

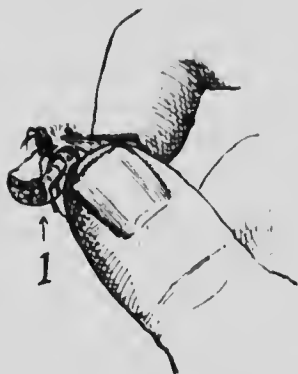
of swarming is more or less of a problem. It is important that a person keeping bees should study their habits, as success depends chiefly upon a thorough knowledge of the condition existing in each hive. Know the queens in each hive, study them and keep notes as to their age and ability to lay eggs. The old queen always goes out with the first swarm unless she is unable to fly.

THE HONEY CROP

As before stated, if six hives or more are kept it will pay to purchase a honey extractor and thus save the bees a lot of tedious way building, by



One Method of clipping the Queen Bee's wings.



returning the empty frames to the hive to be refilled. During the warm part of the summer, from about the middle of May to the middle of August, it is well to have a certain day each week to look through the hives. Examine the hives during the warm part of the day when the bees are busy. Take off the cover and blow a few puffs of smoke under the cloth which is on top of the frames. Then wait a few

minutes before taking off the cloth to examine the frames.

If an extractor is used, it is well to take the frames out and extract the honey when about one-third of the cells are capped over. This will vary with the weather conditions and the dryness of the atmosphere in which the extracted honey is to be kept.

If the weather has been dry, the honey can be extracted before it is capped, thus saving the bees labor; but if the weather is damp it is well to let the honey ripen in the hive.

If only one or two hives are kept, a person can get his honey crop as chunk honey. By using light foundation in all but the bottom hive or brood nest the beginner is able to obtain his honey crop with very little trouble. When the frames in the supers or top stories are filled with honey and capped, they can be taken from the hive and the bees brushed off by means of a bee-brush.

The honey-comb can then be removed from the frames by means of a knife, care being taken to leave about one inch next the top bar for the bees to start building from.

Honey taken from the hive in this way is known as chunk honey.

In working for comb honey in one-pound sections greater care and more experience is needed; so the beginner is advised to go in for either chunk or extracted honey. Some beekeepers follow



Smoking down the Bees.