

a hole and insert a plug perforated longitudinally with a gimlet. A nail placed loosely in this hole will regulate the flow of water. Adjust the board edgewise, groove upward, with one end beneath this spout and the other slightly lower to cause the water to flow slowly down the groove after it drips from the spout of the "fountain." One who has never before tried this simple device will be surprised how the bees gather on the edge of the trough. Although the water always runs, the trough should be washed out each morning. Cover the pail with a board to keep out the sun.—Farmers' Advocate.

ABOUT CLIPPING QUEENS.

A Good Record.

By Mrs. A. J. Barber.

I have noticed in several of the bee-papers lately, items about clipping queens' wings, and how to do it. I did not suppose there were so many ways of doing it, and I was surprised that, of all the different plans described, none used mine. Perhaps many are doing so; but as none of them have told about it [perhaps thinking it too simple to need description] I will tell how I have been doing it for the last five or six years. It seems so much easier and more satisfactory than any other way that I never think of trying any other method.

When I find the queen I rest the comb on the end of the hive and hold the upper end of it in such a way that the comb slants a little away from me. When I can get the queen near the centre of the comb I start her toward the upper end of it; and by following her with my scissors I slip the blade under her wings as she runs, and take it off smooth and clean in much less time than it

would take me to catch her in fingers. One soon gets used to following her motions with the hand and after a few trials the clipping can be done nicely without touching the queen except with scissors. I don't believe they know what has happened, or that anything has happened, judging by their actions. One needs a pair of embroidery scissors, and they should be keen and sharp.

One day last spring I found I had clipped 31 queens before noon.

I have had but one accident, and that was several years ago when I was nervous, and a little afraid of bees. That time I cut both wings and legs.

I tried the pocket knife method but had to turn my queen loose from the comb, and clip her with the scissors after all.

I think it much easier and better to clip all the wings across straight about half their length. As I do not sell queens, nor keep them for exhibition purposes, I like to clip them close enough to insure their being found easily when a swarm comes out. I usually have a boy watch the hive and it doesn't pay to leave a queen with wings long enough so that she can make any use of them or the boy will not find her.

I don't see why so many are troubled with swarms clustering before returning to the hive to look for their queen. I don't remember ever having had them do so but usually they are coming back by the time the queen is caged and the hive put in place of the old one. Perhaps different strains of bees will have different habits. When they cluster I am always reasonably sure that they have met a young queen from some other place or hive, and treat them accordingly. — M. J. Burr, Colo., Gleanings.