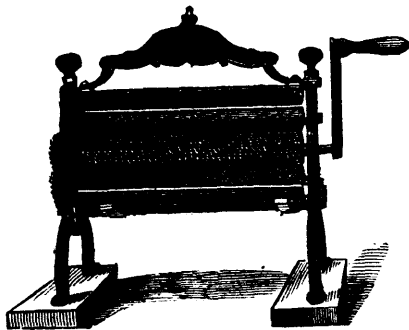


BEE CULTURE.

ARTIFICIAL COLONIES.

Attempts have been made in all ages to prevent the bees from swarming altogether, or to regulate the time of swarming. But, complete success in this particular has been



Comb Foundation Machine.

obtained with movable frames alone.

As a rule, artificial colonies should be formed only from strong, healthy colonies, after the honey has been secured; conditions which generally happen about the middle of June, when white clover is in flower, although in certain circumstances, artificial col-

onies can be obtained sooner.

To form an artificial colony, take a movable frame of brood comb, which place in the centre of an empty hive, filling up both sides with empty frames; now take this new hive and place it on the bottom board of the old hive; this you must carry to some distance from its old stand. The old hive is now without a queen and should, therefore, have queen cells or what is still better, a fecundated queen given to it. In a few days, the two colonies will show an immense activity.

Such is in as many words, the simple but useful method of forming artificial colonies. The operation thus described should take place in the middle of a fine day. The two hives having changed places, the following happens; the working bees of the old hive, which are out collecting stores in the field, will return to the new hive, and finding the same bottom board and the same queen, continue their work as if

nothing had occurred; the old hive, through this exchange, has lost half its population, but as it possesses a great number of young bees, and a large supply of brood, in a few days its activity will equal that of the new hive.

In the empty frames old combs can be used, or artificial combs, called *foundation*. This is made by pressing through two cylinders (made for the purpose) a thin sheet of wax, which is thus moulded of the exact form of the box of workers, or drone, combs. This artificial foundation is quickly extended and worked out by the bees, to the advantage of the bee-keeper, who thus secures a larger quantity of honey.

We have given, above, one of the methods used for the introduction of a queen in to a queenless colony. There are several others, none of which are infallible. Here are, however the two methods which have succeeded best with me. After the successful formation of an artificial colony, take a selected queen, an Italian if possible, sprinkle her with honey from the queenless hive, and let her drop amidst the frames. Some advise keeping the queen in a cage, in the hive, for two days, before sprinkling her with honey and allowing her to go loose.



Smoker.

Cook's Manual of the Apiary.

We have perused with great pleasure this *Vade Mecum* of the bee-keeper. It is replete with the best information on everything belonging to apiculture. Professor Cook, of the Michigan State Agricultural College, is, evidently, thoroughly conversant with the practice as well as with the theory of the art he has taught for many years in the above named institution. To all taking an interest in the subject, we say: obtain this valuable work, read it carefully, and practice as advised.

The third edition of "Cook's Manual" can be obtained at this office. Price, \$1.10.

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