

## CAPPINGS.

### CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

Two methods of Fastening covers and bottom boards on hives for moving to out-aparies.

**I**NTO each edge of the bottom-board, just below the middle of the hive, drive an 8-penny wire nail until there is about an eighth of an inch between the head and the wood. Drive two more into the cover to correspond. With these in every cover and bottom-board, every hive in the yard is ready to be fastened together securely at the rate of about half a minute to each hive. Make a loop of stout wire—I use steel bale wire, No. 14—so that it will just slip over the nail-heads from bottom-board to cover. The wire should be spliced with a “telegraph splice,” that is, the ends should not be twisted together, or returned on themselves, but each end should pass the other and then be twisted around it. Now take two sticks, two or three inches long, with the ends notched. Place these sticks between the wires on one side, and spread them apart until the wires are perfectly tight. If the wire is a little rusty, the sticks or “keys,” will hold better, though I have never known one to slip if properly arranged.”

“To save time, we first cut twice as many lengths of jute twine,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter, as we have hives to haul. These lengths will just reach around a hive transversely, and tie in a bow knot, in the direction of the dotted line. With a certain number of lengths thrown over the shoulder, we proceed to a hive, lift the front up, slip one end under, draw it around the hive tight on the dotted line, and tie it. The rear is looped in like manner. Now, then, to stretch the twine taut we draw the tops of the loops toward each other, in such a way that the cord that was at first perpendicular is now stretched to the hypotenuse. After having drawn them as far as you can with your fingers, take a hammer and drive at the angle on both sides of the cover until the diagonal part of the cord begins to sing like a fiddle string. You might suppose that, after the cord is slipped from a perpendicular to a diagonal, it will have a tendency to resume the perpendicular again; but if you will try the experiment on the hive you will find that the friction is great enough to keep the cord at whatever diagonal you may drive it.”

Both the above we clip from the last issue of Gleanings. The first is by a correspondent, the second by Ernest Root. Neither of them provide for a super or rim over the brood-chamber for purposes of ventilation, and we almost always find it necessary to use such an arrangement to prevent smothering. Of the two methods, we think the first mentioned would be the best, in case the rim has to be used, though we should be inclined to feel afraid there would be some mishap even with it. There will be four portions of the hive

to bind together—if a loose bottom board is used and it would be almost impossible to bind them so tight that a sudden jolt would not cause them to shift. If the super or rim is attached to the brood-chamber by clamps, they would work all right. Where the bottom-boards are attached, and clamps are in use to fasten the cover to the hive-body, if screws are placed in the rim in the same position as in the cover, the clamps will hold the rim on quite securely. The wire cloth is always tacked right onto the top of the rim. Our own method is given on page 42 last issue.

### HONEY REMEDY FOR COUGH OR COLD.

This is the time of year when colds are likely to be the order of the day. The following recipe is said to be an excellent remedy:

“Boil two ounces of linseed in a quart of water until the seeds are quite soft. Strain, and add half pint of honey, two ounces of lump sugar, and the juice of three lemons. Boil these well together. Take a teaspoonful every half hour, or two teaspoonful on going to bed. It is most effective hot.”

### WINTER PACKING.

Dr. J. W. Vance, in giving his winter report says:

“The colony that was in the finest condition when taken from our cellar was the one that I had left with the super on, with combs above and below. There was nothing on top except the cap. So you see they have plenty of air. The cap does not fit tightly, and there was a large space of air below, between the empty combs. Those of my colonies that fared worst and were weak and depleted, were confined to a single story, and had no upward ventilation. In a temperature of from 45° to 50° it is absolutely necessary that the bees should have ventilation. If they are well covered, they must be well opened below.”

### A PREVENTATIVE FOR ROBBERING.

A correspondent in the American Bee Journal writes as follows:—

“He placed a piece of window-glass, about 8x5 inches, in front of the flight-hole, the top resting against the hive, and the lower end about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches from the entrance, so as to enable the bees of the hive to go in and out at the sides. The next morning the robbers made an attack on the hive in great numbers, but going straight at the entrance were stopped by the glass. They swarmed in front of the glass, but could not find the entrance at the sides, and very soon returned in disgust. To effectually put a stop to further robbing, the glass should be allowed to remain for several days, until the robbers forget the spot.”

The bees in this country must be a