

simply enclosed an immature drone, and the population had dwindled.

Suspecting that some of the said queen-cells contained immature drones, we opened several of them, and the results proved our suspicions correct. We kept on tearing them open, when we were surprised to find in one of them a live queen about to hatch. Then another! What to do? We concluded to cut out all the queen and would-be queen cells but two, and "let her slide." The hive is now again presided over by a young queen, the population has increased, all seems to be well, but the shock to its nervous system, caused by such a double visitation of calamities, has weakened her resources; I have not extracted a pound of surplus honey from it.

I tried "doubling" on five of my best hives, but our spring was so late and variable, that it could not well be effected till near the commencement of the honey flow. The hives with second year queens, relieved of their brood combs, did wonders. I never saw hives work better, but the young bees hatched in great numbers when the season was nearly over and too late for usefulness. Our honey-flow is too short, and we are almost every year troubled with drouth, which shortens it still more. Our queens, too, I think, are too fecund, filling again with brood the combs which should have served for surplus honey; so that during the honey flow the best honey was stored on the brood combs (some twenty of them) and used in feeding so many mouths.

If we try again next year, I think it would be good policy to use a honey-board over the first brood-storey? I see this very generally advocated in the American press.

The Archduke of Austria, Louis Salvador, who has resided over twenty years on the neighboring island of Mallorca, has been spending a few months among us, and was so charmed with my home apiary that he determined to put one up on that island, where he is a very large landed proprietor. My youngest son has just returned from a tour of inspection with him.—B.B.J.

F. C. ANDREU.

HANDLING BEES AFTER DARK.

UPON the incorrect practice of handling bees after dark, the *Forest and Farm* says it is practiced to quite an extent by persons who do not understand bees properly. This is the time when farmers and old-fashioned bee-keepers go to their hives to take honey. They think they are perfectly safe at night as the bees cannot see to attack them. In the middle of the day, when

the bees are flying thickly, they would think it almost suicide to approach the bees for the purpose of handling them.

In conclusion, our contemporary adds: In our experience it is just the reverse, and if ever bees sting with a vengeance it is after dark. A bee crawling upon your flesh in the dark will insert its sting almost without exception, and when disturbed in the dark will run all over the hive, crawl upon the ground and upon your person, so that it is very pleasant to handle them. Smoke does not appear to have the same effect on them at night as it has in the daytime. In the heat of the day, when the air is full of them on the wing, is the best time to work with them. You will receive less stings, do your work much better, and do less damage to the bees.

We have tried handling bees after night but never had very good success, and we do not wish to try any more, especially if there were as many holes in our clothes, where bees could get in, as there were on this particular occasion. Of course, there was not that flying about overhead that there is in daylight, but give us that a thousand times over in preference to have them crawling all over, going into one ear and trying to go through and out at the other, going up one's nose; in fact, when one was telling that the bees were on him it was necessary to keep your teeth closed or they would be in your mouth. There may be a knack of handling bees after night. We have never practised it enough to get into the way of it and do not recommend anybody to adopt it in preference to daylight manipulation. We recollect once cutting a bee tree on a farm about five miles from home and when we asked the farmer if we might cut it he readily consented but his wife spoke up and said she must have a share of the honey. In fact she said she wanted all of it and that we might have the bees; as it was in the fall of the year we did not consider that we were getting the best of the bargain. For fear that we would not give her all the honey she insisted on going along with us to see the tree cut down. She came with us bringing pails to hold the honey, saying that we might do as we chose with the bees, but she would see that she secured all the honey. In accordance with the agreement we went with a number of our boys to cut the tree, knowing full well what we lost in