

BEES AND POULTRY.**TRANSFERRING BEES.**

Now that we have gotten our hives nearly made and painted, we will turn our attention to those old box hives.

The one secret of handling bees without trouble is this. A bee filled with honey will not sting unless you crowd her to it. There are two or three ways to cause them to fill themselves with honey: by blowing smoke in at the entrance, or down among the combs at the top; by confining them to the hive, and rapping gently on the hive with a stick or light hammer; or by sprinkling the bees and combs with warm diluted honey, or sugar syrup. A bee filled with honey is much like a man who has just eaten a good hearty meal—don't feel very much inclined to quarrel or fight. Now, then, the fruit trees, etc., are in full bloom, the bees are getting plenty of honey to live on and repair combs with, we will go at it.

Have a ball of cotton twine for tying in comb, a lot of pins whittled out about the size of matches, and a little longer, and a bradawl to punch holes in the frames with. Get your smoker lighted, take a newspaper along to read, give the stock three or four good puffs of smoke in at the entrance, sit down on the hive and read an item in the paper, now and then giving the hive a thump with your heel; now a little more smoke—just a little, mind; give the bees ten minutes in which to get all well filled with honey. You have read several items by this time. Now pick up the hive and turn it bottom up—they won't bite you. Leave another empty hive or box, as near like the old one as you can, on the old stand, to catch the flying bees. Carry the hive into the shade and set it down so that it will be solid, with the bottom up. Place another box or hive on top, and tip it back a little so you can see the bees run up into it. Now blow a little smoke occasionally down the inside of the hive next to you, and keep thumping on the hive lightly with the little hammer. Take time to it; don't hurry; and very soon you will see the bees hurrying up the combs and back of the hive into the box above. If they tend to run over the other three edges, give a trifle of smoke in their faces, and they will hustle back and across to the general crowd. Keep this up till you can see that nearly every bee is out of the hive. Now take the box of bees to the old stand and set one edge up on a block.

If you like, you can now cut the old hive to pieces with a cold chisel, but we prefer to work with two tools—a very long, thin knife to cut the combs from the sides of the hive, the other one made of quarter-inch iron to cut the combs off down in the hive. This rod is about two feet long, one end turned into a ring to hold it by, the other turned at right angles, about an inch and a half long, and hammered out thin and sharp, so that when you put it down between the combs this thin blade can be run across the combs to cut them from the top of the hive. As fast as you cut the combs out, brush off the few remaining bees into some box or your new hive, and lay the combs down on a table or board, but do not pile one on top of the other. Do not put in much honey, as it is heavy and apt to fall out and kill many bees. Now select the most empty pieces of comb, and those containing brood, use the largest ones first; many of these will fill a frame full and some to spare. Lay the frame on the piece of comb just whichever way it will fit best (for I could never see that it made any difference whether the brood was right side up, or bottom up, or sidewise). Mark it around inside the frame, and cut off the extra portions with a sharp knife. Crowd the frame down over the comb

thus out, and if out a little large, and with but little honey, it will wedge tight enough to hold in place with no extra fixing. If it is a little loose, tie a string around it in one or two places from top to bottom, and may be use three or four of the little wooden pins, by punching holes through the bars of the frame, pushing the pins in till they stick into the comb about an inch, and breaking off the remainder. Use up all the brood, and clean empty worker comb, in this way: Where one piece will not fill a frame, cut another piece to fit, and fasten with twine and pins. Place the brood in the centre of the hive, the empty combs outside of it, and a division board down each side of the whole, with a good thick quilt of burlap on top to confine the heat and bees to the proper space.

If there are any small bits of capped brood left, place them on edge on the frames under the quilt, and they will hatch just as well. Wipe up all drops of honey on the outside of the hive, take it to the old stand, and live the bees into it from the box, just like a natural swarm, by dumping them down in front. See to it that they all finally get in, or you may miss your queen.

It is not safe for a beginner to attempt to transfer bees unless he can place honey in the open air without any bees troubling, as he will very likely have his stock robbed out, if they are not getting honey enough from the fields to prevent them from noticing exposed honey.

In a few days you can go to the hive, cut the strings loose at the top, and pull them out. But you should inspect their work to see that they are building all up good and straight. The pieces of honey that are left, that which is not fit for the table, can be uncapped and extracted, the white combs used for starters in the surplus boxes, or melted up into wax. If need be, you can feed the extracted honey back to the stock later for brood-rearing and comb building.—*Will. M. Kellogg, in Prairie Farmer.*

OPERATING FOR CROP-BOUND.

