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OUR OWN APIARY.

QUEEN REARING, SWARMING, SECTIONS, ETC.

IN speaking of queen rearing last week I wetold you that if a swarm issued and the queen be removed the swarm could be put back and the queen placed in a nucleus or another colony. There is a more simple and perhaps easier way for some who may have a large number of colonies viz: instead of putting the swarm back after having removed the queen from it, the swarm may be hived in the ordinary way and bees may be taken from as many colonies in the yard as desired and shaken down in front of the colony that has just swarmed. The other day one of our finest colonies for queen-rearing sent out a swarm, early in the morning before we had time to remove the queen, and as the assistant in charge of that yard hived the swarm we allowed it to remain hived and shook down from five or six very strong colonies about half a bushel of bees in front of the old colony from which the swarm had issued. As they had no queen but a very large number of fine queen-cells started, this addition of bees made them give the queen cells much more attention than under ordinary circumstances. A finer lot of queen cells than this hive contains it has seldom been our privilege to see. There are so many bees in the hive that even should one queen hatch she will not be allowed to destroy the other cells, as the bees will usually protect them when they are so strong that they have the swarming impulse. We have sometimes found in very strong colonies (treated in this or similar ways,) two or three dozen hatched queens some of which had apparently been hatched nearly a day and the bees were cluster-

ing around and balling each queen, as it were, just enough to prevent her from crawling to any of her rivals and being destroyed. If any old bees should be shaken down in front of the hive and pass in it will make no difference as there is no queen in the hive so that the merest novice can perform this operation of strengthening up colonies having swarmed for the purpose of improving their queens, without any difficulty. At one of our apiaries, about nine miles from home the assistant in charge has experienced some difficulty in hiving swarms when several issue about the same time. We usually swarm our bees artificially but some of the colonies are so strong that they issue before we are ready, and when one swarm alights, if another issues at the same time they are liable to settle with the previous one. But now we are getting over the difficulty, in this way: Our assistant has made some boxes about 2ft long and 4 in. square inside, without ends. These he sinks into the ground endwise, he then takes evergreen bushes, sets them in these boxes which form a support for them in place of roots, and by pouring water in these tubes, or boxes, the evergreens may be kept for a long time; every swarm that issues alights on one of the many bushes scattered over the yard (there being no other trees in the yard referred to). Soon as a swarm lights he lifts the bush out of the box and carries all to the hive in which he wishes to put the swarm, lays them down in front of entrance and allows the bees to pass into the hive. Should another swarm attempt to unite, by throwing a sheet or large newspaper over them and a liberal use of the smoker, they are driven away and alight on one of the other bushes; in the same way this is lifted out and carried to another hive. Thus the hive may be placed on the stand where it is intended that it should remain and the bees carried *there* to be hived, instead of the hive being