

The Apiary.

Dividing Swarms.

No certain rule can be given as to the right time for dividing colonies, as seasons are so different and localities so unlike with respect to the putting out of blossoms. As a rule, I find that when fruit blossoms early, and good weather prevails during its blossoming, it is safe to expect early swarms. No new colonies can safely be made before drones appear, as on them depends the impregnation of the young queens.

It is always best to choose a time when the nights are warm, or the young brood may suffer after so much surplus population is taken from the hive.

Those who have used moveable frame hives for any length of time will have become familiar with various ways in which colonies may be divided; such need no aid in the matter, but a word or two of caution may be "in order." Never expect to benefit a colony that is not doing well by making two of it; unless a hive is very strong in numbers and in all ways prospering, do not divide it. Generally, such colonies may best be made vigorous by taking away their queen and replacing her by a young one.

Never divide when honey is not very abundant.

In making the division, whatever way you practise, be sure to have the main part of the worker force of the colony with the queen, leaving the hatching brood with few old bees in the old hive. To do this easiest, it is well to have the queen in a new hive on the old stand, while the old one is removed some distance away.

It always pays to rear queen cells eight or ten days in advance of swarming time, so as to give the part of the colony left queenless a queen cell nearly mature, thus saving them much time.

If the greatest yield of surplus honey is the object, it may best be secured by making no more than one new colony from each one in a season; where little fall pasturage is found, it is generally best to be contented with securing one new colony from two old ones, thus:

Take three frames of comb, containing brood and stores, from a good colony, replacing them by empty frames; put them in an empty hive and set it where the one from which the frames were taken stood; then move another strong colony a rod away, and put the one from which you took the frames where that one stood. In the new hive you have brood and stores and a good colony of bees; in the one from which you took the frames, there is still left brood and stores, and by setting it where a good hive was, you secure to it plenty of bees; one of these hives will contain a queen, it matters not which, for both are alike well provided with materials for producing another. The hive that you move a rod away will lose nearly as many bees as if it swarmed, but it keeps its queen and all of its brood, and will soon be strong again, much more so than if it had lost its queen as in natural swarming.

There are many whose bees are still in box hives, who wish to transfer them with the least possible loss to moveable comb hives. Such will find swarming season the best time to do it. The matter is very simple. In the middle of a warm, pleasant day smoke the hive that you wish to drive, in order to alarm the bees and induce them to fill their honey sacs; wait five or ten minutes, and then take the hive and carry it a few yards away; turn it over and put on top of it a box or cap as near the same size as possible. With sticks now drum smartly on the lone hive, making a continued jar, and the bees will mount rapidly into the upper box, and soon be found hanging to it like a swarm. Take it off, then, carefully, and set in the shade. Carry the hive from which you drove the bees, to a location two or three yards behind where it stood before; it will keep bees enough to rear a queen and do well. Put your new moveable comb hive on the old stand, spread a sheet before it, and then empty the bees from the box upon the sheet, and they will run up into the hive, and go to work there like a swarm. It is well, if you have any good pieces of comb, to fasten them in the frames, as it gives the bees what all like—"a start in life." If you wish to transfer combs and all from the old hive, it can best be done just three weeks after the swarm is thus taken from it. At that time there will be little or no brood in the combs, and they can be easily handled; they will have a young queen, but she will not have deposited many eggs. Full directions for transferring combs are given in any standard work on bee-keeping. The operation is very simple.—*Mrs. E. S. Tupper.*

The Household.

The Household Lamp.

When suns decline, and crickets sing,
And wandering mists from seaward roam,
When nights no heavenly beacons bring,
Then brightest shines the star of home!

When the brown brooks, with music low,
Watch summers die and autumns come,
When stately golden rods must bow,
What cheer is in that light of home!

When winter strips the shuddering trees,
And chills the wavelet's wanton foam,
When in the world's cold grasp we freeze,
How blest is then that star of home!

Atlantic Monthly.

Emergencies.

PRESENCE of mind, under sudden alarm, is a species of moral courage that is rarer than might at first be supposed, and it requires the test of actual danger, or some stirring emergency to establish any one's claim to the possession of this valuable quality. Many persons are very brave or very wise when danger and embarrassment are at a distance, who entirely lose their self-possession when the time of trial comes unexpectedly upon them. This common deficiency of character is humorously described by Mr. Dickens in the "Pickwick Papers." Who does not remember the scene in which Mr. Pickwick, whilst enjoying with a merry company the exhilarating exercise of sliding on the ice, suddenly falls through with a crash and disappears? The gentlemen of the party, we are told, turned pale; the ladies fainted; Mr. Snodgrass and Mr. Winkle grasped each other by the hand, and gazed at the spot where their leader had gone down; while Mr. Tupman started off at the top of his speed across the country, calling "fire!" and it was not until the features and spectacles, followed by the shoulders of the old gentleman, emerged from the surface of the treacherous ice, and it was also announced that the pond was nowhere more than five feet deep, that the major part of the company recovered their senses, and were ready to perform prodigies of valor in the rescue. We have heard also of the lady whose first thought on learning that her house was on fire, was to save her best china, which she forthwith hastily collected and pitched out of the window. The actual experience or recollection of most readers will, doubtless, suggest similar instances of the want of presence of mind.