I noticed that one of my pullets was "crop-bound." The symptoms were stretching of the neck and drawing of the crop to one side; crop distended, as if over-fed, apparent hunger, but could not eat, because there was no place to store food. We got a needle and thread, sharpened a knife, and cut a slit through the skin and crop, dug out the mass of hay, sewed up the crop, then the skin; placed the fowl in a box, where she could get nothing to eat except what was fed to her. I gave her about half a cracker a day, soaked in milk, until nearly healed. The fowl got well, and is alive and well to-day. We attributed our success not so much to the skillfulness of the operation as to the treatment afterward. No doubt if she had been turned out and fed as usual, she would have filled her crop so full that it would not have healed.—*Country Gentleman.*

SALICYLIC ACID FOR BEE STINGS.

Although salicylic acid, from having been too highly extolled, has fallen somewhat into disfavour, there can be no doubt it is useful in the case of bee stings. An Austrian paper recommends the following treatment. First, to remove the sting as quickly as possible with a forceps or by scratching with a finger, but never between the thumb and forefinger, because this squeezes more of the poison into the wound. Next squeeze the wound until a drop of blood comes out, and rub the place as large as a dollar with an aqueous or dilute alcoholic solution of salicylic acid. The effect is still better by injecting the salicylic into the wound with the hypodermic syringe. After this the spot is painted with collodion to keep out

the air. A sting treated thus causes little or no pain, slight inflammation and swelling, and is not followed by nettle-fever or lameness in the most sensitive or nervous individual.

MIXING SOFT FOOD FOR CHICKENS.

There are many ways of preparing soft food for poultry that we could not recommend, though practised to a great extent by inexperienced poulterers. By far the greater number of beginners mix it too wet and sloppy, and give it as a sticky, porridgy mass, which clings to the beak of the fowls. Such feeding often causes diarrhoea, and in any case will rarely produce a proper egg return. All meal, whether intended for young or old fowls, should be mixed firm and short, so that the whole mass will crumble by handling. Food so mixed does more good, for the simple reason that it is more wholesome in itself and more enjoyed. Meal combined with potatoes or turnips, need not be mixed quite so dry, but all soft food, rightly prepared, will be hard enough to break and crumble if thrown upon the ground.

FEATHER EATING.

This habit is generally the result of confinement, want of grass or green vegetables, and want of pure water. The habit once indulged in for a length of time, is often difficult of eradication, and no certain remedy will help in all cases. A change in the feeding and general management is required. Give ample range for roaming on ground where worms and grass, etc., are accessible. A bran and linseed mash twice a week would be beneficial, and in the absence of grass, hang up a head of cabbage or lettuce by a string just within reach of the birds. To give them occupation, rake down their feed in the earth, and let them scratch for it. The drinking water should contain enough of carbonate of potash to give it a decided alkaline taste. Raw bones, crushed or ground, are beneficial. If only a few of the birds indulge in the habit, they should be taken away.

EXTERMINATING BEE MOTHS.

The fumes of burning sulphur will destroy these larvae, and, in order that their destruction may be more easily and thoroughly accomplished, empty combs and honey should be kept in a small, tight room, and stored in such a manner that the fumes can readily penetrate to every comb. The best manner of conducting the fumigation is to fill an old kettle half full of ashes, put in a shovelful of burning charcoal, then pour in one pound of sulphur for every one hundred cubic feet the room contains, and close the room for a day or two. If a bee-keeper will keep only Italians, in good, well-made, movable-comb hives, give them the proper care, examine his empty combs and honey often during warm weather, and fumigate them when necessary, he will find the much-talked-of bee moth and its larvae among the least of his troubles.

The period of incubation is—Hens sit 19 to 24, generally 21, days; turkeys and peafowls, 26 to 29 days; geese, 28 to 33 days; ducks, 28 to 32 days; pigeons, 18 days from last egg; canaries, 13 days from steady sitting.

The *American Bee Journal* says.—"The demand for bees this spring is very large. Mr. Richardson, of Canada, remarks as follows: "I successfully wintered twenty-five colonies and have since sold all of them but five colonies, and could sell one hundred more had I them for sale." Those having bees to dispose of should advertise them at once, so that those wanting them will know where to apply for them."