

basswood honey in future, we would step down and out of that part of the business.

We should like some of our friends who have old and poor queens which they wish superceded to try the following experiment:—Raise the corner of the quilt on top of the frames, just about dark so carefully that no bees become excited, or if they do notice the movement, and start to crawl out, give them the least possible puff of smoke, allowing it to roll in so slowly that it will fall on the bees as it were—this will cause them to move back quietly without disturbing any. When all is quiet allow a young queen to pass in, and drop the quilt—carefully watch the result, and give the readers of the JOURNAL the benefit of your experiment. We venture the opinion that the young queen will kill the old one. If we take an old queen and a young one, and put them under a glass, allowing them to fight, the old queen being somewhat infirm if she is laying, will be overcome by the more nimble and vigorous young one. This being the case, we believe young queens can be easily introduced in some sly, unnoticeable way without much trouble. If she enters the hive thus and is allowed her freedom, she is very much the same as a queen that had just hatched in the hive that was strong and vigorous.

We tried an experiment recently in our own bee yard which may suggest to some one an idea for a swarm catcher which will be much handier than anything we now have, and prevent the bees alighting in high trees or other inaccessible places. The discovery happened as follows: In one of our hives we had a division board across the back, which had been left there by mistake, and had a good deal of comb attached to it. Just as we were removing it a swarm issued from a neighboring hive, and several of the bees seemed attracted by the comb, and alighted on the division board which we held in our hand. An idea struck us that we might use this attraction to advantage, and accordingly we held the board in front of the hive, catching several more bees, and then we carried the division board with its bees across to a tree upon which a former swarm had alighted, and laid it across the limb with

the comb hanging down. In a very short time the other bees commenced to alight upon it until all were settled down with the exception of a dozen or so. We then carried the board to the stand we wished to hive the bees upon, the stray ones following us, and set the board in front of the hive. Only a few minutes elapsed until the bees began to drop off the board and run in the hive, and when the majority had done so we shook off the rest, and they followed. We carried the division board back to the tree, and set it again upon the limb, and two other swarms have since alighted upon it and been easily hived. The question arises—cannot something valuable be worked out along this line?

CAN any of our friends tell us what causes the strong odor of a swarm of bees when swarming, and after they have clustered. Is it because they fly around on a hot day with a heavy load of honey in their abdomens until they perspire, or they breathe so rapidly and there being so many of them, that we smell their breath. The peculiar odor is very attractive to other swarms.

Our Simpson honey plant is just beginning to bloom nicely, and the bees seem to work on it with a great deal of vigor. From one to six bees can be counted on a ball of the plant, but we think that is owing in a measure, to the partial absence of honey in other flowers. We cannot see that our bees have stored any surplus from it, perhaps it is because we only have a few dozen plants.

Picking cherries in the bee-yard, and watching the bees for swarms, is a very pleasant occupation. We find there is a nack, or perhaps we should say, there is a right and wrong way to pick cherries. Two of our young men took a tree and started to pick from below. They kept reaching up over their heads and when they could not reach any more, would go up a little higher. In this way they worked very industriously. But by the time they had half a pail we had picked a pailful. They wondered how it was that we had picked so many in such short time, we told them if they would get above the cherries, and allow the fruit to hang into their hand, they could pull them off just as fast again.