

discourage them from swarming. No doubt some will be bragging next month in our bee journals about their early swarms in May; we read such accounts almost every year. This does not necessarily mean, that their colonies are any stronger than those of many other bee-keepers, who understand their business better, and whose bees consequently have not swarmed; they are simply advertising their failure to prevent them swarming and proclaiming their ignorance.

From the close of the apple bloom until the opening of the clover there is in many localities nothing for the bees to gather. If the weather has been such previous to this, that the bees have been unable to gather honey from the apple bloom, many colonies will enter this period of dearth short stores, and unless fed, they will be so handicapped in their brooding for want of honey as to seriously effect their value as honey gathers at the opening of the clover bloom when they should be at their best. There are not many seasons when this occurs, but when it does, feeding should be resorted to.

The practice of clipping queens is adhered to by many bee-keepers. It is not a necessity but simply a matter of convenience in hiving swarms. When it is practised, it should be done during the early fruit bloom before the colonies become populous, and when the queens are easily found. It is simply carefully catching them, and with a pair of small scissors removing a part of one wing so they cannot fly. When resorted to the queen of every colony should be clipped or else none at all. How to hive a swarm from a colony with its queen thus treated will be dealt with later on.

A metal and slatted queen excluder should be used on every hive between the brood chamber and the surplus cases, and should be put on when the

first surplus case either for extracted or comb honey is given to any colony. Cases for comb honey should not be put on in May, as the honey gathered by the bees during this month is not marketable. Whatever surplus honey the bees may chance to gather then should be stored in extracting combs as directed, it can then afterwards be utilized for feeding purposes and without loss.

A Sharp Letter.

Nothing relieves the mind sometimes like writing a man a letter. It is said that Secretary Stanton was once greatly vexed because an officer had refused to understand an order, or, at all events, had not obeyed.

"I believe I'll sit down," said Stanton, "and give that man a piece of my mind."

"Do so," said Mr. Lincoln, "write it now while you have it on your mind. Make it sharp; cut him all up."

Stanton did not need a second invitation. It was a bone-crusher that he read to the President.

"That's right," said Abe, "that's a good one."

"Whom can I get to send it by?" mused the secretary.

"Send it!" replied Lincoln, "send it! Why, don't send it at all. Tear it up. You have freed your mind on the subject, and that is all that is necessary. Tear it up. You never want to send such letters; I never do."

There was a world of wisdom in Lincoln's suggestion. Write your letter; freed your mind; out with it; and then put it in the drawer a week, and then read it over and burn it up and say no more about it.

How do you like the Journal? Is it not interesting? Then if you are in arrears, remit and put yourself on the paid-in-advance list.