

a round handle which extends up to and even with the top of the surplus boxes. The handle is used for pulling the brood chamber up out of the hive, we presume, for examination. No wonder a glass arrangement is fixed at the bottom of the hive as a moth-trap, when we tell you that the brood chamber has bars running through it, which the specifications say "serve to brace the sides and serve also as a rest for the bees." No wonder the inventor speaks of the hive as "two sets of gums"; when we tell our readers that it is nothing more or less than an old box gum with cross bars in it they will not want to read any further. We therefore stop right here, first expressing the hope that our friend, John Thomas, may be able to make a fortune himself in the use of his "gums" for we are sure no one else will ever want to try.

Robbing.

HOW TO REMOVE THE SURPLUS HONEY.

MAMMA! Mamma! The bees are on the top of the portico, and under it, and trying to go into the parlor, through the shutters; and just look, they are all over the honey-house. Oh my! oh, my! there is one in my hair! come quick and get it out mamma. How it buzzes!"

The bees were stinging the chickens and they pitched into me, when I went out. There was a reign of terror for a while, all produced by robbers attacking a queenless colony. The bees that could not find where the honey was obtained, were trying to enter other hives, and were repulsed with vengeance, which caused all this stinging commotion.

We obtained some cases for holding sections, that were too short, and left an opening at the end of the hives, during the honey-flow. This was no objection, rather to the contrary, as it assisted in ventilation; but now, robbers were trying to enter through these openings, and appeared as though the whole apiary would soon be demoralized.

I uncovered the queenless colony and let the robbers take possession; and the other bees soon found where the honey came from. I then fastened up the openings made by the short cases by stuffing in rags; and, to drive off the bees, wet them with kerosene. They dislike the odor of this so much that they soon left on the double-quick.

REMOVING SURPLUS.

In England, in order to drive the bees from the sections, bee-keepers spread on a cloth wet with carbolic acid, which causes the bees to re-

treat below in the brood-combs; but in this country smoke is generally used. I go out into the apiary, in the early morning, before the bees are flying, and carefully drive the bees below with a bellows smoker, pry up the case, remove it, cover up the hive securely, and put the case into the honey-house.

When the bees get stirred up in that part of the apiary, I go to another part, and do not persist in working a long time each day, as I live in the city and must be careful that persons and horses are not stung. Sometimes in the evening I pry up cases so that I can easily remove them in the morning.

Those that I remove one morning, I scrape off the propolis and store away, and am thus prepared for another lot the succeeding day. Working slowly in this way, the bees do not get demoralized, and I can work with them comfortably. If they get very excited, I stop removing surplus for a few days.

As for myself, I do not care how cross they get when I am working with them, as I am protected against their javelins; but at the same time I must consider the safety of other persons and animals. There is a great difference in the handling of bees, to keep them on their good behavior, as the following will show, taken from the Western Apiarian:

"I hired a Californian man one season to handle my bees; he donned a white lined coat, buttoned up to the chin, put on a bee-hat, gloves with gauntlets up to elbow, and tied with cords at the elbow, and cords around his pants above his shoes, so that it was impossible for a bee to get at him; then he would pitch right into them with very little smoke, and the consequence was, in a few days we could scarcely stay on the place for bees. So I discharged him, and took them in hand myself, and in two days I had them as tame as ever."

When bees get greatly irritated they do not always quiet down in two days, and seem to have good memories. This man had probably worked in California canyons, away from any human habitations, and as they could not sting him, did not care how cross he made them, and they would be in fine condition to drive off bears, and other marauders. Some persons are better adapted by nature to gentle, quiet handling of bees than others, but all who engage in this pursuit should try to improve in this respect.—Mrs. L. Harrison in *Prairie Farmer*.

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