

the condemned queen. and then before closing the hive give them a queen in West's Spiral wire queen cage with a piece of hard candy 1½ inches long in the large end of the cage (use store candy). Then place the cage somewhere in the hive, on the top of the frames or between the combs, and in from 30 to 48 hours the queen will be liberated. This all being done with but one operation, and the queen almost certain to be accepted makes a short and pleasant job of queen introducing.)

I will say a word more about how to find the queens in swarms when the bees get to running and make it difficult to find the queen. Then I shake all the bees off the combs in the hive with queen excluding bottom (as described before), and then smoke the bees down and all but the queen and the drones will very quickly be down on the under side of the queen excluder and the queen will be above the excluder in plain sight trying to get down too. Kill the queen, then lift the hive (with the bees that will hang on the under side of the queen excluder like a swarm on the limb of a tree). Set the hive down with a slam so its legs will strike the ground and lodge the bees on the ground just in front of the hive to which they belong, and then the hive with queen excluding bottom is ready to be used again.

Yesterday I went and put in eight queens for a neighbor, and found all of the condemned queens in this way. we were but a few moments in doing all of the work. With two men this is the quickest way I know of when the hives are very full of bees. Another way to help in finding queens is to shake all the bees off the combs on the ground two or three feet in front of their own hive, be sure the queen is not left in the hive. Then put a queen excluding entrance to the hive, then later in the day or early next morning go and find the queen trying to get in the hive through the excluder.

For the information of those who do not know, I would say the Spiral wire queen cages and queen cell protectors are now being sold and manufactured in Brantford, Canada, also by the writer of this article, in the U. S. A., and are also for sale by all of the leading bee supply dealers.

Middleburg, N. Y.

The honey crop here is light, about 25 lbs. per colony, but a good enough flow to keep bees in good condition all the season so far.

W. A. Chrysler.

Chatham, July 18th, 1895.

Bee Escapes and Their Use.

— J. W. Sparling.

I read Mr. Pettit's article in the last issue of the Journal with much interest, and although I cannot agree with his conclusions, yet it is not without some diffidence that I venture to differ from a veteran like Mr. Pettit. When I read the article I was just about taking off some combs for extracting, and thought I would see how long it would take me to put on escapes, and found I was 18 or 19 minutes in putting on 15 all and supers were heavy, which makes some difference in the speed with which the work can be done. I did not receive a single sting while putting them on, and this at a time when the bees were doing absolutely nothing, while, if I had brushed them from the combs, I should have expected to receive a good many as well as create considerable commotion in the yard. One would have to move with considerable celerity to brush the bees from the combs of 15 supers in that time, in fact I think to do so would be impossible. Of course there is the time to allow for taking off the escapes, which is not more than half that required to put them on.

Then again another consideration is that many persons have only mornings and evenings to attend to their bees, and escapes can be put on in the evening at a time when it is impossible to brush bees from combs.

Perhaps I might tell you how I proceed to put on escapes. At present I am using a smoker with a bent nozzle so do not even have to stoop to the entrance to blow in smoke, but just send a few puffs down on the bees, there and then with a chisel ground from both sides like a wedge I pry up the super, blow in some smoke, and raising the super at the back without lifting it from the hive, slip the escape board as far forward as I can, then let down the super and push the board into place as may be necessary. At least this is the way I do when there are two supers on the hive, but if only one super is on I lift it off, put on another set of combs then the escape with the filled super on top and no commotion or crowding of brood chambers ensues.

Still another advantage in taking off combs by means of bee escapes is that the dripping honey, caused by the breaking of the connections between the combs, is all cleaned up by the bees, and in this way