destroy the other cells, even when the caps of the cells are cut and just ready for the queen to crawl out. They keep them imprisoned in their cells for hours feeding them as they pass their probosces out through the opening. We have known them kept in in this way for more than a day when if not attended to then, the queens were liberated and a swarm issued taking with it all the hatched queens. Sometimes dozens may be found in one swarm. Should such a swarm issue it may be returned to the colony at the same time watching the queens and caging them, but before returning it all the cells that have hatched are pulled off and counted so that if there are fewer queens caught than there are broken cells, we know there are more queens yet to find and these are easily found by taking an empty hive, shaking the bees down in front allowing them to pass in slowly, and by watching, all the queens, may be secured. We now have an immense colony of bees without queen, cells or brood to start them from, and we go back to the hive where we placed the queen and take from it combs that are filled with eggs, but no larvæ, placing them in this queenless colony. The strength of the colony and the swarming fever with which they are imbued induces them to continue all their attention toward queen rearing and again an immense number of queen cells are started. We have had hundreds started in one colony and have exhibited single combs at our exhibitions, having on them from fifty to eighty-five cells. Though this second batch of cells is so numerous each one receives much more attention than single cells do in a hive. If the eggs are all about the same age they will hatch about the same time, and there are few apiaries that require more queens for their own use than would be hatched from this one batch. Another way in which these large colonies may be used is for the production of drones; such raised in these colonies will be more vigorous and the good effect of breeding them in such colonies can scarcely be estimated.