

CAPPINGS.

CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

Moving Bees Short Distances.

IT is pretty generally considered to be next thing to impossible to move a colony of bees from one yard to another, or even a few rods in the same yard, without the bees going back to the old location. We have tried most every plan that has been suggested, or that we could think of up to the present time, with but indifferent success. A correspondent of the British Bee Journal thus relates his success:

"I bought four stocks from a friend of mine living in the same town, and not more than three or four hundred yards from my garden. I thought for a long time of a method for removing them without the bees going back to their old stand, so I hit on the following. It was on the first day of November, 1889, the weather was mild and fine in the day, and I was forced to move them; so I went there after it got dark, packed them up, and brought them to my own garden, placed them on their stands, opening the entrance full to let them have air. Early next morning I went there before any of the bees were out and closed the entrance, then opened same just as it got dusk next evening, and got there next morning and closed the entrance as before. I did this for four nights, and am glad to inform you that I don't think I lost one bee. They took to their quarters well, and have been doing well ever since."

We won't say that this plan may not work out all right, but it is totally impracticable during the summer months, and besides, who wants to keep their bees closed in a hive four or five days during the honey harvest. We have proven by actual experience that it takes bees a good deal more than four days to forget their location. To prove this set a colony or colonies of bees out of winter quarters for a fly; put them in again, for a month if you like; then place them on a different stand at the final setting out, and watch developments. We want to know how to do this thing if anyone will tell us.

DETERMINING A QUEENLESS COLONY.

The North Eastern Michigan bee keepers in solemn convention assembled, amongst other things decided as follows:

"The best way to tell is, by the shape of the capping to the honey. The caps will be of oval shape, rather than flat; by the uneasiness of the bees in the hive; by the bees coming out at

the entrance of the hive and looking about, as if in search of something; bees set up a humming and shaking of their wings—then, last but not least, remove the frame and look into the hive."

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

The combined wisdom of the same body passed upon the above subject to the effect following:

"It should not be done until the blossoms are dropping off, or otherwise it might possibly injure the bees; besides, there is no advantage to be gained as far as the fruit is concerned. It is rather a loss of labor and capital."

PLANTING BASSWOOD TREES.

At the Wisconsin Bee Keepers Convention, A. I. Root is credited with saying:

"We are going to buy timbered land and cut the common timber and plant out basswood trees. Under these conditions they will be more apt to grow."

WOODEN COMBS.

If, as Dr. Miller asserts, a hive with wooden combs, costs about \$8.00, the chances of Bro. Aspinwall making a fortune out of his wooden-comb invention, are small.

NON-WIRERS BEHIND THE TIMES.

Did Dr. Miller really say what is credited to him at the Madison convention, viz.:

"That a bee keeper who does not wire his hives is far behind the times."

We hardly think he did, but if so he impugns the intelligence of at least three-quarters of the bee-keepers of this country. What great benefit is to be derived from wiring frames anyway?

"The bee is a Granger," says the Detroit Free Press, "and started the first co-operative store; established the first savings bank; and organized the first mutual aid association."

NO FURTHER USE FOR V-SHAPED TOP BARS

For years we used the V-shaped top bar on all our frames, but since foundation has come into general use, we have done away with them entirely, and adopted a top-bar into which the foundation can be quickly and truly put. In Gleanings, Dr. Miller gives the reason why V-shaped top-bars were used, and asks if there is any advantage in continuing to have them so made. The above is our reply.

"There was a time when V-shaped top-bars had the advantage, that bees built straighter