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RE-QUEENING

(Bee-Keepers' Review, April)

Mr. J. H. Collins, of Bardwell, Kentucky, writes me of a plan he uses in re-queening, whereby it is not even necessary to hunt up the old queen. Here is the plan:

Prepare a super or upper story by boring two holes near its lower edge. Cover one hole with a piece of queen-excluding zinc, and fit into the other a tube, several inches long, made of wire cloth. A tube half an inch in diameter and six inches long is large enough. Lay a queen-excluder over the brood-nest of the hive that is to be re-queened, set on the super prepared as just described, having the openings over the entrance to the lower hive, and put into the super two combs of brood. The bees from below will come up and cover the brood, when they should be cut off from the lower hive by putting a piece of wire cloth between the upper and lower lives. The warm air and odor from the lower hive can come up into the super, but the bees in the latter must use for an entrance the holes that were bored, one covered with queen-excluding metal, and the other furnished with a tube of wire cloth.

The next step is to furnish this super with either a ripe queen-cell or a virgin queen. When ready to mate, the queen will leave the hive by the way of the wire cloth tube, but is almost certain not to find the outer opening upon her return, and to be attracted to the lower entrance by the crowd of bees passing out and in. The young queen is vigorous, slim and spry, while the old queen is more feeble, slower and clumsy from her load of eggs. The result is that the young queen comes off victorious.

[This looks like a good plan, and appears easy. But would it not be an awful nuisance to be boring all these holes in our hives, with the consequent trouble of covering them all up again? Would not

Doolittle's plan be better: "Hatch a young queen in an upper storey, and shake her with the rest of the bees below or in front of the entrance, when she will surely supersede the old queen."—Ed.]

TREATMENT OF OLD COMBS FOR WAX

I notice by May C.B.J. that Mr. John Bailey, Sr., suggests a plan of treatment for old combs before rendering, and you, in your foot-note, ask if any of your readers have experience along this line?

If old combs are to be boiled and then pressed there is not much, if any, need of their being smashed up, but if old combs are to be steamed, I consider there is no better plan than to throw them into a box and chop them up with a good sharp spade, then soak for some time in warmish water, so that any pollen would be thoroughly saturated, after which the comb can be gathered up in double handfuls and the water squeezed out, the several handfuls broken up with the fingers into the wax-renderer, and they are in about the best possible shape for operations.

Regarding wax presses, I got out one two years ago, which was written up in the C.B.J., probably about this time of year. It is adapted to using either steam or hot water, and the get-up is on the Hatch-Gemmill plan. Mr. Deadman, of Brussels, can testify to this, as he was here when I first started it and turned on the steam. It was got up with a view to either using steam or hot water. I consider it would be too expensive to put on the market.

Ideal bee weather since the 16th inst. Bees are "improving each shining hour."

D. CHALMERS.

Poole, Ont., May 28, 1908.

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