There are many cases, however, where the embarrassment arises less from a deficiency of this rare quality than from ignorance of what is best to be done under the circumstances. When people are left to their own resources, and neighbourly help is not always accessible, it is especially important that they should be prepared, by a little simple knowledge as well as common sense, for emergencies that may happen at any time. We remember seeing, many years ago in England, a very useful printed sheet, headed "Hints for Emergencies," in which were given plain and sensible directions for the course of action to be immediately adopted in the event of a variety of accidents in which any one might be suddenly called upon to render aid, such as fire, drowning, poisoning, &c., &c. We do not know whether this useful guide could be obtained now; but any one might, with a little pains, put together a similar compendium of useful hints for his own use, and the time might come when, if memory failed at the moment of need, a reference to such a written memorandum might be of immense value. To aid those of our readers especially whose lot may be cast in the back settlements of the country, we propose occasionally to give a few simple instructions as to the best course of action in the more common emergencies. We will begin with just one or two accidents to the person.

Not long since we gave an extract from one of our exchanges, under the heading "*How to act when the clothes take fire.*" We would again refer to the directions there given for guidance in this emergency, merely reminding the reader that the chief things to do promptly are, to throw over the flames, so as to smother them out, a rug, blanket, or anything of the kind that most readily comes to hand, and to lay the person whose clothes are on fire flat on the ground. When a burn is superficial and affects only a small space, immersion of the part in cold water will generally give great relief. Dredging flour over the burnt part, so as completely to exclude the air, is also one of the best applications in the first instance, and will sometimes be all that is necessary.

Next, let us take the case of *Fainting*. A person suddenly turns pale, and falls, losing his consciousness. Friends are alarmed, and sometimes not knowing what else to do, will raise the person into a sitting posture. Now, this is just about the worst thing that could be done. The pallor of the face should teach us that the heart is acting feebly, and does not send the blood into the head in the ordinary manner. Every facility should be given to let the blood flow towards the brain, and for this purpose a horizontal position, with the head even lower than the rest of the body, is the most desirable. Fresh air is a most important auxiliary; cold water, or even occasionally a little brandy, may be serviceable; but the horizontal position, or, in plain words, lying down, will generally bring about a speedy recovery.

Not to extend this article to a tedious length, we will notice at present only one case more, namely, the accidental taking of poison. In these cases it is not always easy or possible to ascertain what special poison has been taken. The only safe rule, then, applicable to all cases, is the instant administration of some efficient emetic. The best, such as sulphate of zinc or ipecacuanha, may not be at hand; though it is well, by-the-by, for persons living in lonely situations to have a few common remedies in the house. If either of these is procurable, then the proper dose of sulphate of zinc is about a scruple, or half a small teaspoonful, given in lukewarm water. The dose of powdered ipecacuanha is nearly double that quantity—that is, half a drachm, or nearly a teaspoonful. If the first dose of either does not answer the desired end in about a quarter of an hour, it should be repeated. When neither of these remedies is at hand, common table mustard may be used, and is a tolerably good emetic. From a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful, given in warm water, is the proper quantity. In addition to this, drinking freely of milk, or the white of an egg, is in the case of certain poisons a most valuable antidote, and in others often useful.

Perhaps the most common poisons that are taken accidentally are arsenic, corrosive sublimate, and oxalic acid. If it can be ascertained that any one of these has been swallowed, the appropriate antidote should be administered as speedily as possible. For arsenic the best antidote is sesquioxide of iron—a large teaspoonful for a dose. White of egg and milk are also useful. For corrosive sublimate white of egg is the very best corrective; for the poisonous salt unites with the albumen and forms an insoluble compound. For oxalic acid, lime is the proper antidote. This is best administered in the form of chalk.

These few hints may be useful, and worth remembering. In some future article we hope to notice and give directions for the proper course of proceeding in some other emergencies.

WHAT A YOUNG WOMAN DID.—I have an acquaintance in the middle class of society, the income of whose business was a comfortable support for his wife and three daughters. The eldest of the girls found much of her time unoccupied, except with unproductive fancy work, and she said to her mother: "Why should we all be dependent upon father for support? If he should die how helpless we should