

CAPPINGS.

CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS

Vaseline A Sting-Preventer.

A writer in the British Bee Journal says:

There have been many notes lately in the British Bee Journal in reference to the uses of vaseline in hives. It will be found to be equally as useful as a sting-preventer. Four or five years ago I suffered badly with eczema of the hands. It was painful to touch anything, and it made me very sensitive to the stings of bees. I tried the best recommended sting-preventing lotion, but, though it pacified the bees, it had a bad effect on my hands by drying the skin. I therefore had recourse to vaseline, and found that, in addition to benefiting my hands, it had as good an effect, as a sting-preventer, as any remedy I have tried. Perhaps this information may be of use to others. The remedy is cheap, efficient, and a benefit to the hands.

Petroleum cerate is cheaper and better than vaseline for the above purpose, but any one not having the cerate, had better try the vaseline. We would recommend, before putting it on the hands, that all the hair on the hands be thoroughly scorched off, which can be easily done by lighting a piece of paper and then swinging the hands through the blaze. The hair on the hands seems to tangle the feet of the bees, which they dislike very much. Dipping your hands in cold water and handling the bees while they are wet will keep them from stinging. Honey rubbed on the hands will also prevent bees from stinging, but the feeling is so disagreeable, that we doubt very much whether the pain of the sting which lasts but a very short time, is not preferable.

AFRICAN BEES AND ACTIVE COLONIES.

Mr. J. Denner in giving a review of the Bee Journals of Austria and Germany in the British Bee Journal describes briefly many of the articles therein contained from which we clip the following:

"Brother Zeno, from a convent of Trappists, in South Africa, gives a description of the bee of that country. The South African bee is a little smaller and darker than the German bee, and easily supports great heat, the sole condition being that the hives are placed in the shade. Generally speaking, they are very quiet, but during the principal honey harvest, and on the approach of a storm, the bee-keeper must be on his guard, for they then become veritable furies."

"C. J. H. Gravenhorst describes a simple method of inducing activity in a colony. As soon as the bee-keeper notices that a hive is not very active he removes two frames of capped brood and replaces them by two similar frames from a vigorous hive. Junginger has noticed that after having pounded and rubbed honey in a porcelain basin for an hour the aroma became much more distinct and the flavor more delicate, making it more suitable for medical purposes. This would lead one to suppose that nature had neutralised the medicinal properties in honey (possibly through the formic acid), and that it is by the electricity produced by friction that these properties become more efficacious."

IMPROVED HONEY EXTRACTOR.

Bro. Hill in Bee-Keeper's Guide makes the following announcement:

We have made quite an improvement on our honey extractor, getting up new castings for it. It is constructed so that by removing six $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bolts we can slip the comb receivers down into the can, thus reducing its bulk and making it convenient to ship or store. The comb-holders with cross-bars may be lifted out, and we have an excellent can to store honey, cook or mix bee feed or any other use that a large tin can can be put to. The extractor is now wholly constructed of iron and tin of the best quality, the centre rod is a turned rod with small smooth bearings which makes it easy running and a very durable machine.

Now friend Hill, instead of getting up a new pattern for an extractor, which we have no doubt is a good one and very cheap, but which necessitates the removing of six bolts, why did you not send to us for a set of gearing and castings for honey extractor, which are all of malleable iron, and so peculiarly constructed that it needs no bolts, screws, wedges, or fixtures of any kind to hold the gearing and extractor basket in place. That part of it is automatic. The gearing and basket may be taken out in five seconds by an expert, and replaced in from ten to fifteen seconds, and it forms a double and cross brace to the basket and can. It has been pronounced the strongest and most suitable extractor made, and may be shipped without the removal of any of the gearing. In fact the gearing supports it while in transit. As we do not ship extractors to the U. S., the duty preventing us from doing so, we would have no objection to you or any person else copying our gearing.

DISTANCE THAT BEES GO FOR NECTAR.

Some writers maintain that bees will go from three to four miles in search of nectar, and store a large quantity of surplus. I have found hun-