

being clipped they would have to wait for another week at least before a young queen would hatch, so that, there being no fall flow, we were just as well pleased to have them away.

A young queen would have possession and any bees reared would be the very best to strengthen up colonies that required it for winter. I tried this plan for three seasons. One objection was the labor of taking them back and forth but the principle one is that no benefit was derived from the honey flow from various sources in the apiary and during fruit bloom, which, although of no particular value as surplus, yet it stimulated brood rearing and left no empty cells to be filled with white clover. From those three years experience my belief is strengthened that during a good part of the white clover bloom we need not fear much from overstocking, else why was it this out apiary of from 36 to 48 colonies did not give us a larger yield than the home apiary of about four times the number. The season of 1898 was a partial failure but no worse at home than these. Last year however they were left over winter and had the benefit of the spring flow, and the results were satisfactory both there and at home. A wide-awake bee keeper, some six miles distant, with twenty-five colonies has always, until last year, had much more spring gathered honey than ourselves, and as a consequence more surplus clover and less feeding in the fall. I account for the difference last season to my having my seventy colonies at home instead of nearly three times that number. It may be that some others are paying too little attention to this and do not value as they should a surplus or sufficiency of honey that may not be A1 in flavor but the very best for increasing the white clover surplus. The plan we adopted the

last two seasons for controlling the swarms was that of caging the queens. Doolittle has recommended it and described it, but as many of your readers may not be familiar I will do so now. In justice to the plan, however, I should state that the first season the queens were kept confined longer than the allotted time, and we had "no end of trouble;" we could not persuade some to accept a queen, and fertile workers had full swing. Last year we artificially swarmed a few of the strongest colonies and the balance we caged but took good care not to leave them confined longer than ten days with another day or so for the bees to relieve them.

#### CAGING QUEENS.

A cage is made about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep and the width of a frame. This is covered on three sides with wire cloth, one end is closed and the other has a loose plug about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. In this plug is bored a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch hole or larger, which is closed until such time as you wish the queen to be released, not later than nine or ten days, this hole is filled with "good candy" such as is used when shipping queens and the bees release her by eating this out. The feed does not require to be very stiff, otherwise they will not release her in two days. We had some trouble from this last season. It is claimed for this plan that all desire for swarming will pass away and if honey is stored in the brood chamber it will be quickly carried above. My experience has been that if they begin to store honey in the surplus department they will continue to do so. In running for comb honey we had sufficient empty drawn out sections to give one crate of twenty-one sections to each hive. These worked like a charm and were practically as good as extracting combs. I omitted to state