

friend Jones, on this subject, in which he said that all should know how to introduce virgin queens, or something to that effect; but after reading carefully all that was said on the subject, I failed to find how to do it explained. There are two ways to do this with oldish virgin queens, and *only* two ways, that I know of. The first (and, as I consider it, the best plan) is, to make a colony queenless for from four to nine days before the introduction is tried, then drop the virgin queen in honey, looking out that she does not fly away in getting her into the honey, after which she is to be rolled in the same, and, with a teaspoon, dipped up and turned down between two frames from the top of the hive. If the colony or nucleus has been queenless long enough to have sealed queen-cells, not one in ten will be killed, providing said colony does not desire to swarm, no matter whether the queen-cells in the hive are destroyed by the apiarist or not. In fact, as a rule I prefer not to destroy these cells, for the bees seem to rather let the virgin queen do it. If they have a desire to swarm, the virgin queen will generally be killed in spite of all precautions.

The other plan is to take all the combs out of the hive where you wish to put the virgin, placing the queen in a cage having Good candy in one end of it, to an amount sufficient to take from 12 to 20 hours for the bees to eat through to her. By this time they know that this queen is their only hope, so will accept her, but the combs and brood must be kept out of the hive till she becomes fertile; for if put back sooner, the bees will often kill her and raise another from their brood; and they will often kill her if only combs having no brood are placed in the hive within 48 hours after the bees have liberated her. I consider the introduction of virgin queens as impractical, only as we wish to do it as a means of changing "blood." If Bro. Jones makes it practical, will he please tell us in detail just how he does it?

#### USING OLD COMB FOUNDATION.

"A year ago I put some foundation in both brood-frames and section boxes. Will it answer to use the same this year?" is a question asked by another correspondent. Well, now, I should like to say to every one who has a similar question to ask on any subject, you can tell just as well as any one; and all you have to do is to try and see. I have hundreds of questions asked me which I answer by saying, "Try it, and that will tell you." Anything which you can try and prove for yourself, just as well as not, with little or no cost, don't run off to some one else with; for after you have tried it you will have a knowledge regarding it which will

be of more value than a dozen answers to the same question. In trying these things always do it on a small scale; then if it is a failure, little harm will result; and if a success, you have plenty of time to try again more largely. Then if it pleases you, use the whole apiary in the same way if you desire, with no fear of a heavy loss.—Gleanings.

Borodino, N. Y., July, 1891.

In reply to friend Doolittle's request, to state how to introduce virgin queens, we would say:—We are in the habit of keeping young queens in queen nurseries, until they are from one to six days old, but usually try to use them, when they are from three to five days old. We have kept them much longer and used them very successfully. Any queen nursery or caging system that protects the queens from destruction, in a hive, would answer the purpose. We have sometimes taken from our strong colonies nuclei and just as orders came in from day to day, any number of queens to fill these orders. Sometimes we have taken over 20 queens out during the day, and marked the hive thus queenless. Then in the evening, about sun-down, or later, we would go to our nurseries and select the number of queens we required to re-queen the queenless colonies. Then just as it was growing dusk, we would lift the lid carefully off the hive, in fact, would sometimes go round and take off all the lids, and set them down by the side of the hive. Then with a pocket full of queens, in the little cages, we would go from hive to hive, raise up the corner of the quilt, and if the bees did not offer to come out, would not use any smoke, but if they offered to come up, we would blow in a little smoke, so gently that there would be no excitement. Then we raise the quilt just enough to see, and let the queen crawl in, by taking her by the wings and poking her head in under the quilt. Sometimes, if we fancied we had disturbed the bees in any way putting on the lid, we would blow smoke in at the entrance. We remember on one occasion, the foreman of our apiary, introduced between 25 and 30 queens, and on looking through the hives afterwards, found that every one had been accepted. A queen just hatched, may be put into a queenless colony during