

tained an increase of eighteen colonies, which, with four colonies made by doubling up nuclei, gives me forty-eight to go into winter with. Besides the increase, I obtained 651 lbs. of comb honey and 103 lbs. of extracted, or 754 in all, from the twenty-six colonies in the spring. This gives an average of twenty-nine pounds to each colony, which is the lightest yield I ever obtained, if my memory serves me right. The comb honey I have shipped on commission, which is being sold at seventeen cents per pound.—G. M. DOOLITTLE, in *Gleanings*.

Introducing.

GIVING A QUEEN TO A COLONY AT ONCE.

THE queen arrived all right, and I am very much obliged to you. You sent a small circular with the queen, telling how to introduce her, by the Peet process, to a colony of bees. I have lost queens the very same way you give directions to introduce. I will tell you how to introduce a queen, and I will warrant you will never lose one. I do not make a colony queenless until I get the queen I am going to put in. I take the cover off a Langstroth hive, and set it down on the ground, and put two small blocks under two corners of the cover to raise it up so the bees can pass under. I then lay a paper down on the ground in front of the cover, and commence to shake the bees off from the frames until I come to the queen. I then cage her, if I want to save her; if not, I pinch her head off and then I keep on until I get all the bees off the ten frames in front of the cover. The bees will run under the cover, and cluster. Take the frames the bees were on, and put them in the hive and put a cloth over them, so the brood won't get chilled; then pick up the cover the bees have clustered under, and give it a hard knock on the ground over the paper. Then take a small sprinkling can and give them a little sprinkle of water. Open the cage the queen is in, and drop her in the pile of bees. If the bees go to fight her, give them another sprinkle and they will be glad to let her alone. The cover must be set down where you had it before, so the bees can run under and cluster. The bees and queen will be hanging to the inside of the cover. Take the cloth off from your brood-frames; now pick your cover up that the bees are under, and give it a knock over the frames very hard, to knock the bees on the frames; put your enameled cloth on, and cover. Set your hive where it was before, and I will warrant your queen will be laying in a few hours, if she was a laying one at first.

You may think this is a great deal of trouble; but I can do it in three minutes. Is this not

better than to wait forty-eight hours? and even then you may lose your queen; and you will have to wait three days before she commences to lay. I united two colonies together that had good laying queens, and put in that imported one you sent me last Thursday. She is laying and all right. I have introduced twenty this fall the same way, and have not lost one.—F. M. JONES in *Gleanings*.

Compelling Bees to Work.

AS soon as the first yellow tint begins to show on the oats the village beeman of the borderland thinks it time his skeps were away to the moorland, for then the flower harvest is almost over and the heather is coming into bloom. He has been making preparation for months in anticipation of an event of importance to his pocket and associated in his mind with mystery and romance. A few beekeepers are so fortunately placed that they can convey the skeps by train and it was once common to employ donkeys. The long cart borrowed from a neighboring farmer is now most generally used. It is brought down after dark, when the bees, after the completion of their day's work have retired for the night, and the owner has foiled their egress with a piece of perforated tin. Where a number of villagers have each a hive or two they combine to employ several carts and the scene before departure is very animated.

When all is ready the procession moves off along the dark road, rendered darker by the elms on either side, but the villagers let it be as late as possible for the sake of coolness, and also that the day may break before they come to the path perilous among the hills. At dawn the summer angler, as he is casting his first fly on the hill stream and wondering as he does so whether rain or sunshine is portended by the nightcap on the hill and the ribbons of mist waving along the pine tree, will catch a view of the carts slowly rumbling along the wheel track midway between the woody slope and the water. Men and horses all looked tired and dragged but their journey is well nigh at an end. A few miles more and the welcome salutations of the shy dogs in the glen which see strangers so seldom will announce the end of their labors. In a very brief space of time the hives are placed on their stands within a disused sheepfold and the bees are let out.

After one sweep round, in which they seem to take their bearings, the industrious and business-like insects settle down to work, and within an incredibly short space of time they may be seen returning with their burdens. It is usual to