

Notes and Pickings.

—D. W. HEISE.

"I have before mentioned that the best time to remove supers is in the early morning, after a cool night." Quoth ye editor, page 340. Yes, all right, when honey is coming in, and bees are not inclined to "rob." But all wrong when no honey is coming in. My experience teaches me that the evening is the best time to remove supers; because by the morning the bees will have quieted down and not near the amount of excitement will be noticeable during the day; as would be the case, where bees had been disturbed in the early morning. Much excitement at a hive after the honey harvest is always more or less a target for robbers.

American Bee-keeper, 184, J. W. Tefft, tells of never having lost a queen in introducing, by his plan of removing the "whole business," bees, hives and all, to a new stand, place a new hive on the old stand, hunt out the old queen, and place her with the frame she is on, in the new hive on the old stand. Introduce the new queen to the young bees left in the old hive, on the new stand. Thus avoiding the danger of having the new queen come in contact with the old bees, which are the most hostile to her. Mr. Tefft does not say, but I suppose he afterwards kills the old queen, and unites the bees with the new queen, otherwise he would be increasing his colonies 100 per cent.

On the next page of the same Journal, Mr. Tefft is guilty of a crime analogous to high treason. He hints of a plan by which he prevents swarming, (natural) and increases by division to any number desired, (the latter is dead easy). He has no caging of queens, no swarming, no clipping of wings, no cutting out of queen cells, no waiting for seventh day for queen to hatch, and no dequeening, and I have to wonder why he did not say, "even no bees." He gets such marvellous results from three full colonies and their increase, (artificial, I suppose) as the following: Where bees work on buckwheat and fall flowers, honey value \$31; increase \$15; nine young queens \$9; total \$55. The only inkling Mr. Tefft gives us of the system of management necessary for the accomplishment of such results as the foregoing, is: an adjustable brood chamber in a large hive, one that

can be expanded or contracted at will, no further light is given; and unless Mr. Tefft will condescend to explain his method in full, I think it will be in order, for the bee-keepers court to pass sentence upon him in accordance with the enormity of the offence.

At the convention recently held at Omaha, Neb., Dr. C. C. Miller, commenced his paper on "Bee-keepers and Supply Manufacturers" by saying, "Supply Manufacturers and Dealers cannot exist without bee-keepers, and bee-keepers would have a good deal harder time without those who make and sell supplies. So there should be the most cordial understanding between them. What better place to encourage such understanding, than at a convention like this, where both meet face to face." The Doctor's sentiments, as per above, should find a lodging place within every bee-keeper, honey-producer, and supply dealer in this broad America of ours, and especially within that class of producers who are inclined to look upon the supply dealer as being a menace to the best interests of honey-producers. While I would consider it unwise for me, as even a small honey-producer, to go out into the high ways and by-ways, and advise my neighbors and friends to engage in the pursuit of bee-keeping, yet, for the supply dealer to try and increase the sale of his goods in that way, I would not say that he is committing a very great sin, providing his advice is honestly given. If there had not been a demand for supplies, we never would have had the manufacturer, and while he is catering to the wants and demands of bee-keepers, and in a legitimate way trying to create an increased demand for his goods, I cannot see that it should be the bee-keepers prerogative to say he must discontinue his efforts in that direction. Even could it be shown that the supply dealer under certain circumstances might (?) be an evil, equally clear can it be shown that he is an absolute necessity to a large majority of the honey-producers. Since then their interests are to a great extent mutual, let us not be too hard on the supply dealer, it might strain the warm kindly feeling he now entertains towards the producer.

"For some years I have been inclined to think that as long as bee spaces are correct and combs straight, anyone who laboriously scraped his whole apiary every spring was fooling his time away; but I have swung completely around. Now that things are half decent I shall keep them so by scraping every spring.