

venient article that can be employed for taking down a cluster and hiving the swarm?

Mr. Evans—Some years ago I was in Owen Sound, in the summer season, about the time of bee swarming, and I called on Mr. McKnight, and he very pleasantly showed me a system of swarming, which was the best I have seen, and I have followed it ever since. I think probably he had better describe it himself. I thought it was worth journeying all the way to Owen Sound to see. I was at Mr. McKnight's house and I was very well treated, and I learned how to take down the bees on a stick, which I think is one of the best things I ever learned.

Mr. McKnight.—It was just mainly to give my experience on that point to my brother bee-keepers that I raised the question. What I have used for fifteen years is considered to be the best thing of the kind that is used anywhere. Its construction was not original with me; I saw it mentioned or described in *Gleanings* fourteen or fifteen years ago, and I was a comparatively young bee-keeper at that time, testing nearly everything I saw that came along; this is a very simple and cheap contrivance. Those of you who were brought up in the old country will best imagine what it is like when I tell you it is on the principle of a chimney sweep's brush, only a chimney sweep's brush is wire and this is made of wood. Take, for instance, a piece of stick two inches square and say two or three feet long, as you please, chamfer the four edges of it and make it octagonal in shape, eight sided. Cut off a few pieces of lath, rip your lath up the centre, cut them into pieces about two feet long and nail them around on these eight bevels, one after the other, till you get it filled down well, six or eight inches would be quite sufficient. At the other end cut a tin ferrule, put it on the stock, with perhaps two inches or two and a half inches to receive the stick that you put into it. Have in your yard half a dozen or more different lengths of stick that will slip easily into this socket. When your swarm is clustering, that is the best time to do it, but it does not matter; you can do it almost as well after it is clustered. You can see at once what length of stick is required to reach the cluster; take the stick that you have in hand, put it into the socket and as they are clustering put this in amongst them and they will cluster on it every time. I have taken swarms of bees off the top of a big old elm tree; simply by tying one onto the other you can reach

away up to where the cluster is. If they are clustered, as very frequently they are before you have noticed them, take your stick again and give a sudden jerk near the cluster of bees till you dislodge them from their resting place. I will guarantee to catch ninety swarms out of one hundred with that simple contrivance. Having them clustered, then you can set your stick on the ground and take it away. When they are all settled upon your chimney sweeping brush, lower your stick, drop the stick that was in the socket, carry home the swarm of bees to the front of your hive and give it a sudden jerk and there they are. I may tell you that when one of the prominent members of the British Bee-Keepers' Association was over here during the Chicago Exposition he stopped at my place for a while and I was showing him this contrivance. It was in the morning and I was not sure, indeed, I had little hope that I would be able to give him a practical demonstration of its usefulness. In going through the orchard which was composed mostly of old trees—my bees were in the orchard—there happened to be what an Englishman calls a cast and evidently it had been there all night and it was worth having. I took the stick and I went through the simple operation with that little cluster, and in less than ten minutes the cast was upon my chimney sweepers brush. He was so much interested in it that he wrote and asked me to give him a full description. It is not worth more than ten cents; a boy of twelve years old could make one. The only thing that costs anything is a tin ferrule, and it only costs five cents. I would recommend every one of you here to try it and I believe if you try it one season you will never dispense with its use.

Mr. McEvoy—The question asked can perhaps be answered in another way; I find a pair of scissors a good way to get them down.

Mr. McKnight—I never clip my queens.

Mr. Evans—I suppose this does not interest expert bee-keepers who clip their queens, but there are some who do not; I have had some clipped queens and I do not like them at all, in coming back they are liable to pile onto the adjoining hives. Coming to the fact that we allow the bees to swarm, and what is the best way to get them down, I have found this device of Mr. McKnight's an excellent thing; I didn't bother with the tin; I made a couple of them of different lengths and then I fastened a hook on the end, at the top, and I have another pole with a hook