

waste comb for beeswax, also with a pot kept hot in a double tin lamp chimney full of water sharpen uncapping knife; cut away all excrement from the face of the comb, and scrape the frame up clean and tidy, as well as the inside of the hive. Where portions of comb are too bad, cut out and splice in good worker comb. The same thing may be done now with patches of drone comb, so as to eliminate all drone comb from black or hybrid hives.

After taking off supers in the fall, and extracting combs for the last time, it is a good plan to carry them about eight or ten rods from the yard and allow the bees to clean them up, and you will find them in much nicer shape the next spring. A little robbing may start up, and the weak hives need to be closed down to passage for one bee at a time, and a pint of bees may perish in the fray, but in a couple of days all will be normal again, and you can gather in your clean, dry combs the second evening or morning early, leaving them at least one inch apart with sticks or empty frames. For closed end frames cut up lath the right length, say sixteen or twenty four inches long, and pile up combs, placing two sticks between each. For those left out in the hives (or hives brought into honey houses) shorter pieces of lath would do, placing them between the upright bars perpendicularly.

F. WHITESIDE.

Little Britain, Ont.

After a careful examination of the six essays published in C. B. J. on the "Preservation of Combs for Future Use." I beg to state that in my opinion, the one by Mr. G. A. Deadman, of Brussels, Ont., is best, and that by Mr. F. Whiteside, of Little Britton, next.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

African Bees.

I HAVE not been able to write before, and you will excuse me when you know that since you were here I have had a good deal of work in my different apiaries, and that this work has been doubled on account of the war we have had to wage against the migratory locusts, which invaded us again this year, in less quantities than last year, but still in sufficient quantities to do us much harm. Half our vines and grapes are devoured, and all the flowers were destroyed, so that there was no honey from this source. At last, I am pleased to say, we have got rid of our pests, and I profit by writing to you.

You said you would remember your visit here. I only regret one thing, and that is that

you did not remain longer with us; and I still hope that you will come another year and stay at least a week, if not more at my house. You were unfortunate to visit us during a season when the bees are bad-tempered. I have had weak hives very bad tempered, and sometimes strong ones very quiet, but in some seasons all, or nearly all, are very vicious.

I am at the service of amateurs who wish to try our race to send them queens. The children would be glad to have specimens of the photographs you were good enough to take here. Can you give me the scientific name of the reptile you took away with you? As you collect insects, if you like I will send you some scorpions, myriapoda, and coleoptera.—P. FEUILLEBOIS, Algeria.—British Bee Journal.

Fuel for Bee-Smokers.

TAKE dry cobs and pound them up the size of hickory nuts or walnuts, and start the first time with a few coals from the stove. When refilling, save a few of the coals to start the fresh cobs; and if they have gone out, you can start or light them with a match, or use a little rotten wood to start them, as you cannot easily light the cobs with a match. I prefer cobs, as the smoke is more agreeable to me, and to the bees, and it takes less to quiet them; no sparks to burn me and my clothes, nor ashes to blow into our honey while smoking the bees out of the crates. I can load a Clark smoker with cobs, so it will last three or four hours.—CHESTER OLMSTEAD in Gleanings.

Sending Bees By Post.

YOUR attention has been called to an article under the above heading appearing in the Journal of Horticulture of the 23rd of June, wherein Mr. Hewitt states that he has secured for every one a most valuable and important concession, viz., that of live bees being allowed to go by parcel post. We are in a position to say that there is no truth whatever in this statement, and that no concession has been obtained for bee-keepers other than that which has been enjoyed by them since the Inland and Foreign Parcel Post was established. All the concessions hitherto obtained have been through the initiative of the British Bee-keepers' Association, who appointed a deputation, of whom Mr. Cowan was one, to wait upon the postal authorities. We have no doubt the Association will leave no means untried to have the remaining restrictions—now being constantly evaded—as to bees being sent by letter post, removed.—British Bee Journal.