

ingathering. One of the main conditions of successful bee culture is the faculty of taking full advantage of the crop or flow—that is, to “make hay while the sun shines.” When the flowers are yielding, keep the bees at work—at work honey gathering instead of brood-rearing and comb-building. How can this be done? By diminishing the size of brood nest and confining the queen thereto, and by supplying the workers with storing comb. The former can be successfully accomplished by the use of the queen-excluding perforated zinc, and the latter object attained by the judicious use of foundation and securing store combs built at leisure—I do not mean built in a factory (that can't be done), but built at the leisure of the bees in their own grand factory, the hive. There should be no artificial check put upon brood-rearing during the spring and up to the clover honey flow. On the contrary, the queen should have full swing, and any natural checks to brood-rearing should be overcome if possible. But when the flow comes her maternal operations should be so restricted as to enable the workers to devote their time to gathering outside instead of nursing inside.

Everything should now be in readiness so that no time will be lost. Put on extracting storeys and section cases directly the flow begins. Give them work and room to work. With the flow comes the propensity to swarm—a propensity we often desire to check, and can check by proper means, among which giving plenty of room is foremost. But in the production of section honey this remedy is sometimes worse than the disease, for the workers will often refuse to come in the sections at all if you lay out too large a job for them at once, especially in cool weather—the time when human bipeds feel most like tackling a big job.

SWARMING.

When the season is favorable June is the swarming month. In old times from the old box hive there used to be considerable swarming in May, but in these times from the improved hives and management, swarming in May is the exception. The old saw of our grandfathers was that “a swarm in May was worth a ton of hay, a swarm in June was worth a silver spoon, but a swarm in July wasn't worth a fly.” In these times, however, the bulk of the swarming is done in July should the season be at all backward, but in those good old days the bees swarmed when they liked and as often as they liked; now we let them swarm once or twice or not at all. We need not have a swarm at all should we choose to keep ahead of them dividing and subdividing. But I am growing less and

less in favor of the “artificial swarming” over which natural swarming has some important advantages. Not the least of these are superior queens and the extra working impulse which almost invariably characterizes the next swarm. I believe in natural swarms, and ordinarily in but one to a colony. Unless increase is a special object there is no profit and less pleasure in “after” swarms. They give annoyance, because they are necessarily accompanied by young, unclipped queens which not unfrequently give much trouble. And this brings us to the question

HOW TO HIVE SWARMS.

The plan I have followed for many years is very simple and expeditious, but presupposes the queens clipped. I am strongly in favor of clipping. The practice is opposed by some good apiarists, but I have never yet seen one valid objection advanced by them against it. When I see a modern bee-keeper chasing his swarms around the fields and through the “woods” to catch and cage them, I always think he is an old fogey and away behind the times. With clipped queens the process of hiving is as pleasant as it is expeditious.

When a swarm is issuing the queen may be seen near the entrance endeavoring to take wing. I hold the open end of a little wire cage, about the size of your finger, over her, when she will immediately crawl up into it. I then shut her in and either put the cage in my pocket or lay it away near at hand. As soon as the swarm is out I lift the hive, carry it away to a new stand, and place the hive for the new swarm on the old stand, putting the caged queen down aside the entrance. The swarm, finding itself without a queen, will soon return, without any chasing, beating of tin pans, blowing of dinner horns or ringing of cow bells. It comes back to its old stand and of course enters the new hive placed there to receive it. The bee-keeper's part of this business can be done in about one minute with very little work and less worry. The caged queen can be liberated, when she will run into the new hive along with the bees. By this method an active man will have a dozen swarms in a few minutes.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

MRS. E. WALKER.—I stored in chaff hives out doors nine colonies, lost one. Have one queenless colony and one has dwindled away to a very few. I fed them in spring the same as some others that were a little short of stores. They refused to use feed. Have a queen but not enough bees to nurse brood. I have given them