

3. Gathered swarms. The establishing of these gathered swarms is very complicated, because they must be transported to a point two miles or at least one mile distant; we can recommend them, however, when some colonies become so strong, that they can be prevented from swarming only by taking away a number of bees. A queen in the cage is put in an airy transportation box, and so many bees must be brushed into the same from the different colonies, that the swarm is strong enough, and the box is carried to the new place. In the evening the swarm is put in its future hive, and the cage is loosely closed with wax, leaving it to the bees to liberate the queen. Of course, such a swarm consists likewise only of starters.

The establishing of such swarms is more particularly described in "Gravenhorst's Praktischer Imker."

In the preceding remarks I called the attention to the point, that such swarms should be furnished with neither empty combs nor foundation. It would not be economical to do so, and it is a mistake to believe that we assist a swarm by giving it a completely finished hive. The swarms ought to be formed by no means later than two weeks before the main season of gathering honey by the bees begins. If, however, this season has already commenced, we may make an exception from the above rule and give the swarm empty combs which are about half finished. Afterwards, when the swarms have completed the few combs given to them and they begin to build cells for drones, we must give them foundation. Now we may give the swarms empty brood-frames, which perhaps ought to be removed from other hives, to considerable advantage, in order to enlarge their brood-nest, whereby they are not only reinforced but likewise prevented from swarming again.

I must mention here that we have gone too far in preventing bees from comb-building. In every season, in which the bees are able to build at all, it will stimulate their industrious energy very much, when they are allowed to satisfy this impulse in the brood-chamber. Whenever it be advised not to permit them to build in order to prevent the building of cells for the drones, let the bees finish at least the foundation; this applies especially to spring-time, and nobody will repent of having paid attention to these indeed very condensed hints."

Selma, Texas, Feb. 28th, 1884.

BEES IN GOOD SHAPE.

Bees arrived all right and I am well satisfied.

Mrs. S. J. GILLESPIE.

Orangeville, Ont., June 3, 1886.

From Gleanings.

"GETTING BEES OUT OF SECTIONS."

I HAVE quoted the above heading from brother Miller's article on page 475. I think I am safe in saying that we all thank friend M: for shedding more light upon this practical subject; but, after reading his article, I felt as though I could add a little more brilliancy to the torch before I passed it along.

First, let me say, that, years ago, I tried the doctor's plan of opening several hives at a time, in order to facilitate matters when driving the bees down with smoke. When they were at all inclined to rob we blew the smoke through a wire-cloth frame laid over the top of each of the supers, opened. We didn't like the plan, and abandoned it. The one which I will now describe, and which is more briefly described on pages 80 and 81 in my book, suits me the best of any method I have ever heard of.

You know we use a one-story case holding 42 sections, open top and bottom, all cases being interchangeable, and used on the tiering up plan, as described on page 80 of the book above referred to. By the above system the most finished cases are always on top; and when we find one ready to come off, we remove the cover, and quickly and sharply puff smoke into all the ranges between the combs. With our mouth we now energetically blow between all the ranges, and we do both as quickly as we can write these words. No bee is hardly allowed time to commence to fill his sack. More than four-fifths of the bees immediately descend out of the case. We now quickly lift it, cover the hive, and, holding it over the alighting-board, shake it with a jerking, tremulous motion,—a motion that, above all others, will dislodge the foothold of bees—and I think I am safe in saying that not over 50 or 100 bees remain. We now carry the case to our screen-house, which is described in our book on pages 56 and 65. Here the cases are stood on end, standing on each other when lack of room requires; and as the light passes readily through these shallow ranges from either side, the bees leave the cases in a few moments, when the screen-house doors are opened and all the bees are ejected into the open air in an instant. All this is done with such dispatch that the robbers cannot get the first taste, even during times of honey-dearth, when most persistent.

We have found the above method as speedy and practical in the apiary as it looks on paper. It has given us great satisfaction, and we can't imagine how the method can be excelled. Of course, it would not work well with two-story supers, or close-top sections; but we do not lament this fact, because there are so many other