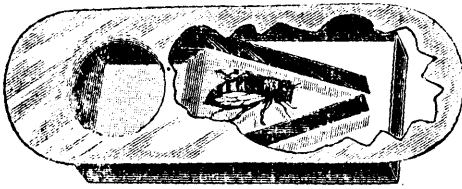


The Porter Spring Bee Escape.

THE Porter Spring Bee Escape, manufactured by R. & E. C. Porter, Lewiston, Ill., is a simple, durable and inexpensive device, which, when fitted in a suitable board and placed between the surplus apartment and the brood chamber of a hive of bees, cutting off all means of exit from this apartment except through the escape, permits the bees to pass down through it into the brood chamber easily and rapidly, but prevents their return, thus reducing the labor of harvesting the surplus honey on the hive at any time to merely that required



in adjusting the escape-board and removing the honey after the bees have passed out, and dispensing entirely with that most disagreeable and vexatious of all work known to the apiary—getting bees out of supers of honey by the old methods when robbers abound. Besides these advantages, the honey is at all times secured in perfect condition, its delicate flavor being untainted by smoke and the beautiful cappings uninjured by the gnawing of the bees.

The Porter is not an untried escape. It was invented early in 1890, and through the whole of the season was put to the severest tests, in comparison with all other kinds of escapes by actual use in a number of large apiaries, and proved itself far superior to all others and equal to every practical and reasonable demand. It not only frees the super of bees quicker than any other, getting out every one, but absolutely prevents their return, no matter how long before the super is taken from the hive. It does not become clogged with dead bees and requires only a bee space under the escape board, a large number of which when not in use thus occupying but little storage room. Wherever tried it is universally commended.

Making Queen Cell Protectors.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

A CORRESPONDENT writes thus: "Please tell us something in the American Bee Journal about queen cell protectors. How are they made? How do you put in the queen cells? How do you fasten or hang them

to the brood frames: position on frame, etc.?" If I am right, the idea of caging queen-cells so as to keep the bees from destroying them, and at the same time allowing them to hatch in the hive and let the queen walk right out among the bees, the same as if the cells were not caged, originated with me; and was brought about by the loss I sustained in trying to make something work which others said was a success, but which proved a total failure with me, namely: The placing of a nearly mature queen-cell in a colony, or nucleus, at the time of taking away a laying queen.

Many still say that they have no trouble in thus giving queen cells, and if they tell the "whole truth and nothing but the truth," this article will be of no benefit to such. The cell protector is made by rolling a small piece of wire cloth around a V-shaped stick, and while in place, fastening the side which is out, by sewing in a wire, so that a small, but not a very flaring, funnel is made, the hole in the small end being as large as an ordinary lead-pencil.

Some of the supply dealers kept them for sale in the stamped form, but as I have used both, I prefer the home-made ones, as above, for the reason that the points of the wire cloth, which stick out all around the hole in the small end, seem to prevent the bees working away at the end of the cells as much as they do with the others; for at times, with the pressed ones, they seem to think that the cage should not be there, and as the end surface is smooth, so as not to discommode them at their work, they bite away at the wires and the cell until the end of the cocoon covering is eaten through, and the queen destroyed. After having several failures with those bought, and none with those made at home, I studied into the matter and came to the above conclusion, which, I think, is right.

Having the protectors made, we are ready for the queen cells. If the cells are built from the wax cups (my book on Queen-Rearing tells how these cups are made), there is no trouble in picking the cells off the stick they are built on, and slipping them into the protectors; but if they are built in the ordinary way, on the surface of the combs, a good deal of trimming will have to be done to have them go well down into the point of the protector, as they should.

The ends of the cells should go down to within three-sixteenths of an inch of the small end of the protector, or to within that much of the extreme outside points of the wires, so that when a bee goes in to attack the end of the cell, these wires are continually "punching" about the thorax as she moves around.