

which is to be fertilized. The time required for the descent of the pollen-tube varies from a few hours to two or three days.

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From the Farmers' Advocate.

CLIPPING QUEEN'S WINGS.

SOME bee-keepers, who appear unable to place themselves in the position of a farmer, or in fact anyone who has but little practical experience with bees, and yet keep a few hives for pleasure and profit, will often advocate the clipping of queen's wings. Now let us look at the question in detail. The object of clipping a queen's wings is briefly to prevent her leaving the hive with a swarm. The queen, by an experienced hand, may be caught at the entrance and caged. The old hive may be removed and the new one put on the old stand, and the queen placed in a cage and put upon the combs or foundation in the new hives. The swarm finding they have lost their queen will return to their old home, or rather the place where their old home was, and which is now occupied by the new hive, and they joyfully enter and remain with the queen. All this is well, and the ease with which the swarm has been hived pleasing, but we are supposing that all will be rightly done. But how is it with the novice? How many find it difficult to detect a queen even in the hive when all is quiet, and how many will point to a drone even and say, "There she is." Let the reader answer for himself. Enough to say there are many who will not be able to detect the queen as she issues with the swarm, and not being able to fly she will hop or run out from the hive and be lost from the swarm, and often the swarm returns having lost its queen. Again, as one must watch the bees all the time, the presence of the bee-keeper is required when the swarm issues, or he may again lose his queen. In this way valuable queens may be lost, and the swarm returning to the hive has to wait till the young queens may emerge from the cell, when a dozen young queens may go out with the swarm, and the bee-keeper has after all to hive his swarm with the queen; for her wings will not have been clipped. The colony has lost the use of a laying queen from the time that a swarm emerges until the young queen has become fertilized and is laying. This latter may or may not prove a disadvantage, depending upon the time the bees swarm and the duration of the honey season. If the queen is lost four or five weeks before the honey season closes it is a loss, as the worker

bee hatches in 21 days and becomes of use one or two weeks after she hatches.

Of course there is an advantage in clipping, it may be argued, and the advantage is that should a swarm issue and not be seen, the queen may be lost but the swarm will return. So it will; but what then when the young queens hatch the swarm may leave with them, and you may all the time be lulled into false security and think the clipped queen is still in the hive.

Clipping queens' wings is all right if you are an experienced hand and can watch your bees and look for the queen the moment a swarm commences to issue. Under these circumstances clip by all means, and now how shall you clip? The bees are very keen at detecting a foreign scent, and especially dislike it if on a queen, therefore you should avoid touching her person any more than necessary. Therefore, after having found her take her by one wing and clip it half off if you can. If you cannot, to advantage, cut this wing cut the other half off. Some will, without thinking, imagine the wings clipped on both sides would be better, but such is not the case. If the bees show an inclination to pile on the queen to sting her to death, smoke them and shake all bees off a comb and let the queen run on it; by the time the bees reach her she will be calm and normal in her movements, and all danger will be passed.

It will also be remembered that a queen is impregnated when on the wing, and only once in her lifetime. Cases have been known where a novice has clipped a virgin's wings to keep a colony from leaving the hive. This means the destruction of the colony, for the queen cannot take wing to be impregnated, and she being unable to produce anything but drones, the colony must perish; therefore, be sure your queen has been fertilized before you clip her wings.

From the New England Homestead.

THE APIARY.

GOLDEN ROD AND ASTER HONEY.

IN many parts of the country, the roadsides and waste places are covered in the fall with Golden Rod and Wild Asters. Of Golden

Rod there are many species and of the latter, often called Frost Weed, several sizes and colors, and most of these yield honey. Coming so late in the season, when there is little room to store it and bees are quieting down for winter, the honey is not usually obtained as surplus.

To secure a large crop of fall honey, Italian bees or the yellow races are the most suitable as they work later in the season and with more