

this way. After the virgin queen is put in don't open the hive for a week. More losses are caused by opening hives where virgin queens are than by any other cause, as newly-introduced virgins are more likely to run wildly over the combs, and cause the bees to ball her. After they become fertile their demeanor is different, and they do not act in this excited manner." Mr. Bray's brother, who had charge of some of our out apiaries for years, called on us this afternoon and gave us some of his experience. He has practised this plan for years with success. He says that care and judgment are both necessary if success is to be insured, and that as we would send to his yard for queens he would remove as many old queens as he would find young ones in cage. In fact sometimes he had no young queens to replace them. In these cases there would be cells built, but whenever there were cells built he always removed the cells previous to introducing the queen in the evening. The cells should all be torn down during the day, then if no honey is coming in, he, too, used a little honey. It is better when pouring it on the bees that it should be thinned a little with water, so that it will not be so sticky and daub them so much; besides, they will fill themselves more readily and rapidly. Some are under the impression that thick honey will not quiet bees so thoroughly as thin; perhaps it is on account of them crowding their abdomens fuller of thin honey than they do of thick. Mr. Bray practised the same method as above, but sometimes used no smoke in nucleus where he could let the queen run in between combs that were not crowded with bees, or if the bees made no demonstration or effort to come up. Another way if it happened to be a cool night, was by taking off the quilt, and allowing the bees to become cool, dropping the queen on top of the cluster, and while she would crawl along over them they would scarcely move, and she, too, would become cold and stiff. I have introduced queens very frequently in this way, and by the time the bees got warmed up next morning the queen would be at home with them, and all would be well. The hundreds, perhaps we should say thousands, that these gentlemen introduced in this way should be a sufficient guarantee that all

that is necessary is to follow instructions. If you introduce queens four or five days old, they will very frequently go out the next day to mate, and you will gain two, three or four days by this method; or, in other words, you may have mated about double the number of queens in the same length of time, and even though you should lose an occasional one, is it not better, all things considered, to do it the quickest way, and the loss (if any) will be overbalanced by the larger number produced in the shorter time? We almost forgot to mention, that the latter Mr. Bray, whose yard was nine miles from our home yard, stated that he did most of his introducing after dark, and found it a great deal more successful than early in the evening. "But," said he, "in carrying my lantern I always commence at the back row, and keep it behind the hive as much as possible, that I might only have the light sufficient to enable me to barely see what I am doing, and the bees at the entrance cannot see it." Where they become excited with the light, and commence running around, he allows them to quiet down before introducing.

OUR bees as they leave the home yard now, all sweep round to the north, and on walking through the yard in the evening, the odor of the mint honey was very easily detected. We took a run down along the flats and creek bottoms, and found the bees in large numbers, on what we term horse mint, or wild mint which is quite plentiful, and of which there are many varieties just coming in bloom. The Canadian thistle in many places, has almost quit blooming, but we passed a field to-day, which seemed to have just come into bloom, and it would delight you to see the bees going from head to head, and from the size and transparency of their bodies, as the bright sun shone on them, would indicate that they were filing up rapidly and the odor from the field was so marked, that we knew the flowers contained abundance.

PROF. COCK in *A. B. J.* says that a student came from Japan, to Michigan Agri. College, purposely to take a course in apiculture. It was a wise move on his part—What better place could he have found. Another proof of the Japanese shrewdness.