

same way and being as close together as possible with the hives sitting side by side. At the end of the seventh day from the time the swarm issued, the hive is taken up, at some time when the bees are flying briskly, and carried to a new stand where it is allowed to remain. The idea is that by this last removal so many of the bees are drawn off by going into the hive where the new swarm is that the young queens do not have enough bees left to swarm with, consequently all but one are destroyed, and all idea of swarming is given up; while the new swarm is so strengthened that it will store as much honey as could be procured from the two hives worked any other way. This plan is known as the Heddon plan, and usually works well, but as it requires more lugging of hives than I like to do, and takes the memory as to dates when the hives should be manipulated, etc., I have of late years substituted the following for it: While the swarm is out in the air or clustered on a limb, I take a light box in which I have previously placed the number of frames which I wish to have the new swarm upon and carry the same to the hive from which the swarm issued. The frames are now taken from the box and placed on the ground beside the hive, when the combs of brood with the adhering bees are taken from the hive and placed in the box. The frames are now placed in the hive, the surplus arrangement placed back on the hive as it was before and the hive closed. If there are many bees on the combs which were taken out of the hive and the weather is warm, a part of these bees are now shaken off in front of the hive into which they will immediately run. The box is next carried to the hive where it is wished that a new colony stand, where it is left till the swarm is hived back into the same hive where it came from which was prepared for it. After the swarm is hived the combs of brood with the adhering bees are placed in the hive where they are to be left, and on the following morning a virgin queen or a nearly mature queen cell is given them. If a queen is given them they at once destroy all queen cells of their own, or if a cell they will do the same if it hatches within a day or two as it should. If the cell is too long in hatching, the bees may become strong enough so that they will want to swarm with her instead of tearing down their cells. For this reason I prefer to give the colony a virgin queen to a queen cell. In this way we get all of the old bees in the new swarm at the time of hiving them, so that we have the greatest amount of laborers possible in the new swarm at the time when they are the most needed, so that the work in the surplus department shall go right on the

same that it would have done had the colony not swarmed. The colony having the combs of brood will not do much for the first few days until it gets a laying queen, but after that, should the honey season hold out, they will become so strong from the thousands of bees which are hatching daily, that they will often do considerable work in the sections if the same are now put on, while in all cases they are always sure to build up to good strong colonies for wintering. There is still another way for preventing after-swarms, which is by the way of preventing increase except one colony at the start, which is particularly adapted to a poor season. To do this, hive the first swarm of the season in an empty hive, setting it on a new stand. When the next swarm issues and while it is clustering, go to the hive from which the former swarm came, take out all of the combs and shaking the bees which are on them about three feet in front of the hive so that they will be some time in entering it again, cutting off all the queen cells which are found on the combs while so doing. Now place the combs back in the hive taking out one or two colonies at the sides so as to give room for one or two empty combs or frames of comb foundation in the centre, when the swarm is to be hived in here the same as they would be in an empty hive, the swarm going in with the returning bees which were shaken off, so no fighting will occur. The next swarm is to be hived in the same way in the hive from which the last swarm before it came from, and so on to the end of the season. In this way all after-swarming is done away with, all colonies kept strong, and a good crop of honey secured even in a poor season. Where a person desires increase, of course he will not adopt this latter plan.

Borodino, N.Y.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

OF THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL

Skunks to Eat Bees.

IN the Toronto World of 21st of May, is an account of skunks destroying hives and eating bees, during winter in the cellar. Y. and T. Thomas, Guelph, lost 30 and 15 hives respectively. They estimate their loss at \$300. You may know of this case; but an idea occurred to me, would it not be useful to keep one in cellar to eat the dead bees? Save a lot of sweeping up for those who use that method of disposing of their dead.

H. E. HALL.

We have never heard of human beings being able to occupy premises already occupied by skunks, and think anyone who would embark in this business would have very little opposition. We would not wonder at bees dying if they had to occupy the same repository as skunks do.