

## GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Apicultural Items.

#### MOVING BEES SHORT DISTANCES.

**Y**OU ask if any one can tell you how to do this? Now, if the hive to be removed is in strictly normal condition, that is, brood and queen laying, etc., just move it at night, and put a piece of white stone or piece of white broken pot in front of entrance, to reflect light into hive. Every bee, as it leaves next day will turn round to see what is the matter and will so note its fresh place; very many will go back to old site, but not finding their hive, will fly around and go to the new one—they have not forgotten the new site, it was only a matter of habit going to the old. Every bee will go back, as can be proved by dusting them with flour and having a confederate to count all the floured bees, at new site. I have moved bees so often on these lines that I am quite positive about it.

Another way is to remove queen and all brood eggs for two days. Move these to the new sight at night and give them a queen.

#### EXTENSIVE BEEKEEPERS IN UNITED KINGDOM.

In the issue for July 15th you quote from the B. B. J. that there are not more than a score of beekeepers in the United Kingdom, with 100 colonies or more of bees. The paragraph is calculated to make Americans believe we are only very small fry indeed. Now, while I am not prepared to deny or doubt the truth of the paragraph, though at least one person can be shown with 100 stocks in straw skeps, on the brimstone principle; there is not a place, excepting the barren moors, London, and perhaps Liverpool, that you can take a four mile radius and not find 500 stocks located on it; in most cases over 500 will be found, and bees will fly four miles for pasture, but the four mile radius only leaves them two miles. Now consider this, and then tell me what man, across the pond, would think of "locating" here with over 100 "colonies." There are thousands with 25 stocks, and this is as many as any man can hope to keep in one place, with profit, unless he has a four mile radius clear of other bees.

#### THE VIRGIN QUEEN BUSINESS.

I have the past season been rearing and selling virgin queens, safe delivery, introductions, mating, and freedom from winter dysentery guaranteed. The first time that such queens were sold, with introductions guaranteed, was by me last year, see C. B. J. for Nov. 20th, 1889,

page 837. This year I have added mating and winter dysentery. Two were lost in delivery; the first case the weather was too cold, the other was obstructed. Two only were lost in the introduction, where the directions were followed; at least so the receivers said, though the queens were all six days and upwards old. A good few were lost in mating, but in almost every case swallows, swifts or martins were numerous about, and must have got the queens when out mating. The reports of cases of winter dysentery will come in next spring. Not one of those sent last year produced dysenteric bees, and as these queens have gone out to anyone, they stand a good chance of being fairly tested to decide the matter whether or not it is the manner of rearing queens, that is the cause of winter dysentery.

One fact is thoroughly established, viz., that virgin queens that have been among bees for 20 days, more or less, can, with almost absolute certainty, be introduced to any strange bees by my system of introduction.

#### THE PAST SEASON IN ENGLAND.

This has been very bad, no honey, and I have had to feed most of the summer; to a certain extent, I have been satisfied, as it has given me very valuable experience in rearing queens in a bad season, before I got involved, I have thus been able to learn very much that may be of service to me.

#### A HALLAMSHIRE BEEKEEPER.

We are glad to have the information you give us with reference to beekeeping in England. To one not acquainted with the facts, the paragraph you allude to would give an erroneous impression as to the extent to which bees are kept. If you can succeed in producing a strain of bees which will be free from dysentery, you will deserve the thanks of the whole fraternity. But do you really think that the queen has so much to do with it, that you can guarantee freedom from the disease?

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#### Heddon's Method of Controlling Swarms.

**T**HE fall flow of honey in this section has not exceeded that of last year. The spring was somewhat more favorable than that of 1889, but the excessive rains in May and June, coupled with cold weather, was against the flow of nectar. Swarming commenced a fortnight or two earlier than in either of the years '88 or '89, and this led us to hope