

Such traps are used but to a small extent in Canada, and seldom by any but the amateur. Our ideas and those of the author are at one in this respect. There is much else upon which we should like to touch, but space forbids.

CHAPTER V.

ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL COMB BUILDING.

In commencing this chapter the old style of painting the top bar and wooden combguide with wax are given. Systems of giving the bees a start in the way of comb-building are given, which we would consider too slow and tedious, where "honey-production" as a living is practiced. The methods of making foundation as formerly practiced are given as well as the modes now in vogue. For a lubricator, the starch paste used by A. I. Root, and the soap-suds used by ourselves are mentioned. The author suggests as a substitute for the latter an infusion of Quilla bark, its action, he says, in preventing sticking being simply perfection. We do not know sufficient of the properties of the bark referred to to be able to say what the result might be. As Quilla is a vegetable substance of the same nature as soap, we do not know why it might not work, and we shall give it a trial first opportunity. Saponin, which belongs to the same family, should answer just as well.

Lee's frame comes in here for a very minute description. The author considers it has so many good points that it is likely to become a favorite. To this and the other subjects dealt with in this chapter we may refer again.

CHAPTER VI.

CONTROLLED INCREASE.

With the editor of the *Review* we must take objection to the statement contained in the first paragraph, to the effect that artificial swarming is practised to a greater extent than "natural." We hardly think that this is the case—the majority of those who keep bees are as yet amateurs, and they, in almost every instance, allow the bees to follow their "own sweet will" in this matter. In making this statement we do not take the stand that the bee-keepers who permit natural swarming are working in their own best interests; but simply that such is the case. Of natural swarm-

ing the author says it "can never secure results so favorable to apiculture as those that must flow from wisely conducted artificial methods." In this he speaks quite truly.

The method of transferring as practised in England is here given. The principles are much the same, but the work a great deal more than by the plan practised in this country, and which we published on page 86 of this volume of the BEE JOURNAL.

The different methods of dividing are described, viz., by the shake down process and by interchange of combs, both of which have received attention in the columns of the journals in the past. One paragraph upon which too much stress cannot be laid is that: "Honey production and rapid increase cannot co-exist. A mania for the making of swarms, has, in its results, disgusted more young bee-keepers than all other sources of disaster put together. The manufacturer of weak colonies has usually to pay for their maintainance in the summer and mourn their decease in the spring; so that instead of profit he loses money and his bees into the bargain." He further thought a little advice once given by the editor of this JOURNAL as worthy of reproduction, as follows: "Advice as terse as it was quaint was given many years since, by Mr. D. A. Jones, in my hearing, at a little private party of bee-keepers in reply to a question, "What do you think the most important rule as affecting profit in the management of our stocks?" He said at once, "Keep as few as you can." Supplying the illipsis which was conveyed by the smile and twinkle of the eye, the reply would run, "Keep your bees in as few colonies as you can," which tersely gives the very kernel of all that can be said respecting success if honey-production be our goal." The author is wedded to the non-swarming system brought out by Mr. S. Simmins and described in a back number of the C.B.J. by Mr. S. Cushman. He believes that time will show it to be the *ne plus ultra* in the prevention of swarming.

DETROIT HONEY MARKET.

Best white comb honey in one pound section is now quoted at 15c. to 16c. with little inquiry extracted 9c. to 10c., Beeswax 22c. to 23c.