

little honey bee, which can be lost like a dream, against a gray-colored hill-side.

In order to be followed, the bee must have a distinguishing mark that can be easily seen, and with such a badge, the Australian provides it. He gums a small tuft of white cotton to the bee's back, and thus follows it with comparative ease.

But the question now comes up, how is the cotton to be put upon the bee's back? The gum is quickly found—it is on almost every tree, the cotton grows right at hand. The bee, too, is found in almost any sweet flower, buried head first in the dusty pollen, drinking in the nectar and showing quite plainly whether its honey sac is full or empty. It moves a little in its eager haste to secure the delicious liquid, but perhaps a quick dab will fasten the cotton on its back. Do not try it. As the little boy told his mother the bee is a very "quick kicker."

Watch the Australian,—and he a very stupid fellow, too, in most things. He fills his mouth with water, has his snowy tuft of cotton ready gummed, finds his bee, drenches it with water spurted from his mouth, picks it up while it is indignantly shaking itself free from the water which clogs its wings, and with a dexterous touch he affixes in an instant the tell-tale cotton.

Very much out of patience, no doubt, with the sudden and unexpected rain storm, the bee rubs off the tiny drops from its wings, tries them, rubs again, and soon—buzz! buzz! away it goes, unconsciously leading destruction and pillage to its happy home.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies: the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

HIVING SWARMS.

QUERY No. 38.—Which is the safest way to hive a swarm of bees?

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—I clip all queens wings and hive swarms on the returning plan, considering it the best and safest.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MAKEO, ILL.—"Safest" in what way? If you mean from stings, veil and gloves. If you mean from desertions, give them a frame of brood.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—I have so few natural swarms, not averaging over four or five each season, that really I don't know much about the best and safest way of caring for them.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—It would depend upon circumstances very much. A good way is to use a large basket, jar the bees off into that, throw over a cloth cover and dump them in front of a hive. If on a limb of a tree that you can spare, it is a safe way to carefully cut it off and lay it in front of a hive.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—We keep all queens clipped. When a swarm comes out we first capture the queen. Then remove the old hive and put an empty one in its place. Place the queen at the entrance and when the swarm begins to return allow her to run in and the job is done.

A. PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—As the answer I would like to give to this question would involve the subject of second swarms and how to prevent them it would occupy too much space in this department. I have therefore written an article on the subject which will be found in another column.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—In the first place there should be put on a good bee veil well tucked in, a pair of long rubber gloves, and a string tied around the bottom of pants. Now place a swarm catcher in front of the hive as soon as they commence to swarm. As soon as all are out run them into a hive filled with clean worker comb. Be sure they have plenty of room and ventilation.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Shake them or get them into a box. Carry them to a hive and empty them in front of it. The hive should be neat, and I think it is well to fill it with wired foundation except one frame which should have brood in all stages. I prefer to clip the wing of the queen, then we have only to cage her, when the swarm will hive itself. This certainly saves much time, trouble, and often the loss of a swarm.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—If you mean by this question the best way of placing and keeping a swarm in a hive, give your new swarm a frame of larvæ from the same hive. Keep the hive cool and shaded. Shake the cluster of bees into an ordinary bushel basket, cover quickly with a cloth, carry it to the hive before which you have placed a board or sheet, shake the bees out of the basket gently and keep a sharp lookout for the queen, if you happen to see her enter the hive your swarm is safe. This is for those who do not clip queens wings. Clip your queens wings and you can save your queen and swarm, and it is much safer for yourself, as no ladder climbing will be necessary.